Example: main use cases for an auction system

Source: Figure 3.4, Jalote, "A Concise Introduction to Software Engineering", Ch. 3, p. 53

UC1: **Put an item up for auction**

Primary Actor: Seller

Precondition: Seller has logged in

Main Success Scenario:

1. Seller posts an item (its category, description, picture, etc.) for auction
2. System shows past prices of similar items to seller.
3. Seller specifies the starting bid price and a date when the auction will close
4. System accepts the item and posts it

Exception Scenarios:

2.a) There are no past items in this category.

  * System tells the seller this situation

UC2: **Make a bid**

Primary Actor: Buyer

Precondition: The buyer has logged in

Main Success Scenario:

1. Buyer searches or browses and selects some item
2. System shows the rating of the seller, the starting bid, the current bids, and the highest bid; asks buyer to make a bid
3. Buyer specifies a bid price
4. System accepts the bid; Blocks funds in bidders account
5. System updates the maximum bid price, informs other users, and updates the records for the item

Exception Scenarios:

3.a) The bid price is lower than the current highest

  * System informs the bidder and asks to rebid

4.a) The bidder does not have enough funds in his/her account

  * System cancels the bid, asks the user to get more funds

UC3: **Complete auction of an item**

Primary Actor: Auction System'

Precondition: The last date for bidding has been reached

Main Success Scenario:

1. Select highest bidder; send email to selected bidder and seller informing final bid price; send email to other bidders also

2. Debit bidder's account and credit seller's

3. Unblock all other bidders' funds

4. Transfer from seller's account commission amount to organization's account

5. Remove item from site; update records

Exception Scenarios: None