# Product backlog Item Acceptance Criteria

## *First Practices*

### Definition:

Acceptance Criteria (A.C.) are **statements that are attached to a piece of work** that explain how a kind of target user will specifically make use of the outcome of that Product Backlog Item (P.B.I.) once it is completed in a Sprint.

### Common Shared format for PBI acceptance criteria:

The common format people use in defining acceptance criteria is the **Gherkin format**. The Gherkin format is excellent because it (1) *defines a precondition or state*, then (2) *the action for the scenario that is needed*, resulting in an (3) *desired outcome*.

Gherkin Example #1:

*User Story: As a Campaign Engineer, I need access to X Data so I can count members*

**GIVEN** X *data is available*

**AND** *the Campaign Engineer has the permission to access it*

**WHEN** *a request for a specific member attribute criteria filters are specified*

**THEN** *the result set is returned with a row count confirming the result count*

Gherkin Example #2:

*Spike: What fields are available in the new X database?*

**GIVEN** *I have access to the X database schema*

**WHEN** *I connect to the data source*

**THEN** *I can export the fields for use in the DB tables*

Gherkin Example #3:

*Enabler: Setup new data X connection for Agile Developers*

**GIVEN** we have permission to data X

**WHEN** the agile developer goes to the connection services catalog

**THEN** they can see a preconfigured connection and use it

### Tips for finding the right Acceptance Criteria for a story:

* Ask the Agile Development Team to think through the “CRUD” associated with the scenarios of use for the backlog item:
  + **C**reate: *Does the scenario include creating new data that needs saving?*
  + **R**ead: *Does the scenario include situations where a user needs to get access to data to view it?*
  + **U**pdate: *Does the scenario include a user making updates to existing data?*
  + **D**elete: *Are there scenarios where a user needs to delete/archive data from operational results?*
* Ask the Agile Development Team to think about PAVing the administrative road in their scenario of use for the backlog item:
  + **P**ermission: *Do you need to handle special permission scenarios and decide what messages are displayed if someone without permission attempts to use the solution?*
  + **A**mount: *Are their storage limitations, alerts, configurations and messaging that needs to go into scenarios of use?*
  + **V**olume: *Is the volume or bandwidth for creating, reading, updating, or delete data such that the team needs to create an AC that specifies how to help users wait for data or cancel a long running process and report an error message to a user or administrator?*