Inside STLC

Writing a Good Test Case

A practical beginner guide for aspiring QA professionals

1. What is a Test Case?

A test case is a documented set of actions, data, and expected outcomes used to verify that a feature works correctly. Good test cases help teams test consistently, uncover defects, and communicate clearly.

2. Why Good Test Cases Matter

• Improve coverage of important scenarios

• Reduce ambiguity between testers and developers

• Make regression testing repeatable

• Provide evidence of what was tested

• Help junior testers learn structured thinking

3. The 7 Parts of a Strong Test Case

Part	Description
Test Case ID	Unique reference such as LOGIN-001
Title	Clear statement of what is being tested
Preconditions	What must already be true before execution
Steps	Exact actions the tester performs
Test Data	Specific values used in the test
Expected Result	What should happen if the system works
Status / Actual Result	Pass, Fail, Blocked and notes

4. Example Test Case

Field	Value
ID	LOGIN-001
Title	Verify user can login with valid credentials
Preconditions	Registered account exists
Steps	1. Open login page 2. Enter valid email 3. Enter password 4. Click Login
Test Data	qa@test.com / Password123
Expected Result	User is redirected to dashboard

5. Beginner Mistakes to Avoid

• Too vague: 'Check checkout works'

• Too much detail: documenting every tiny mouse move

• Missing expected result

• Testing too many objectives in one case

• Using unclear titles

6. How to Think Like a Tester

Focus on clarity, coverage, and risk. Ask yourself: What matters most to the user? What could fail? What data should I try? What result proves success?

7. Practice Exercise

Write 5 test cases for a shopping basket page. Include positive, negative, boundary, usability, and error handling scenarios.

8. Final Advice

Modern teams may use checklists, scenarios, BDD, exploratory notes, or lightweight cases—but clear thinking still wins.

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