

# The Product Thinking Framework

for Shipping with AI

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## Step 1: User Story Template

AS A [specific context]  
I WANT [to achieve what]  
SO THAT [meaningful outcome]  
WITHIN [key constraint: time, effort, cost]

## Step 2: Feature Filter (3 Questions)

1. Does this serve the core user story, or is it adjacent?
2. Would I use this in the first week, or is it a "maybe later"?
3. Does adding this make the happy path longer?

*If a feature doesn't pass all three, it's not v1.*

## Step 3: Questions Before Accepting AI's Plan

### Dependencies

Does the user do this action often?

If this fails, will it break trust?

Can we cache results?

Can we show something useful if it fails?

Can we reduce how often this gets called?

### Complexity

Is there a simpler setup that works?

Can this run as one codebase and one deployment?

What's the minimum setup that lets me ship and iterate?

### Going Live

What's the worst-case cost if this gets abused?

What limits should exist so I don't get surprised?

What's reasonable default usage for a real person?

## Step 4: Edge Case Testing Patterns

**Plurals & variants:** "roti" → "rotis", "chapati", "phulka"  
**Real input messiness:** "eggs, toast, butter" not "2 eggs and toast with butter"  
**Regional & spelling:** "yogurt" vs "yoghurt", "eggplant" vs "brinjal"

**Remember:** AI compresses build time. It doesn't compress thinking time.  
The tools will keep getting better. The hard part will still be deciding what deserves to exist.