User Stories

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# User Story

A *user story* is similar to the terms: *use case, scenario, script*. A *use case* is sometimes more detailed.

*In agile software development, a user story is a brief, plain-language explanation of a feature or functionality written from a user’s point of view. Many agile experts also describe a user story as the smallest unit of product development work that can lead to a complete element of user functionality.[[1]](#footnote-1)*

A common format for writing a user story is:

As a [*description of user*], I want to [*functionality*], so that [*benefit*].

Some examples:

* As a brand manager, I want to get alerts whenever a reseller advertises our products below agreed-upon prices so that I can quickly take action to protect our brand.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* As an iOS user, I want to sync data with an Apple Watch so that I can track calories burned more accurately.[[3]](#footnote-3)
* As a student employee, I want to log my hours so that I will get paid for my work.[[4]](#footnote-4)
* [Student Project](http://ieng6.ucsd.edu/~cs110x/static/res/DAB_User_Stories.pdf), UCSD, Course Scheduling
* [Student Project](http://ieng6.ucsd.edu/~cs110x/static/res/NANI_User_Stories.pdf), UCSD, Travel Planner
* [Effective User Stories](https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/effective-user-storiespdf/257377001), Very nice slide deck. UI is a bit clunky, but it works.

# Videos to Watch

Watch these 4 videos:

1. [How to Write Good User Stories](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ar_LqdUlQQ), by CA Technologies (4 min)
2. [Agile User Stories](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apOvF9NVguA&t=296s), by Mark Shead (7 min)
3. [Splitting User Stories](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDT0HMtDwYI&t=28s), by Mark Shead (9 min)
4. [What Are User Story Acceptance Criteria?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DavPyEFeEFw), by BA-EXPERTS (5 min). For the project, you will write *system tests* for each User Story, which in some sense are the actual tests derived from the acceptance criteria. I have not asked you to write acceptance criteria, however, you can if you want. You will need the understanding of what acceptance criteria are to write the system tests.

1. <https://www.productplan.com/glossary/user-story/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.productplan.com/glossary/user-story/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.pagerduty.com/blog/agile-user-stories-examples-and-templates/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://wiki.cac.washington.edu/display/BAC/User+Stories> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)