Contrast Research part-up.com

Intro

In this document I present the results of my contrast research. I focust my attention mainly on the part-ups page (discover > part-ups).

Why this research?

While looking at part-up.com for the first time I was searching for accessibility issues to resolve. I was actually looking at the tab navigation, when i noticed that I was squeezing my eyes. I was squeezing my eyes because of the colors that were used for the website. The contrast between foreground and background colors was too little.

For whom?

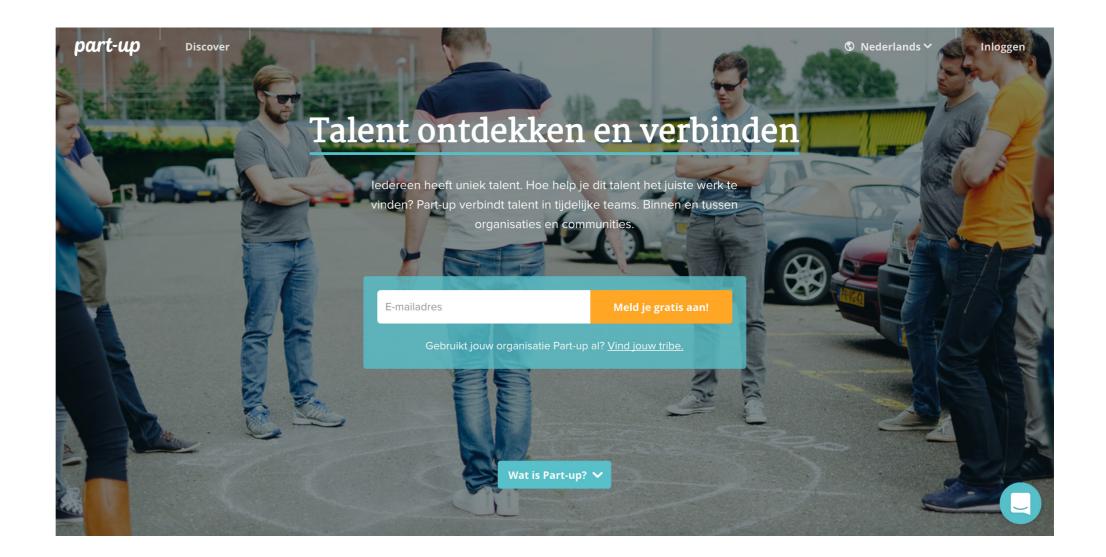
The colors that are used don't have the right contrast. This makes users squeeze their eyes, resulting in a headache. High contrast makes websites also more legible. For example when users use their phone outside in the sun.

Also the colorblind often have trouble distinguishing items that have low contrast in relation to one another.

In this case we take users that use their phones in the sun and users that are colorblind in account.

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My experience as user

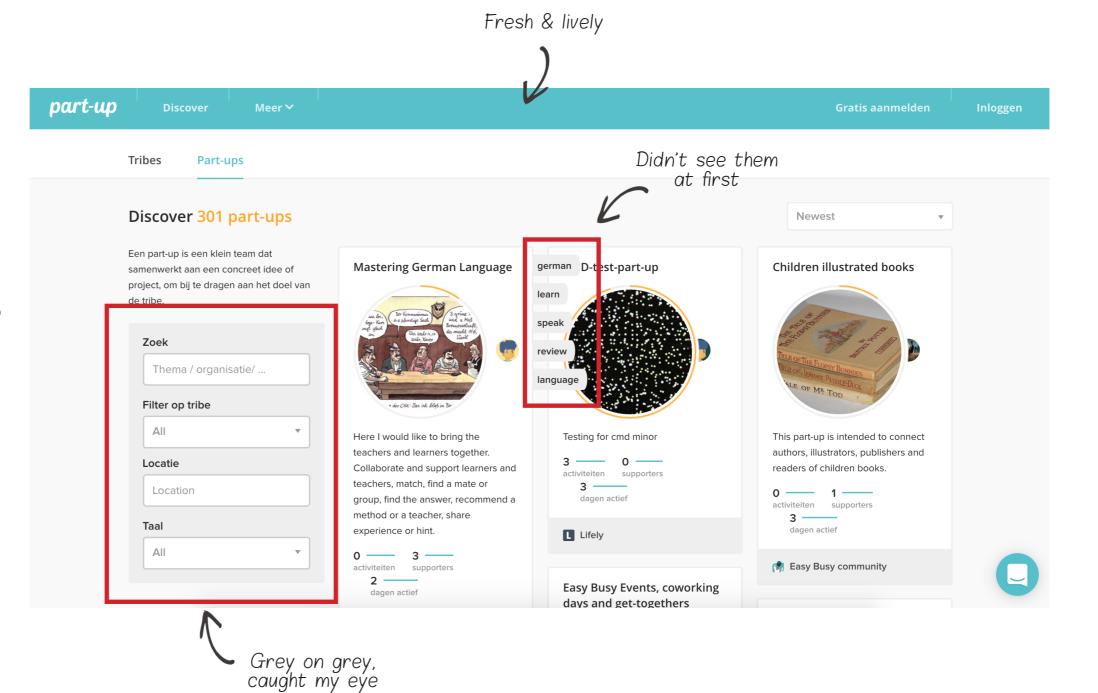
I noticed a few things while looking at part-up.com for the first time. The first thing was the color of the header which has a lively color.

