User stories are short, simple description of a feature told from the perspective of the person who desires the new capability, usually a user or customer of the system. They typically follow a simple template:

_As a_ <type of user>, _I want_ <some goal> _so that_ <some reason>.

Examples:

- As a user, I can backup my entire hard drive.

- As a student, I can search courses by course title.

- As a user, I can cancel a reservation.

- As a manager, I want to create a quiz so that I can use it with my staff.

- As a manager, I want to see which students have completed the quiz and which have not so that I can send them a reminder.

Note: so that portion is optional.

If a user story is too large for an agile team to complete in one iteration, we split it into multiple smaller user stories before it is worked on. Examples:

- As a power user, I can specify files or folders to backup based on file size, date created and date modified.
- As a user, I can indicate folders not to backup so that my backup drive isn't filled up with things I don't need saved.

Examples of User Story for Non-functional Requirements

- As a customer, I want to be able to run your product on all versions of Windows from Windows 95 on.
- As the CTO, I want the system to use our existing orders database rather than create a new one, so that we don't have one more database to maintain.
- As a user, I want the site to be available 99.999 percent of the time I try to access it, so that I don't get frustrated and find another site to use.
- As someone who speaks a Latin-based language, I might want to run your software someday.
- As a user, I want the driving directions to be the best 90 percent of the time, and reasonable 99 percent of the time.