



# Better User Stories

Module 1

## What User Stories Are



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# Module 1: What User Stories Are

## Introduction

These worksheets are designed to help you apply the concepts of the course to your own projects. For some modules, you may work directly with the electronic file, or you may print it and fill in the template. In other cases, the worksheet will provide guidance in working with note cards or facilitating meetings.

While you're in the middle of the course, you may choose to apply the concepts to a current project, or to rework stories from a previous project, just to get a feel for how it goes. Later, you can use these worksheets to guide you through a project from its inception.

Take time now to identify which project you'll use to apply the concepts.

What is the name of the project you'll use for these worksheets?

My Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the following items to guide you through creating meaningful user stories for your project. Your stories will progress as you work through each module.



## Stories About What You Want from This Course

As a warmup, start by writing at least five user stories that describe what you plan to get out of this course. Write your stories using this format:

As a(n) <type of user>, I <want, need, am required to, etc.> <some goal> so that <some reason>.

And using this guidance:

**<type of user>:** Student, product owner, Scrum Master, analyst, etc.

**<want/can/am required to>:** Use whatever phrase makes the intent of the story most clear. Sometimes a user wants to do something, other times a user is required to do something, should be able to do the things, and so on.

**<some goal>:** What do you want to do?

**<some reason>:** What's your underlying motivation? (Note: This clause is not always required, but is good to consider.)

Your stories:

1. As a \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_  
so \_\_\_\_\_.
2. As a \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_  
so \_\_\_\_\_.
3. As a \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_  
so \_\_\_\_\_.



4. As a \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_  
so \_\_\_\_\_.
5. As a \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_  
so \_\_\_\_\_.
6. As a \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_  
so \_\_\_\_\_.
7. As a \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_  
so \_\_\_\_\_.
8. As a \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_  
so \_\_\_\_\_.

Now, write at least five user stories for the project you identified earlier. Use the columns as described here:

**As a(n)...**: Who will benefit from or perform the functionality? In selecting a user role, consider the perspective of different types of users and select the one most representative of the functionality.

**I...:** What does the role want to do?

**So that...**: What is the person's underlying motivation? (Note: This clause is not always required, but is good to consider.)



	As a(n)	I...	So That...
Example	mobile user	can configure network settings	I am automatically connected to my preferred network
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			



## Conversation Plan

For each story above that you identified on your project, identify any conversations that should be held. Use the following table to document the conversations. For each conversation, identify:

- Who needs to participate in the conversation
- The issues to be addressed during the conversation
- And the latest possible time for holding the conversation. (Since there is no value to having a conversation earlier than necessary, defer conversations until the information they generate is needed.) Use these codes:

**BS** = Before starting the story

**ASAS** = As soon as started

**BF** = Before finishing

Story #	Conversation Participants	Issues to Address	When? (BS, ASAS, BF)





## Confirmation

For each of the five or so stories you've identified, identify some confirmation criteria for the story. What will need to be true of the story before it can be considered complete?

[illegible]



Story #	Defined Confirmation Criteria



## Stories to Be Split

Review each of the stories you've identified and consider whether each could be developed in one iteration by the team you are working with. You probably don't have formal estimates on these stories, so much of this will be based on your own intuition and what you've seen your team complete within an iteration.

List below any stories that need to be split into multiple, smaller stories. If no stories need to be split, identify at least a couple that you think could be split.

[illegible]

Story #	Note

## Additional Detail

Note any supplemental materials (spreadsheet, user design, etc.) that team members will need beyond just having conversations about a story.

Story #	Additional Material Needed to Supplement a User Story



Story #	Additional Material Needed to Supplement a User Story