The menu items had a mint greenish color. If you hover over the menu items, they get a white color.

Another thing I noticed is while hovering over the text of a part-up block, grey list-items slide out from under the block. The only reason I noticed them was because it animated. Otherwise I probably wouldn't have seen them.

The last thing was the grey filter form on top of a lighter grey background. I haven't seen this a lot so it caught my eye.

The things I noticed are just my thoughts so I searched for a tool which could help me identify the items that had too little contrast. Besides that I read a lot of articles to help me understand what was important with contrast and why.



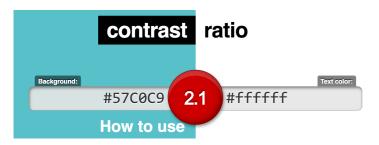
Tools and results

I used 3 tools to help me find the low contrast areas. These were:

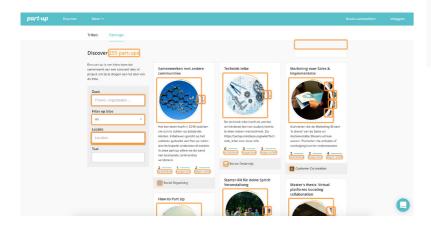
- Contrast Ratio *Lea Verou*
- ChromeLens
- Contrast Ratio Checker

Al these tools check the ratio according to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0. These are guidlines from W3C. It states that the minimum contrast should be 4.5:1 except for large text, which should be 3:1.

Contrast ratio is a tool to compare a background color with a foreground color:

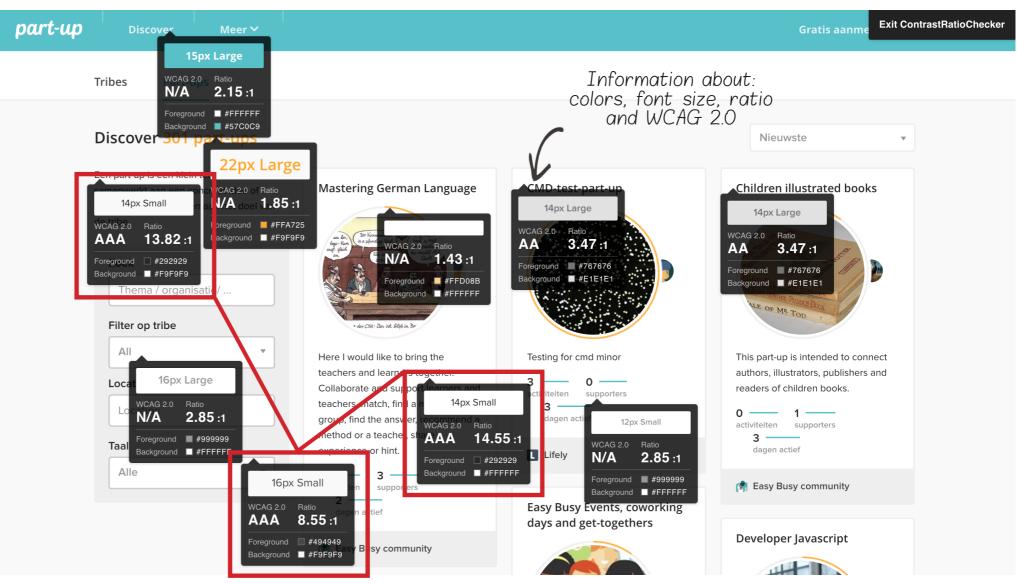


ChromeLens Is a developertool which checks for wrong images, links and contrast:



And last but not least Contrast Ratio Checker. With this tool you can click any part of the site and it will give you information about font sizes, colors, the ratio and if it is approved according to WCAG 2.0 (see image to the right).

My goal is to solve the results that are under a ratio of 4.5:1.





Solution

I tried to be try to the styleguide that was made. After checking the colors in Leau Verous Contrast Ratio I implemented it on the website. I checked a lot of times with the Contrats Ratio Checker to be sure everything would be improved.

I was able to improve a lot with the colors in the styleguide, but I could improve the orange color.

The only way to be able to improve that would be changing the color into a red color or something similair.

Before

