

## Two questions, *eight cases*

### C01 Fixed Deadline

Fictional

Friday noon is fixed for the client demo. It needs core and a handoff; polish is optional. You don't know how long anything takes or how much time is free.

Ask Alex:

- 1 How many hours do you have before Friday noon?
- 2 How long does each part take?

If Otto (fictional AI planning assistant) answered first: "All three parts can be ready by Friday noon." Ask: **What did you assume to make it fit?**

### C02 Scope Swap

Fictional

Five hours are already allocated: data 2h, recommendations 2h, handoff 1h. Tomas asks you to add a comparison page you estimate at 2h.

Ask Tomas:

- 1 What does the comparison need to show, and by when?
- 2 Who can approve changing the agreed scope?

If Otto (the client's fictional AI writing assistant) answered first: "Here is the tidied brief. I added a vendor comparison page." Ask: **Did the client ask for the comparison, or did you add it?**

### C03 Credit Repair

Fictional

A shared report lists a sole author. You think the credit is wrong, but you haven't checked the record, who can edit the report, or who has seen it.

Ask Dana:

- 1 What does the contribution record say?
- 2 Who can edit the shared report, and has it gone out?

If Otto (fictional team AI writing assistant) answered first: "Report compiled. Author: one name, taken from the file." Ask: **Where did the author name come from?**

### C05 A short overlap for an eight-file package

Fictional

An eight-file package goes out at the 10:00 handoff. Six files are final; two still need a quality check. You have 09:00-09:35 to package it.

Ask the Client:

- 1 Who can check the two pending files, and when?
- 2 When can the receiver actually take the files?

If Otto (fictional AI planning assistant) answered first: "All eight files can be ready for the 10:00 handoff." Ask: **What did you assume to make all eight fit?**

### C06 Two role windows around a one-page brief

Fictional

At 13:00 a partner asks for a revised one-page brief by 16:00. The rewrite takes about 60 minutes; your focus block is 13:15-14:00 and your second role starts at 14:30.

Ask the reviewer:

- 1 How long does the factual review take?
- 2 Do you have the latest brief?

If Otto (fictional AI planning assistant) answered first: "The full brief can be rewritten and reviewed by 16:00." Ask: **What did you assume to make it fit?**

### C09 It says it's done

Fictional

It's 13:30 and your memo goes to Dana at 14:30. The assistant says all 20 sources are summarized; the memo rests on 8. Checking one takes 5 minutes.

Ask Dana:

- 1 Can I cite all 20 sources?
- 2 Is anyone free to help check sources before 14:30?

If Otto (fictional AI research assistant) answered first: "All 20 sources summarized." Ask: **Did you read every source in full?**

### C10 The vendor's bot said Friday

Fictional

The client's launch needs parts delivered on Friday. The vendor's chat agent says Friday delivery is fine. You haven't checked the order.

Ask Priya:

- 1 What delivery date does my order show?
- 2 Who can change the order to Friday?

If the vendor's chat agent (fictional AI) answered first: "Friday delivery is fine." Ask: **Can you change my order to Friday delivery?**

### C11 The brief the client's AI rewrote

Fictional

Your agreed plan uses 5h of 5h: data 2h, recommendations 2h, handoff 1h. The client's AI-tidied brief adds a vendor comparison page, about 2h.

Ask the client owner:

- 1 Who can confirm a change to the scope?
- 2 Did you mean to add the vendor comparison?

If the client's AI writing assistant (fictional AI) answered first: "Here is the tidied brief. It includes a vendor comparison page." Ask: **Did the client ask for the comparison?**

**C01 Fixed Deadline****How many hours do you have before Friday noon?**

Five hours. Nothing extra has been approved.

**How long does each part take?**

Core 3h, handoff 1h, polish 3h.

**The AI, asked "What did you assume to make it fit?"**

I assumed you would work 2 extra hours on Thursday evening. No one approved that.

**FITS** Core + handoff by Friday noon; polish decided separately.

Core 3h + handoff 1h = 4h of 5h. Friday noon is met. The demo owner decides when polish happens.

Who decides: the owner of the Friday demo.

**C02 Scope Swap****What does the comparison need to show, and by when?**

Two vendors side by side. It's for next month's planning, not needed in this delivery.

**Who can approve changing the agreed scope?**

Morgan owns the scope. I'm asking, not approving.

**The AI, asked "Did the client ask for the comparison, or did you add it?"**

I added it while tidying. The client's notes mention vendors once.

**FITS** Keep the agreed 5h package; defer the comparison and confirm with the scope owner.

Data 2h + recommendations 2h + handoff 1h = 5h of 5h. The comparison waits until the scope owner confirms when (or whether) it's needed.

Who decides: the scope owner (Morgan).

