**Gherkin Keywords**

The following are the keywords used in Gherkin:

**Given:** The purpose of Given steps is to **put the system in a known state** before the user (or external system) starts interacting with the system (in the When steps). Avoid talking about user interaction in Given’s. If you were creating use cases, Given’s would be your preconditions.

When: When steps are used to describe an event, or an action. This can be a person interacting with the system, or it can be an event triggered by another system.

Then: The [step definition](https://cucumber.io/docs/cucumber/step-definitions) of a Then step should use an assertion to compare the actual outcome (what the system actually does) to the expected outcome (what the step says the system is supposed to do).

Background: A Background allows you to add some context to the scenarios that follow it. It can contain one or more Given steps, which are run before each scenario, but after any [Before hooks](https://cucumber.io/docs/cucumber/api/#hooks).

Scenario outline: The Scenario Outline keyword can be used to run the same Scenario multiple times, with different combinations of values.