

# Here is my task

In projects, like in life, things do not always go smoothly. Often life throws a curve ball. While training on Earth, astronauts spend most of their time running through hypothetical scenarios of how things might go wrong. We need to do the same.

Below are several scenarios of things going wrong during the sprint. Your task is to diagnose what is broken in the development process and suggest a remedy.

**Scenario 1:** The team has a scheduled daily stand-up at 9 am in the morning. The meetings usually take over an hour. A lot of time is spent discussing a tricky dependency between several tasks that requires extensive conversation.

**Scenario 2:** In the beginning of the sprint the tasks were picked up by the development team. However, by the middle of the sprint, development team starts to look to Scrum Master to assign tasks to individual developers.

**Scenario 3:** If a development team member needs to discuss a task with the Product Owner, the developer approaches Scrum Master to help set up a meeting with the Product Owner.

**Scenario 4:** The team is using the latest Agile Application Lifecycle Management tool because it is supposed to be most effective. However, most of the team is having hard time getting used to the tool.

**In the text box below, for each scenario you need to (1) diagnose the problem, and (2) suggest a resolution.** You should structure your answer like this:

*Scenario 1:*

- *Diagnosis: xx*
- *Remedy: xx*

## Answers:

### Scenario 1:

- **Diagnosis:** The stand-up meetings are being extended due to in-depth discussions on dependencies, which is contrary to the intended brief nature of these meetings. This suggests that the team is not effectively utilizing stand-up meetings for quick updates.
- **Remedy:** Limit stand-up meetings to 15 minutes, strictly for brief updates and identification of blockers. For complex discussions, create a separate meeting immediately following the stand-up or at another convenient time. The Scrum Master should enforce this structure and facilitate the scheduling of these follow-up discussions.

### Scenario 2:

- **Diagnosis:** The development team's reliance on the Scrum Master for task assignment mid-sprint indicates a lack of self-organization and ownership among the team members.
- **Remedy:** Reinforce the principles of self-organization by conducting workshops or coaching sessions focused on Agile values and practices. Encourage the team to hold a daily planning session where they review progress and decide collaboratively on task assignments. The Scrum Master should mentor the team in making these decisions independently.

### Scenario 3:

- **Diagnosis:** Developers are going through the Scrum Master to set up meetings with the Product Owner, which indicates a communication bottleneck and an unclear understanding of roles within the team.
- **Remedy:** Foster direct communication channels between developers and the Product Owner. Organize a session to clarify roles and responsibilities, emphasizing that developers should feel free to approach the Product Owner directly with questions or for clarifications. Additionally, schedule regular touchpoints between the Product Owner and the development team to build rapport and facilitate direct interactions.

### Scenario 4:

- **Diagnosis:** The team is struggling with a new Agile Application Lifecycle Management tool, which is impeding their productivity due to a steep learning curve or lack of familiarity.
- **Remedy:** Provide comprehensive, hands-on training sessions for the new tool, and designate a tool champion or expert within the team who can offer ongoing support. Collect feedback from the team to identify specific pain points and address them. If the tool remains problematic, consider switching to a more familiar or intuitive tool that aligns better with the team's workflow and enhances their productivity.