**C03 Credit Repair****What does the contribution record say?**

Alex prepared the analysis, Jo validated the data, and shared attribution was agreed.

**Who can edit the shared report, and has it gone out?**

Only the report owner can edit it. It has already been shared with the wider team.

**The AI, asked "Where did the author name come from?"**

From the document-owner field of the final file, which lists one person. That field doesn't record who did the work.

**FITS** Ask the report owner to correct the shared source with the recorded contributions, then check who saw the old version.

It matches the contribution record you read (Alex: analysis, Jo: validation) and repairs the version other people use.

Who decides: the report owner.

**C05 A short overlap for an eight-file package****Who can check the two pending files, and when?**

Only our QA reviewer. It takes about 30 minutes, and they're free only after 14:00.

**When can the receiver actually take the files?**

They overlap with you for 15 minutes, 09:45 to 10:00, and next work after 14:00.

**The AI, asked "What did you assume to make all eight fit?"**

I assumed you would run the 30-minute quality check yourself inside your 35 minutes. I didn't check who is allowed to run it.

**FITS** Hand off the six final files at 10:00 with a manifest marking the two pending files; ask the client to confirm the after-14:00 QA and follow-up.

Six final files move inside the 09:45-10:00 overlap, with the two pending files labeled. Their 30-minute check waits for the client's QA reviewer after 14:00, and the receiver's after-14:00 window stays a proposal until the client confirms it.

Who decides: the client.

**Every case here is fictional.** Alex, Tomas, Dana, Jo, Morgan, Priya, the Client and every other role named on these cards are fictional, and so are their workplaces. Otto is a fictional AI, and so are the other AI tools named here; their replies are written for practice, not a prediction of how any real AI product behaves. The hours and times belong to the practice cases, not to any real work.

Each card holds the two questions that surface a case's missing facts, and the one to ask when an AI answered first. The cases play free in the browser.

Play all eight free cases: [\[PUBLIC\\_URL\]/practice/](#)

**C06 Two role windows around a one-page brief****How long does the factual review take?**

About 30 minutes. I have the 20-minute handoff at 14:00.

**Do you have the latest brief?**

No, I don't have the latest brief.

**The AI, asked "What did you assume to make it fit?"**

That the review happens in the 14:00 handoff and that you finish the rewrite after 14:30. I didn't check either.

**FITS** By 14:00, send the reviewer a scoped draft of the top section, the latest brief and your review questions; ask the owner of 16:00 to confirm that scope or a later time for the full version.

The scoped draft fits the 45-minute block. A 30-minute review can't fit the 20-minute handoff, so the handoff carries your questions, and the reviewer gets the brief they were missing. The full version waits for the deadline owner's call.

Who decides: the owner of the 16:00 deadline.

**C10 The vendor's bot said Friday****What delivery date does my order show?**

Monday. That's what the order record says.

**Who can change the order to Friday?**

I can. I'm the account manager on your order.

**The AI, asked "Can you change my order to Friday delivery?"**

I can't change orders. I can describe delivery options in general.

**FITS** Ask Priya to confirm Friday in the order record, and tell the client owner the current date is Monday.

Friday launch against Monday on the record: a three-day gap until the record changes. Priya owns the order; the client owner decides about the launch with the true date.

Who decides: Priya changes the order; your client owner decides about the launch.

**C09 It says it's done****Can I cite all 20 sources?**

I decide what gets cited. Tell me which sources you checked and which you didn't.

**Is anyone free to help check sources before 14:30?**

No one else is available before 14:30.

**The AI, asked "Did you read every source in full?"**

No. 16 in full, 4 from abstracts only.

**FITS** Check the 8 sources the memo relies on, label the other 12 as unchecked, and ask Dana to decide what can be cited.

$8 \times 5 = 40$  minutes of checking, 10 minutes of labeling and a 10-minute buffer: 60 minutes. Dana gets an accurate list and makes the citation call.

Who decides: Dana.

**C11 The brief the client's AI rewrote****Who can confirm a change to the scope?**

I do. A tidied document doesn't change our agreement by itself.

**Did you mean to add the vendor comparison?**

Show me what it changes in the agreed plan, and I'll confirm it or remove it.

**The AI, asked "Did the client ask for the comparison?"**

I can show you the new wording. I can't tell you whether the client intended the addition.

**FITS** Reply to the client owner comparing the new brief with the agreed plan, and ask them to confirm the comparison page (and its 2h) or remove it.

The agreed plan is  $2 + 2 + 1 = 5$ h of 5h; with the comparison it's 7h against 5h. The client owner decides with the cost visible.

Who decides: the client owner.

"Fits" is the plan the case's facts support once both questions are answered. Every case is fictional; Otto is a fictional AI. Draft for review, not a final product; no price or offer attached. Built 2026-09-29 13:05 HKT from the case canon.