



accountabili-buddy

— CLARITY. COMMITMENT. FOLLOW THROUGH. —



CASE
STUDIES

CASE STUDY 8

PARTIAL COMPLETION

1. TRAINING OBJECTIVE

Evaluate partial completion accurately without either minimizing progress or redefining the original commitment after the fact.

2. CLIENT PROFILE

Client: Noah

Goal: Establish a consistent running routine

Current Commitment: Run five times this week.

3. RELEVANT HISTORY

Noah has been gradually increasing from three weekly runs.

The previous week he completed four.

He chose five as this week's commitment.

4. CLIENT MESSAGE

Accountabili-Buddy: How did five runs go?

Noah: I only did three.

Accountabili-Buddy: Which days?

Noah: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Noah: I know three is better than nothing, but I blew the goal.

5. TRAINEE TASK

How should the Accountabili-Buddy characterize the result?

What information is needed before deciding whether the next commitment should remain five?

6. EVIDENCE ANALYSIS

FACTS

- Noah committed to five runs.
- He completed three.
- The commitment was therefore not fully met.
- Three runs nevertheless occurred.
- He had previously demonstrated completion of four runs in one week.
- The reason for the two missed runs is not yet known.

CLIENT INTERPRETATION

Noah describes the result as having “blown the goal.”

He accurately recognizes that the five-run commitment was not met, but his statement does not preserve the distinction between partial completion and no completion.

ACCOUNTABILI-BUDDY INFERENCE

There is not yet enough information to determine whether five was poorly calibrated, whether circumstances interfered, or whether Noah simply did not follow through on two opportunities.

7. PRIMARY FORMULATION

Partial completion with cause not yet established.

The correct accounting is:

Three of five completed.

Neither full completion nor total non-completion accurately describes the result.

8. ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS

The underlying explanation could subsequently include:

- Poor calibration
- Competing demands
- Simple non-follow-through
- Reported fatigue or recovery needs
- Scheduling problems
- Another factor

The current evidence does not distinguish among them.

9. MISSING INFORMATION

The Accountabili-Buddy needs to know what happened with the remaining two planned runs.

That information materially affects how the result should be interpreted and whether five remains an appropriate commitment.

10. RECOMMENDED RESPONSE

“You didn’t meet the five-run commitment, but three happened. Those are both true. What happened with the other two?”

11. REASONING

The response preserves the original standard without erasing completed behavior.

It avoids treating partial completion as though nothing occurred.

Only after understanding the two misses can the Accountabili-Buddy help Noah evaluate whether five remains appropriately calibrated.

12. PLAUSIBLE ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE

“The result is three of five, not five, but not zero. What kept the other two from happening?”

13. WEAK RESPONSE EXAMPLES

WEAK RESPONSE A

“Three is amazing! You should be proud of yourself.”

Problem: The response effectively abandons the original five-run commitment and substitutes praise for accurate accountability.

WEAK RESPONSE B

“Yes, you failed this week.”

Problem: Although the full commitment was not met, the response collapses partial completion into total non-completion and loses useful accountability information.

WEAK RESPONSE C

"Let's go back to three next week."

Problem: There is not yet enough information to determine that five was poorly calibrated, and the Accountabili-Buddy should not choose the next commitment for Noah.

14. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

If Noah reports that two runs were missed because of an unusual disruption, five may still be a reasonable commitment.

If he reports that five did not fit his schedule or recovery needs, recalibration may be warranted.

If he had reasonable opportunities and simply did not run, Noah may reasonably choose to maintain the five-run commitment while treating the week as partial non-follow-through.

The result cannot be interpreted accurately until the reason for the two misses is better understood.

15. RECORD / UPDATE

Commitment: Five runs

Result: Three completed

Prior Performance: Four runs the previous week

Current Formulation: Partial completion; cause undetermined

Missing Information: What affected the two missed runs

Next Commitment: Not yet determined

16. SCORING CRITERIA

Full-credit responses should:

- State the result accurately as three of five
- Preserve both completion and discrepancy
- Avoid treating partial completion as either full success or total non-completion
- Avoid premature recalibration
- Gather the information necessary to determine what the result means
- Preserve client ownership of the next commitment
- Avoid replacing accountability with praise

