Keywords used in Gherkin

**Feature**: Each Gherkin file begins with a Feature keyword. Feature defines the logical test functionality you will test in this feature file.

**Rule**: Rule keyword was introduced in the latest version 6 of cucumber to represent the implementation of a business rule. Rule is meant to cover one or more scenarios that explain the particular rule.

**Background**: Background keyword is used to define steps that are common to all the tests in the feature file.

**Scenario**: Each Feature will contain a number of tests to test the feature. Each test is called a Scenario and is described using the Scenario: keyword.

Scenario: Search a product and add the first result/product to the User basket

**Scenario** **Outline**: In situations where one wants to execute the same Scenario with various combinations of values or arguments, one could use the Scenario Outline. It facilitates the testing of the same scenario with multiple arguments.

**Given**: Given defines a precondition to the test. For e.g. In the shopping website, assume that the LogIn page link is only present on the Home Page, so the precondition for clicking the LogIn link is that the user is at the Home Page.

**When**: When keyword defines the test action that will be executed. By test action we mean the user input action.

**Then**: Then keyword defines the Outcome of previous steps. We can understand it best by looking at the test above and adding a Then step there.

Feature: LogIn Action Test

Description: This feature will test a LogIn and LogOut functionality

Scenario: Successful Login with Valid Credentials

Given User is on Home Page

When User Navigate to LogIn Page

And User enters UserName and Password

Then Message displayed LogIn Successfully

Here we can see that Then is the outcome of the steps above. The reader of this test would easily be able to relate to Then step and would understand that when the above conditions are fulfilled then the Then step will be executed.

**And**: And keyword is used to add conditions to your steps.

But: But keyword is used to add negative type comments. It is not a hard & fast rule to use but only for negative conditions. It makes sense to use But when you will try to add a condition which is opposite to the premise your test is trying to set.

**\***This keyword is very special. This keyword defies the whole purpose of having Given, When, Then and all the other keywords. Basically Cucumber doesn't care about what Keyword you use to define test steps, all it cares about what code it needs to execute for each step. That code is called a step definition and we will discuss about it in the next section. At this time just remember that all the keywords can be replaced by the \* keyword and your test will just work fine. Let's see with example, we had this test earlier:

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And User enters UserName and Password

Then Message displayed Login Successfully

Using \* Keyword

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Scenario: Successful Login with Valid Credentials

\* User is on Home Page

\* User Navigate to LogIn Page