# devfest | Com.google | Chapter | Ch

Designing for Neurodiversity, Empathy, Human Centric Design and Inclusion in Software Applications

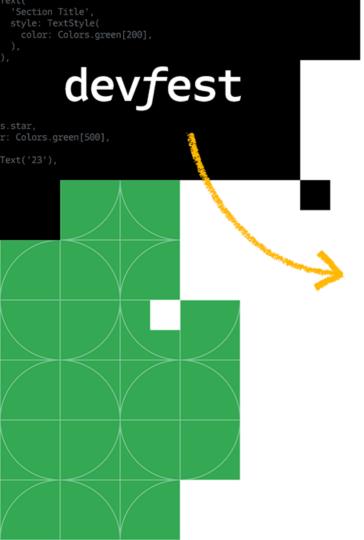




## Glossophobia









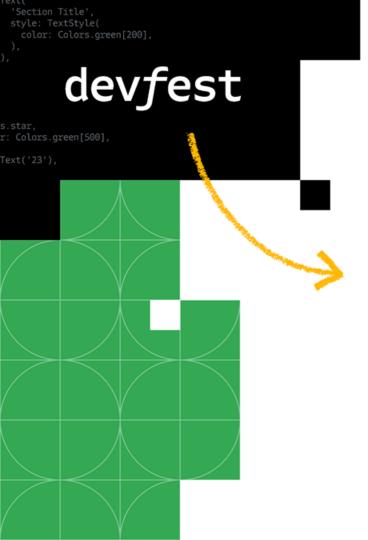
## Agenda

What is Neurodiversity?

Accessibility vs ND

Guidelines for Design

Concluding Remarks



### SOME DISABILITIES LOOK LIKE THIS



OTHERS LOOK LIKE THIS

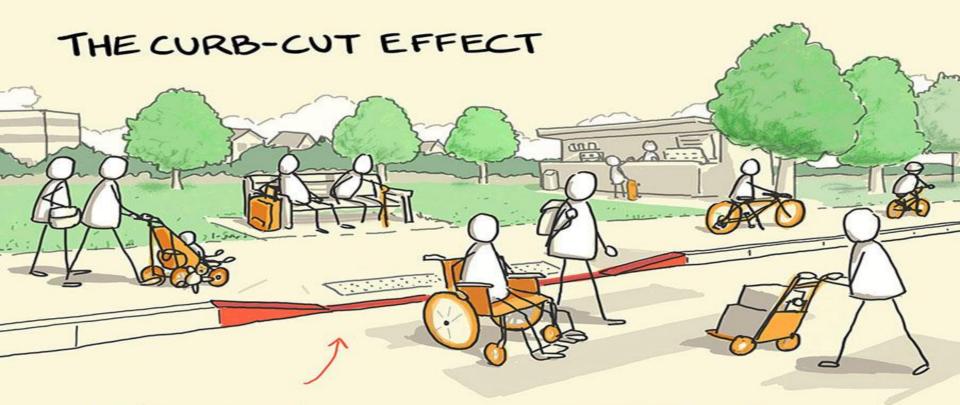


NOT ALL DISABILITIES ARE VISIBLE



Neurodivergent brains are biologically different.

One cannot be "trained out of" the way their brain works



WHEN WE DESIGN FOR DISABILITIES ... WE MAKE THINGS BETTER FOR EVERYONE

sketchplanations



Text('23'),

Not legally required until 1990 with the signing of **Americans with Disabilities** Act.



# Solve for one, extend to many

# NOTHING ABOUT US WITHOUT US

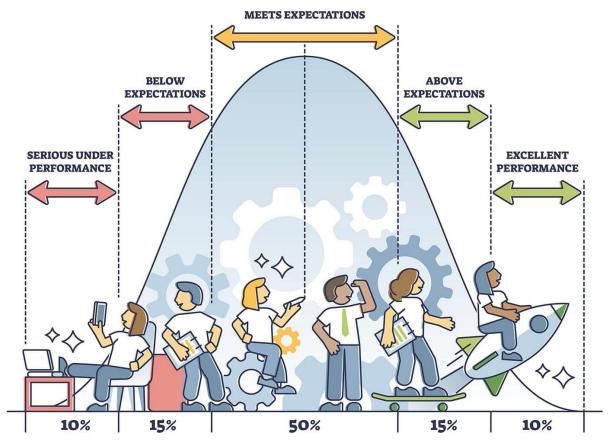






Risk marginalization and only cater to the central, normal values as peak users in the Gaussian(bell) curve.

