

Peanut Butter Cookies •

Ingredients

Peanut butter (creamy)	1¼ cups	Baking soda	1 tsp.
Eggs, large	2	Mexican vanilla	1 tsp.
Sugar	1 cup	Salt	1 tsp.
Granulated sugar (for rolling)	¼ cup		

Directions

Preheat oven to $350^{\circ}F$ — Bring **peanut butter** and **eggs** to room temperature — Line baking sheets with parchment paper — Place **rolling sugar** in shallow dish

1. Mix the dough in a large bowl:
 - (a) Stir room temperature **peanut butter** and **sugar** vigorously with a sturdy spatula or wooden spoon until smooth and no visible sugar granules remain, about *3–5 minutes*. Scrape bowl as needed. (Or use a hand mixer or stand mixer on medium for about *1–2 minutes*.)
 - (b) Add **eggs** one at a time, mixing well after each until fully incorporated.
 - (c) Add **Mexican vanilla** and mix until combined.
 - (d) Add **baking soda** and **salt** and stir until just combined; dough should be smooth and uniform.
2. Cover bowl and chill dough for at least *15 minutes* to make it easier to handle and reduce spreading during baking.
3. Using a $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch cookie scoop or rounded tablespoon, portion dough into balls.
4. Roll each ball in **granulated sugar** until completely coated.
5. Place sugared balls on prepared baking sheets, spacing 2 inches apart.
6. Press each cookie with a fork twice, creating a crisscross pattern on top. If fork sticks to dough, dip it in the **rolling sugar** between cookies.
7. Bake for *12–13 minutes* until edges are lightly golden but centers still appear soft. If baking two sheets at once, rotate their positions halfway through baking.
8. Let cookies cool on baking sheet for *5 minutes* before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

Equipment Required

- Large mixing bowl
- Sturdy spatula or wooden spoon
- 1¾ inch cookie scoop or tablespoon measure
- Baking sheets
- Parchment paper
- Measuring cups and spoons
- Fork for creating pattern
- Shallow dish for rolling sugar
- Wire cooling rack
- Rubber spatula
- Hand mixer or stand mixer (optional)

Mise en Place

- Remove **peanut butter** and **eggs** from refrigerator *1 hour* before starting
- Line baking sheets with parchment
- Measure all ingredients before beginning
- Set up sugar rolling station

Ingredient Tips

- Use commercial creamy peanut butter (like JIF or Skippy) rather than natural style
- Room temperature **peanut butter** creates a smoother dough

- For extra crunch, use coarse sugar for rolling
- Mexican vanilla adds depth, but pure vanilla extract can substitute

Preparation Tips

- Don't skip the *15 minute* chill time - it makes the dough easier to handle
- Keep cookie size consistent for even baking
- Press fork just deep enough to create pattern without flattening cookies too much
- Cookies will appear slightly underbaked when done but will set as they cool

Make Ahead & Storage

- Dough can be chilled up to *24 hours*
- Baked cookies keep in airtight container for *5 days*
- Freeze baked cookies up to *3 months*
- Freeze portioned dough balls up to *3 months* - roll in sugar after thawing

Serving Suggestions

- Best served at room temperature
- Excellent with cold milk or hot coffee
- Crumble over vanilla ice cream
- Pack in lunch boxes or cookie tins
- Use as base for ice cream sandwiches