

Basic Web Accessibility Checklist for Designers

Page Title

- Does the **page title** (the browser title for the page; not the main content heading or `<h1>`) describe the **topic or purpose of the page**?

Headings

- Is all text that looks and acts like a **heading marked as a heading**?
- Are the heading levels chosen so they convey their **correct hierarchical order** in the content, not for their visual styling?

Navigation

- Is a method provided to **skip repetitive navigation** and go to the main content? Two of the main techniques include providing **HTML/ARIA landmarks** (e.g. header, navigation, main, footer), and **"skip navigation" links**.
- Will the content's **reading and focus order**, as determined by the code order, be logical and intuitive?

Links

- Does **link text** clearly describe the **purpose or destination** of the link?

Color/Contrast

- Is information conveyed by means other than just **color alone**? For example, using color and text both to indicate that a form field has an error, or using colors with text to label chart categories.
- Does all text have a **minimum color contrast** against its background of at least **4.5 to 1** (**3 to 1** for large text)?
- Is **link text distinguishable** from non-link text by more than just color?
- Do actionable elements have **clear, visible focus** when non-mouse users Tab or Arrow to them?

Magnification and Responsive Design

- Can a user with low vision magnify or zoom in on the content in the browser on any device, including desktop and mobile?
- Is the design optimized for all zoom states? Simplify the design as much as possible, eliminating horizontal scrolling.

Images

- Does the alternative text for **informative images** provide the same information as the image?
- Does the alternative text for **actionable images**, such as an image link, button, or image map area, clearly identify the link destination or button purpose?
- Are **complex images or infographics** explained fully in the page content and with a short alternative text description?
- Are **decorative images** identified as not requiring alternative text?
- Is **plain text** used instead of text embedded in images? (exceptions like text in logos and decorative text images exist)

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Tables

- If the page contains a data table, does the table have a caption (name/title), and are columns and/or rows properly identified in the markup?
- Are complex tables simplified to minimize or eliminate the need for compound column or row headers?

Forms

- Do all form fields have a label that is always visible?
- Are all form labels adequately descriptive and instructive? Is all the information the user needs to fill out the form available on the page?
- Are all form labels and instructions immediately adjacent to their form element so that users (including users of screen magnification) can easily connect the form element with its label and/or instructions?
- Are all controls in close proximity to the content they are controlling? For example, are Edit and Delete buttons next to the content they modify?
- Do error messages provide enough information for users to correct their error?

Dynamic Content

- Are users made aware of **content that is dynamically inserted** on a page or does the new content come right after the element that caused it to appear, in the logical reading order / tab order of the page?
- Do all **keyboard-only and touch screen** interactions follow expected patterns so users know how to interact with all widgets on the page?
- Design **success and failure feedback** into all interactions. When users activate scripted functionality (buttons, form submissions, etc.), they must know whether the action was successful or not, through a success/error message, the obvious activation of a feature (e.g. a video starts to play after the user activates the "play" button), etc. The feedback must be available to sighted users, screen reader users, and all other user categories.

Custom Widgets

- Does the design **use standard HTML widgets** (links, buttons, form elements, controls, etc.) whenever possible? Native widgets have built-in accessibility capabilities. Custom widgets do not.
- If you do have any custom widgets, have they been created with **full keyboard support**, and are they **compliant with WAI-ARIA authoring practices**?

Touch Devices

- Is the **touch target size** of main links and buttons **large enough and far enough apart** from each other to activate easily with a finger?
- Is there an **alternative way to activate any custom swipe actions or gestures**? Note that when a screen reader is activated on a touch device, it overrides all custom swipe actions and gestures.