



WORKSHEET · WRITING RULES

How to make a specification

LEARNING INTENTION

Write a clear, measurable design specification based on research.

SUCCESS CRITERIA · I can...

- ☐ spot the difference between weak and strong specification points
- ☐ rewrite weak points so they can be tested
- ☐ write a full specification linked to my research

KNOWLEDGE

A design specification is the **rule book** for your design. Every point should pass the **three-test check**:

1 · Specific

Is it clear exactly what is needed?

2 · Measurable

Could you test it — with a ruler, a timer, a vote?

3 · From research

Can you say *why*, using your research?

THE FORMULA The EarBuddy **must** + [a measurable requirement] + **because** + [evidence from research]

"The EarBuddy must hold a case up to 61 × 46 × 22 mm because I measured three cases and the largest was 60.6 × 45.2 × 21.7 mm."

TASK 1 · STRONG OR WEAK?

1 Tick whether each specification point is strong (passes the three tests) or weak.

Specification point	Strong	Weak
It must be colourful.	☐	☐
It must have no corners sharper than R3 (3 mm radius).	☐	☐
It must fit in a blazer pocket 90 mm wide.	☐	☐
It must be good quality.	☐	☐
It must hold a 1.2 m cable wound at least 10 times.	☐	☐
It should be safe.	☐	☐
It must survive 20 drops from desk height (750 mm) without cracking.	☐	☐
It must look modern.	☐	☐

TASK 2 · UPGRADE IT

2 Choose three of the **weak** points above and rewrite them using the formula.

1.
2.
3.

TASK 3 · MY EARBUDDY SPECIFICATION

3 Write your full specification. Every point needs a "because" from your research.

Factor	The EarBuddy must...	because... (research evidence)
Function		
Function		
Aesthetics		
Safety		
Safety		
Performance		
Size		
Material		

TASK 4 · USE A SPECIFICATION TO TEST



Test this EarBuddy

4 Does this EarBuddy meet the specification? Tick and give a reason.

Specification point	✓	×	Reason
It must hold a wired earbud cable	☐	☐	
It must have a keyring hole	☐	☐	
It must have rounded corners	☐	☐	
It must be one bright colour	☐	☐	

EXAM-STYLE QUESTIONS

a) Explain why each specification point should be measurable.

2 marks

b) Describe two ways a designer uses a specification during the design process.

2 marks