

# a11y checklist

Make digital  
accessibility  
easier

valtech.



## Modal

- Opening → focus on an element within the modal
- Focus loop inside the modal
- Close button keyboard activable
- ESC key closes the modal
- ***role="dialog"*** and ***aria-modal="true"***



## Contrast/color

- Color → not the only way to convey information or distinguish an action
- Minimal contrast ratio for small text: 4,5:1
- Minimal contrast ratio for large text: 3:1
- Beware of colored or changing background (like videos) at all screen sizes



## Animations

- Animation > 5 seconds  
→ stoppable by the user (animation specific button or global animations toggle)



## Keyboard navigation

- Ability to navigate through the entire page using keyboard
- Interactive element  
→ reachable with tab key and usable
- Tabbing order must be logical
- Focus always visible and not only a color change
- All of this possible in reverse using ***Shift+Tab***
- Invisible elements  
→ not focusable
- Mouse/hover/swipe interaction  
→ possible with keyboard
- Beware of focus trap (focus loop inside an area without close action possible)
- Skip link to go directly to main content
- Focus non interactive element  
→ ***tabindex="0"***
- Remove keyboard focus ability  
→ ***tabindex="-1"***



## Dynamic content (search results, filters, ajax...)

- Screen readers  
→ aware of a page portion refresh
- Announce a change **aria-live="polite"** on the new content parent



## Images/icons

- Images have an **alt** attribute
- Informative images: **alt** contains image description (except if already present in adjacent text)
- Decorative images (better to insert image in CSS):
  - **alt** is empty
  - Hide it from screen reader  
→ **aria-hidden="true"**
  - **role="img"** for SVG icons



## Links and buttons

- Link (**<a>**) to navigate to another site/page/tab, to an anchor on the page or to download a file
- Button (**<button type="button">**) for any action on the current page (expand/collapse, show/hide elements...)
- Label always present
- Label not visible (icon button): text in **title** and **aria-label** attribute



## Hide and show elements

- Links labels with context. **aria-label** to add context if needed
- External links: **add target="\_blank"** and **rel="noopener noreferrer"**
- Hide from view and screen readers
  - **hidden** HTML attribute
  - **Visibility: hidden**
  - **display: none**
- Hide only from view
  - **opacity: 0**
  - Move off viewport in CSS
- Hide only from screen reader
  - **aria-hidden="true"** attribute



## Aria attributes

- Increase semantics and screen readers behaviour
- Hide from screen readers  
→ **aria-hidden="true"** on element
- Make screen readers read text  
→ text in **aria-label**
- Selected element in a group, list  
→ **aria-current**
- Panel closed/open state  
→ **aria-expanded="true/false"**



## Carousel

- Previous/next buttons → present with accessible text (**aria-label** if icon only)
- Slides inside **<ul>** list
- Bullet points buttons inside **<ul>** list and clickable to go to selected slide
- Bullet points focusable with current item indication
- Slides focusable → slide content can be read
- Mobile → swipe feature or previous/next buttons
- Best practise → <https://www.w3.org/WAI/tutorials/carousels/working-example/>



## Headings

- Appropriate heading level (**<h1>** to **<h6>**) based on content hierarchy, not style.
- Avoid skipping a level (ie. from **<h1>** to **<h3>**)

## More

[https://media.dequeuniversity.com/public/en/docs/deque\\_web\\_accessibility\\_checklist.pdf](https://media.dequeuniversity.com/public/en/docs/deque_web_accessibility_checklist.pdf)

[https://romeo.elsevier.com/accessibility\\_checklist/](https://romeo.elsevier.com/accessibility_checklist/)