### **BELL CURVE**

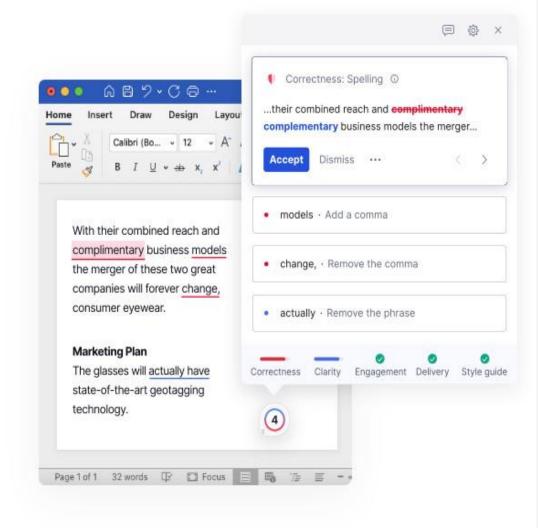


Source: https://www.simplypsychology.org/normal-distribution.html

# Be Kind and Forgiving

# Grammarly - Disneyland of Spelling







## Implement a **Forgiving Format** to Accommodate **Users' Mistakes**

"We don't make mistakes, just happy little accidents." —Bob Ross, American painter, painting instructor, and TV show host



Where to? Start your next adventure on Airbnb.



New in Harlem











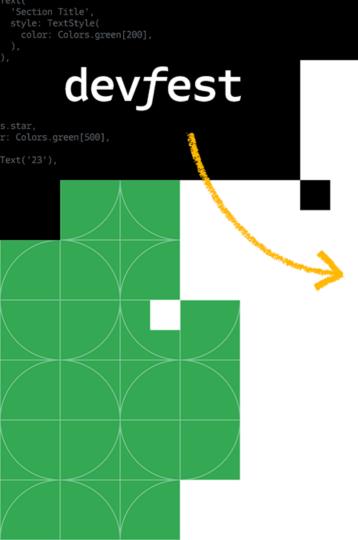
### Forgot attachment?

Attachments first, message second, subject third, and recipients last. This is my way.



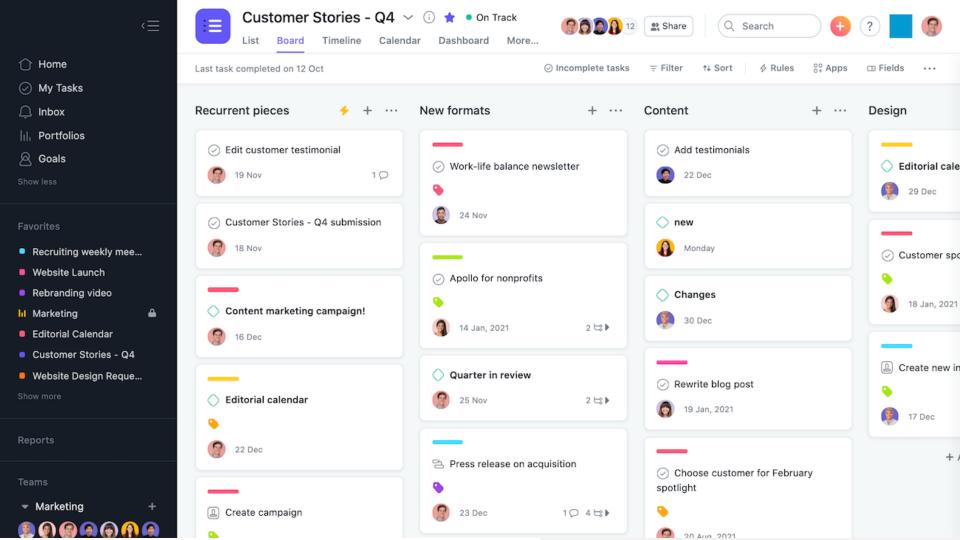








# Abundance and not redundance



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devfest
Text('23'),
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# Canary in the coalmine



