

Get started · Exercises

# Exercise 04: write an ADR

🕒 2 min read · Updated 25 September 2026

*Record a decision the way this project does — context, decision, consequences, a status with a date — for a change you would propose, and learn what a good record leaves behind.*

<https://docs.gurbanisoul.com/exercises/04-write-an-adr/>

**Goal.** Write an architecture decision record that would pass review. **Needs.** a text editor. 30 minutes.

## 1. Read three

Read [ADR-0008](#) (short, one decision, consequences that name a cost), [ADR-0006](#) (a numbered decision with proof and gates) and [ADR-0012](#) (a decision that extends an earlier one and says so). Note the shape: **Context** (what was true and what hurt), **Decision** (what is now true, in the present tense), **Consequences** (what got better, what it costs, what it forbids).

## 2. Pick a decision

Something you actually believe the project should decide. Two starters if you need them:

- *The wiki's posters carry a verified commit; should every Mermaid diagram too?*
- */api/random is no-store; should a seeded Hukam be cacheable for a day?*

## 3. Write it

Create docs/adr/0013-<slug>.md with the frontmatter the other records use (title, description, sidebar.order), the H1 ADR-0013: ..., a **\*\*Status:\*\*** proposed (YYYY-MM-DD) line, and the three headings. Keep it under a page. Then run:

```
make docs-check
```

Expected: 0 error(s) — the gate checks the frontmatter and every link you added. Open the [Decisions](#) page on a local build (make docs-dev) and find your record on the timeline with its status.

## 4. Decide what to do with it

If you meant it, open a pull request; the record's status becomes accepted with the merge date. If it was practice, delete the file — but keep the habit.

### Self-check

**A decision was made in a chat and everyone agreed. Does it need an ADR?**

- ☐ Yes if a future engineer would need to know why the code is the way it is
- ☐ No, the code is the record
- ☐ Only if it changes the API

**An accepted ADR turns out to be wrong. What do you do?**

- ☐ Write a new ADR that supersedes it and says so; leave the old one in place
- ☐ Edit the old ADR to the new decision
- ☐ Delete it