VIBE CODING · BUILDER · 12 MIN READ

Plan before you build: write a mini PRD

A one-page product plan (who, problem, user stories, acceptance criteria, out of scope) that makes AI builds faster and better.

Pass the check (4 of 5) online to earn the “Product Planner” badge:
https://digitalbuilders757.com/university/study/plan-before-you-build-mini-prd

Why plan when AI builds so fast?

Because AI builds exactly what you describe, including your gaps. Ten minutes of planning saves hours of 'no, not like that'. Product teams write a PRD (product requirements document); for a vibe-coded project a one-page version is plenty. It's also what you hand to a coding agent, a teammate or a client.

The parts of a mini PRD

- Problem and goal: who has the problem, and what changes when it's solved.
- Users: the kinds of people who use it (for example, member and admin).
- User stories: 'As a member, I want to see this week's games, so I don't miss a change.'
- Acceptance criteria: testable 'done when' lines for each story ('Given a game moved, when I open the schedule, then I see the new time and a Changed label').
- Out of scope: what this version won't do.
- Data and permissions: what's stored and who can see or change it.
- Success measure: the one number that tells you it works.

Write it with AI

Ask an AI to interview you, one question at a time, and draft the PRD from your answers. Then challenge it: 'What's missing? What would a tester break first? What's too big for version one?' Edit it until every story has acceptance criteria you could actually check.

Use it to build and to test

Build one user story at a time: paste the story and its acceptance criteria into your builder or agent. Use the acceptance criteria as your test plan, or ask the agent to turn them into automated tests. When you change your mind, update the PRD first, then the code, so the plan stays the truth.

Key terms

PRD (product requirements document)
A plan for a product or feature: problem, users, stories, acceptance criteria and scope.

User story
A need written as: As a [user], I want [goal], so that [reason].

Acceptance criteria
Testable conditions that say when a user story is done.

Scope
The agreed list of what you'll deliver, and what's not included.

MVP (minimum viable product)
The smallest version that solves the core problem well enough to use.

Test plan
A list of steps a person follows with the expected result of each.

Try it: Your first mini PRD

1. Open the Mini PRD template in the Builder Toolkit.
2. Ask an AI to interview you through it for a small app idea.
3. Write at least three user stories with acceptance criteria and three out-of-scope items.
4. Build the first story only, and check it against its acceptance criteria.

KNOWLEDGE CHECK

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5 questions. Circle one answer for each; 4 or more correct passes. Answers are at the back.

1. What is a user story?

A. A short need written as 'As a [user], I want [goal], so that [reason]'
B. A blog post about users
C. A database table
D. A bug report

2. What are acceptance criteria?

A. The payment terms the client accepts before work starts
B. Testable conditions that say when a story is done
C. The app's colours
D. A list of users

3. Why include 'out of scope' in a PRD?

A. To make it longer
B. It's legally required for any app that collects user data
C. So everyone knows what this version won't do
D. To hide planned features from competitors until launch

4. Best way to build from a PRD with AI?

A. Paste the whole PRD and ask for everything at once, so the AI sees the full picture
B. Ignore the PRD once you start
C. Only show the AI the title
D. Build one user story at a time with its acceptance criteria, and check each

5. You change your mind about a feature mid-build. What first?

A. Update the PRD, then the code
B. Change the code and forget the PRD
C. Start a new project
D. Delete the PRD

Official sites

Atlassian: User stories with examples: https://www.atlassian.com/agile/project-management/user-stories
Atlassian: Product requirements documents: https://www.atlassian.com/agile/product-management/requirements

Last reviewed 2026-11-25. AI tools change fast; check each tool's own site for current features, plans and prices.

ANSWER KEY

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1. A: A short need written as 'As a [user], I want [goal], so that [reason]'
User stories keep features tied to who needs them and why.

2. B: Testable conditions that say when a story is done
Clear 'done when' lines can become your test plan and automated tests.

3. C: So everyone knows what this version won't do
Saying what's out keeps the build small and stops surprise features.

4. D: Build one user story at a time with its acceptance criteria, and check each
Small steps with clear checks make bugs easy to find.

5. A: Update the PRD, then the code
Keeping the plan current means everyone, including your agent, works from the truth.