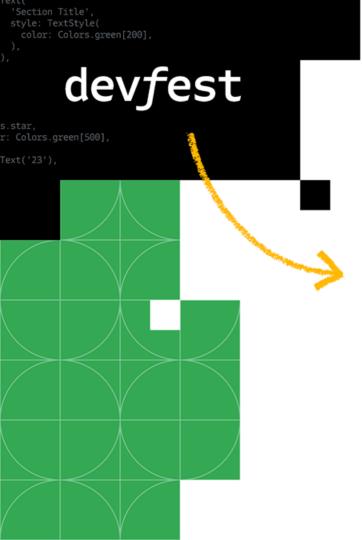
# Often the first to sense danger akin to canaries in the coal mine

Preventing miscommunication and not overwhelming the users









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## Guidelines

### Guidelines

### Interpretable messages

Avoid use of characters that look alike

E.g. 111, B8, QOOCD, and break up long strings in phone numbers e.g. (000) 000-0000

**Stick to active voice**: Passive voice sentences are longer and harder to comprehend. Users with ADHD will get bored, dyslexics will have even more trouble reading, and so will readers on the spectrum.

**Avoid metaphors**: Trouble understanding metaphors, such as idioms and other abstract figures of speech.

E.g. Instead of calling it a day, it's more inclusive to say that something is done.

### Guidelines

Format your writing: Divide large chunks of text into smaller paragraphs.

It is challenging for people struggling with limited attention spans.

**Use descriptive buttons:** No vague microcopy, such as *Click here*.

Describe the purpose of the button.

Example: Upload images, Register, Download the e-book.

This simple change makes navigation smoother and reduces anxiety.

**Be careful with animations:** Too much stimulation can induce anxiety in people on the autism spectrum, which may even lead to physical pain, withdrawal, or meltdown.

**Use of animated elements**: should be limited to instances when it serves a purpose. Also remember not to make them too invasive.

### **Avoid autoplay**

Unexpected movement is surprising and scary, not to mention the sound!



## Bring in the perspective of ND users

Perform user testing and focus groups with them.



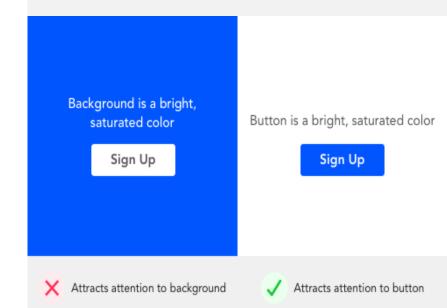




Aim to visually please, rather than disturb.

Abstain from auto play in websites and music that suddenly appears out of nowhere.

Skip highly vibrant colors.





#### Designing for users on the autistic spectrum Don't... Do... use bright use simple contrasting colours colours write in use figures of Do this. plain English speech and idioms use simple create a wall sentences and of text bullets make buttons make buttons Click here! vague and **Attach files** descriptive unpredictable build simple and build complex and consistent layouts cluttered layouts



### Designing for users with dyslexia



#### Do...

#### Don't...

use images and diagrams to support text



use large blocks of heavy text



align text to the left and keep a consistent layout



underline words, use italics or write in capitals



consider producing materials in other formats (for example, audio or video)



force users to remember things from previous pages - give reminders and prompts



keep content short, clear and simple



rely on accurate spelling - use autocorrect or provide suggestions



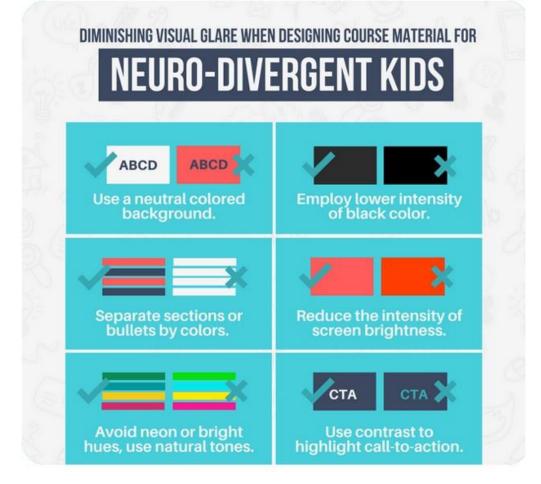
let users change the contrast between background and text



put too much information in one place







Credit : DesignMantic

## of reusable components,

Great Minds Think Unalike And Learn Differently

Representation Matters!





## of reusable components,

A design with inclusivity and neurodiversity in mind is not just 'nice to have' – it's imperative







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