

# Examples Make Patterns Comprehensible

PLoP 2024 Lightning Talk Proposal

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July 15, 2024

A natural way to go with patterns is by learning them in practice: by example. To rely only on this is to reject a huge knowledge base residing in the form of pattern descriptions. General and abstract—and often long—these descriptions more often make readers fall asleep than they make them understand patterns. Examples—if there at all—are usually at the end of these descriptions. Don't do that. Instead, start with an example. Then abstract from their context and generalize pattern roles. Express the problem as a conflict of the two most prominent contradicting forces acting upon these roles. Generalize what pattern generates as a resolution to balance this conflict. Keep patterns connected through a pattern story.