

WCAG 2.1 checklist for web writers, editors, publishers and content managers

Navigation

Status	Description of items to check	WCAG 2.1 reference
	Page or document title identifies the topic or purpose of the content.	2.4.2 Page titled (A)
	Link text alone identifies the topic of purpose of the linked content. Can rely on words in the enclosing sentence, paragraph, list item or parent list item, table header cells.	2.4.4 Link purpose (A)

Structure

Status	Description of items to check	WCAG 2.1 reference
	Appropriate tags are used to format headings, lists, tables, quotations, forms, emphasised text.	1.3.1 Info and relationships (A)
	Headings and labels identify the topic or purpose of the content or parts of the content.	2.4.6 Headings and labels (AA)

Language

Status	Description of items to check	WCAG 2.1 reference
	Foreign language words are tagged, except if they proper nouns, technical terms or words now part of English.	3.1.2 Language of parts (AA)

Images and colour

Status	Description of items to check	WCAG 2.1 reference
	Decorative images have a blank ALT text field.	1.1.1 Non-text content (A)
	Images of art have a descriptive label that identifies the artist and artwork. If a caption is used for the descriptive label, the ALT text is a short label for the image.	
	Images acting as links have an ALT text that identifies the linked resource.	
	All other images have a text version equivalent to the information provided by the image. Where the text version needs to be more than a few words, it is included on the page or on a linked page. If the page is linked, the link appears directly below the image. And the linked page links back to the original page. The ALT text acts as a short label and says where the text version is located.	
	Colour is not used on its own to communicate meaning. It is supplemented with labels, patterns, symbols or other visual cues.	1.4.1 Use of colour (A)
	No area of the content flashes more than 3 times in a second unless the area is very small and not red.	2.3.1 Three flashes or below threshold (A)
	Text colour has a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1 against the background colour, including text in images. Large text (18 points or 14 points bold) has a contrast ratio of at least 3:1.	1.4.3 Contrast [minimum] (AA)
	Text is styled, not embedded in an image. Not necessary for logos, screenshots, graphs, diagrams, maps, text that is decorative or not intended for reading, and essential images of text.	1.4.5 Images of text (AA)
	In parts of graphics that need to be understood, adjacent colours have a contrast ratio of 3:1. Not necessary for logo and flags, where certain colours are essential, or where information is provided in another format.	1.4.11 Non-text contrast (AA)
	Icons and their text alternatives are used consistently across your website or documents.	3.2.4 Consistent identification (AA)

Instructions and errors

Status	Description of items to check	WCAG 2.1 reference
	Instructions for using content don't rely on visuals (shape, size, screen location or orientation) or sound. Text labels are added and referred to.	1.3.3 Sensory characteristics (A)
	Form error messages are in text and describe mistakes made.	3.3.1 Error identification (A)
	Forms have labels or instructions that explain how to fill out a form. Required fields and data formats are identified.	3.3.2 Labels or instructions (A)
	Form error messages suggest a way to correct mistakes, if possible. Not necessary if the form is part of a test or the suggestion creates a security risk.	3.3.3 Error suggestions (AA)

Documents

[All of the above apply to documents too.]

Status	Description of items to check	WCAG 2.1 reference
	Reading and tab order is correct.	1.3.2 Meaningful sequence (A)
	All parts of the document can be used with only a keyboard.	2.1.1 Keyboard only (A)
	Headings are tagged and can be used to navigate the document.	2.4.1 Bypass blocks (A)
	Document language is set to English or the relevant language.	3.1.1 Language of page (A)
	A submit button is included for interactive forms.	3.2.2 On input (A)
	Form fields are labelled. Name, role and state values are provided.	4.1.2 Name, role, value (A)

Status	Description of items to check	WCAG 2.1 reference
	Page numbers are included in the header or footer. Page numbers match the number in the page navigation toolbar.	3.2.3 Consistent navigation (AA)

Pre-recorded audio, video and multimedia

Status	Description of items to check	WCAG 2.1 reference
	Descriptive labels are provided for linked or embedded audio, video or multimedia.	1.1.1 Non-text content (A)
	Transcripts are provided for audio-only content. Not necessary when the audio is an alternative to the main content and labelled as such.	1.2.1 Audio-only and video-only content (A)
	Transcripts or an audio version are provided for video-only content. Not necessary when the video is an alternative to the main content and labelled as such.	
	Captions are provided for dialogue and important sounds in video or multimedia. Not necessary when the media is an alternative to the main content and labelled as such.	1.2.2 Captions (A)
	Transcripts or an audio version are provided for video and multimedia when important visual content is not included in the soundtrack. Not necessary when the media is an alternative to the main content and labelled as such.	1.2.3 Audio description or media alternative (A)
	An audio described version is provided for video and multimedia when important visual content is not included in the soundtrack. Not necessary when the media is an alternative to the main content and labelled as such.	1.2.5 Audio description