

Rules for Drawing UML Use Case Diagram

1. Identify the System Boundary:

- Draw a **rectangle** to represent the system scope, enclosing all use cases and actors.
- Label the rectangle with the system name to define what is being modeled.

2. Define Actors:

- Represent actors (users or external systems) as **stick figures** outside the system boundary.
- Label each actor with a clear, specific name reflecting their role (e.g., "Student").
- Ensure actors represent **roles**, not individuals.

3. Identify Use Cases:

- Represent use cases (system functionalities) as **ovals** inside the system boundary.
- Name each use case with a concise, action-oriented phrase starting with a verb (e.g., "View Timetable").
- Ensure use cases reflect **user goals**, not low-level implementation details.

4. Connect Actors to Use Cases:

- Draw **solid lines** (associations) between actors and use cases to show interactions.
- Ensure each association represents a meaningful interaction.

5. Use Include Relationships:

- Use a **dashed arrow** labeled <<include>> from a base use case to a mandatory sub-use case (e.g., "Login" included in "View Timetable").
- Ensure the included use case is always performed as part of the base use case.

6. Use Extend Relationships:

- Use a **dashed arrow** labeled <<extend>> from an optional or conditional use case to the base use case (e.g., "Receive Notification" extends "View Timetable").
- Specify the condition for the extension in a note.

7. Use Generalization (Optional):

- Represent shared behavior with a **solid arrow with a hollow triangle** pointing to the parent actor or use case.

- Use sparingly to avoid complexity (e.g., “Faculty Member” generalizes to “Lecturer”).

8. Avoid Overcomplication:

- Focus on **high-level user requirements**, excluding internal system processes or technical details.
- Limit use cases to significant functionalities for clarity.

9. Ensure Clarity and Consistency:

- Use clear, unambiguous names aligned with stakeholder terminology.
- Avoid crossing lines; use layout tools for organization.

10. Maintain Simplicity for Stakeholders:

- Design the diagram to be understandable by non-technical stakeholders.
- Focus on external behavior, avoiding UML-specific jargon.