

Your Stories Are Too Big!

URL For This Worksheet: <http://tinyurl.com/SmallerStories>

Make your own copy of the worksheet to practice the techniques.

This worksheet will help you practice the [four story splitting techniques](#):

- Conjunctions And Connectors
- Generic Words
- Acceptance Criteria
- Timeline Analysis

Conjunctions and Connectors

Reference material for this technique:

<https://agilelearninglabs.com/2013/04/user-story-splitting-one/>

Example:

As a couple planning a family resort trip,
We want separate activities for couples and teenagers,
so that we can all enjoy our vacation.

Notice the middle line:

“We want separate activities for couples and teenagers”

We can break this into stories for the teenagers, as well as the couple.

As a teenager on vacation with my family,
I want activities to do with other teens,
so that I can meet other teens and not be stuck with my boring parents the whole time.

and

As a couple traveling with our family,
We want romantic activities to do as a couple,
so that we can rekindle our love connection.

Practice This Technique

Use the example user stories found here:

<https://agilelearninglabs.com/user-stories-for-story-splitting-practice/>

Find one that has a conjunction or connector and then break it into smaller stories by removing the conjunction or connector.

Paste the story you are starting with here, and then underline the conjunctions or connector words:

<Your original user story goes here>

Write the new smaller stories here:

<Your smaller user stories go here>

Generic Words

Reference material for this technique:

<https://agilelearninglabs.com/2013/04/user-story-splitting-part-two/>

Example:

As a couple traveling with our family,
We want romantic activities to do together,
so that we can rekindle our love connection.

In this story, the word “activities” is pretty generic. We can replace “activities” with more specific words such as: couple’s massage, romantic dinner for two, and sunset couple’s cruise. We will get these stories.

As a couple,
we want to get a couple’s massage,
so that we can relax together and reconnect.

and

As a couple,
we want a romantic dinner,
So that we can enjoy quality time together and set the stage for an exciting evening!

and

As a couple,
we want to go on a couples-only cruise at sunset,
so that we can enjoy romantic moments with no children around.

Practice This Technique

Use the example user stories found here:

<https://agilelearninglabs.com/user-stories-for-story-splitting-practice/>

Find one that has a generic term and then break it into smaller stories by identifying the more specific examples, or types, of that generic term.

Paste the story you are starting with here:

<Your original user story goes here>

What is the generic term that you found: <Generic Term goes here>

What are the more specific examples:

- <Specific example here>
- <Specific example here>
- <Specific example here>

Write the new smaller stories here:

<Your smaller user stories go here>

Acceptance Criteria

Reference material for this technique:

<https://agilelearninglabs.com/2013/04/user-story-splitting-three/>

Example:

As a couple,
we want a romantic dinner,
So that we can enjoy quality time together and set the stage for an exciting evening!

Here are some acceptance criteria for this story:

- There are candles and fresh flowers on every table
- The main course offerings include steak, fish, and at least one vegetarian option
- There are at least 2 kinds of red wine and 2 kinds of white wine available, as well as a Champagne
- There is a string quartet or a piano player playing soft instrumental music
- The waiters are wearing tuxedos

We examine each of the acceptance criteria, and ask: “Who wants this?”

The answer to this question becomes the stakeholder in: “As a <type of stakeholder>.”

Next, we ask: “Why do they want that?”

The answer to this question identifies the value in “so that <some value is created>.”

The body of the acceptance criteria provides the “I want <the deliverable>” part, and now we have all three parts for our new user story:

As a <type of stakeholder>,
I want <the deliverable>,
so that <some value is created>.

Here are user stories that could be derived from the acceptance criteria above.

As a couple on a dinner date,
we want candles on the table,
so that the mood will be more romantic.

and

As a diner in the restaurant,
I want to be able to choose from steak, fish, and at least one vegetarian option,
so that I can order something that conforms to my dietary and flavor preferences.

and

As a wine lover
I want at least 2 kinds of red wine, 2 kinds of white wine and 2 Champagnes available,
so that I can choose a wine that will go well with my meal.

and

As a couple on a dinner date,
I want to hear instrumental music from a string quartet or a piano player,
so that the mood will be more romantic and I can still converse with my date.

and

As a couple on a romantic dinner date,
I want waiters that are wearing tuxedos,
so that we can feel like we are at a classy restaurant.

Practice This Technique

Here is an example user story:

As a sunbather,
I want lots of beach,
so that I can work on my tan.

Here are some acceptance criteria for this story:

- The beach can accommodate 100 sunbathers simultaneously
- There is sunscreen available at the beach
- There are lounge chairs and umbrellas at the beach
- There is food and drink service at the beach
- Only hotel guests have access to the sunbathing beach

Write stories based on each of these acceptance criteria:

As a <type of stakeholder>
I want the beach to accommodate 100 sunbathers simultaneously
So that <describe the value created>

As a <type of stakeholder>
I want sunscreen available at the beach
So that <describe the value created>

As a <type of stakeholder>
I want lounge chairs and umbrellas at the beach
So that <describe the value created>

As a <type of stakeholder>
I want food and drink service at the beach
So that <describe the value created>

As a <type of stakeholder>
I want only hotel guests to have access to the sunbathing beach
So that <describe the value created>

Timeline Analysis

Reference material for this technique:

<https://agilelearninglabs.com/2013/05/user-story-splitting-four/>

Example:

As a diner in the restaurant,
I want to be able to choose from steak, fish, and at least one vegetarian option,
so that I satisfy my dietary and flavor preferences.

Let's build a usage timeline, from the point of view of the customer as they browse the menu and make their decision:

1. I like to look at pictures of the food, and read the descriptions.
2. I'm concerned about calories, so I check the calories for the items I'm considering ordering
3. I check the prices.
4. I want the waiter to come and tell me about special items available that day. I really enjoy it when the waiter describes the dishes in great detail, and even tells a story about why that item is the special of the day.
5. The waiter will then go away for a bit so that I can consider my choice.
6. When the waiter comes back, I'll place my order.

Practice This Technique

Create user stories for some of the steps in the timeline. The first one has been done for you.

As a diner at the restaurant,
I want a menu that lists each item with a description and a picture,
so that I can decide which items I'm most interested in.

Now it's your turn.

As a <type of> diner,
I want the calories for each item listed
so that <your answer here>.

As a <type of> diner,

I want to know what each item costs
so that <your answer here>.

As a <type of> diner,
I want the waiter to elaborately describe the daily specials
so that <your answer here>.

As a <type of> diner,
I want some time to consider the daily special and the regular items before
ordering,
so that <your answer here>.

As a <type of> diner,
I want the waiter to return and take my order
so that <your answer here>.