



WCAG 2.0 Level A

Text Alternatives:

[Guideline 1.1](#) Provide text alternatives for any non-text content so that it can be changed into other forms people need, such as large print, braille, speech, symbols or simpler language.

[Understanding Guideline 1.1](#)

Non-text Content:

[1.1.1](#) All non-text content that is presented to the user has a text alternative that serves the equivalent purpose, except for the situations listed below. (Level A) [Understanding Success](#)

[Criterion 1.1.1](#)

- **Controls, Input:** If non-text content is a control or accepts user input, then it has a name that describes its purpose. (Refer to [Guideline 4.1](#) for additional requirements for controls and content that accepts user input.)
- **Time-Based Media:** If non-text content is time-based media, then text alternatives at least provide descriptive identification of the non-text content. (Refer to [Guideline 1.2](#) for additional requirements for media.)
- **Test:** If non-text content is a test or exercise that would be invalid if presented in text, then text alternatives at least provide descriptive identification of the non-text content.
- **Sensory:** If non-text content is primarily intended to create a specific sensory experience, then text alternatives at least provide descriptive identification of the non-text content.
- **CAPTCHA:** If the purpose of non-text content is to confirm that content is being accessed by a person rather than a computer, then text alternatives that identify and

describe the purpose of the non-text content are provided, and alternative forms of CAPTCHA using output modes for different types of sensory perception are provided to accommodate different disabilities.

- **Decoration, Formatting, Invisible:** If non-text content is pure decoration, is used only for visual formatting, or is not presented to users, then it is implemented in a way that it can be ignored by assistive technology.

Time-based Media:

[Guideline 1.2](#) Provide alternatives for time-based media. [Understanding Guideline 1.2](#)

Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded):

[1.2.1](#) For prerecorded audio-only and prerecorded video-only media, the following are true, except when the audio or video is a media alternative for text and is clearly labeled as such: *(Level A)* [Understanding Success Criterion 1.2.1](#)

- **Prerecorded Audio-only:** An alternative for time-based media is provided that presents equivalent information for prerecorded audio-only content.
- **Prerecorded Video-only:** Either an alternative for time-based media or an audio track is provided that presents equivalent information for prerecorded video-only content.

Captions (Prerecorded):

[1.2.2](#) Captions are provided for all prerecorded audio content in synchronized media, except when the media is a media alternative for text and is clearly labeled as such. *(Level A)*

[Understanding Success Criterion 1.2.2](#)

Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded):

[1.2.3](#) An alternative for time-based media or audio description of the prerecorded video content is provided for synchronized media, except when the media is a media alternative for text and is clearly labeled as such. *(Level A)* [Understanding Success Criterion 1.2.3](#)

Adaptable:

[Guideline 1.3](#) Create content that can be presented in different ways (for example simpler layout) without losing information or structure. [Understanding Guideline 1.3](#)

Info and Relationships:

[1.3.1](#) Information, structure, and relationships conveyed through presentation can be programmatically determined or are available in text. (Level A) [Understanding Success Criterion 1.3.1](#)

Meaningful Sequence:

[1.3.2](#) When the sequence in which content is presented affects its meaning, a correct reading sequence can be programmatically determined. (Level A) [Understanding Success Criterion 1.3.2](#)

Sensory Characteristics:

[1.3.3](#) Instructions provided for understanding and operating content do not rely solely on sensory characteristics of components such as shape, size, visual location, orientation, or sound. (Level A) [Understanding Success Criterion 1.3.3](#)

Note: For requirements related to color, refer to [Guideline 1.4](#).

Distinguishable:

[Guideline 1.4](#) Make it easier for users to see and hear content including separating foreground from background. [Understanding Guideline 1.4](#)

Use of Color:

[1.4.1](#) Color is not used as the only visual means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element. (Level A) [Understanding Success Criterion 1.4.1](#)

Note: This success criterion addresses color perception specifically. Other forms of perception are covered in [Guideline 1.3](#) including programmatic access to color and other visual presentation coding.

Audio Control:

[1.4.2](#) If any audio on a Web page plays automatically for more than 3 seconds, either a mechanism is available to pause or stop the audio, or a mechanism is available to control audio volume independently from the overall system volume level. (Level A) [Understanding Success Criterion 1.4.2](#)

Note: Since any content that does not meet this success criterion can interfere with a user's ability to use the whole page, all content on the Web page (whether or not it is used to meet other success criteria) must meet this success criterion. See [Conformance Requirement 5: Non-Interference](#).

Keyboard Accessible:

[Guideline 2.1](#) Make all functionality available from a keyboard. [Understanding Guideline 2.1](#)

Keyboard:

[2.1.1](#) All functionality of the content is operable through a keyboard interface without requiring specific timings for individual keystrokes, except where the underlying function requires input that depends on the path of the user's movement and not just the endpoints. (Level A)

[Understanding Success Criterion 2.1.1](#)

Note 1: This exception relates to the underlying function, not the input technique. For example, if using handwriting to enter text, the input technique (handwriting) requires path-dependent input but the underlying function (text input) does not.

Note 2: This does not forbid and should not discourage providing mouse input or other input methods in addition to keyboard operation.

No Keyboard Trap:

[2.1.2](#) If keyboard focus can be moved to a component of the page using a keyboard interface, then focus can be moved away from that component using only a keyboard interface, and, if it requires more than unmodified arrow or tab keys or other standard exit methods, the user is advised of the method for moving focus away. (Level A) [Understanding Success Criterion 2.1.2](#)

Note: Since any content that does not meet this success criterion can interfere with a user's ability to use the whole page, all content on the Web page (whether it is used to meet other success criteria or not) must meet this success criterion. See [Conformance Requirement 5: Non-Interference](#).

Enough Time:

[Guideline 2.2](#) Provide users enough time to read and use content. [Understanding Guideline 2.2](#)

Timing Adjustable:

[2.2.1](#) For each time limit that is set by the content, at least one of the following is true: *(Level A)*
[Understanding Success Criterion 2.2.1](#)

- **Turn off:** The user is allowed to turn off the time limit before encountering it; or
- **Adjust:** The user is allowed to adjust the time limit before encountering it over a wide range that is at least ten times the length of the default setting; or
- **Extend:** The user is warned before time expires and given at least 20 seconds to extend the time limit with a simple action (for example, "press the space bar"), and the user is allowed to extend the time limit at least ten times; or
- **Real-time Exception:** The time limit is a required part of a real-time event (for example, an auction), and no alternative to the time limit is possible; or
- **Essential Exception:** The time limit is essential and extending it would invalidate the activity; or
- **20 Hour Exception:** The time limit is longer than 20 hours.

Note: This success criterion helps ensure that users can complete tasks without unexpected changes in content or context that are a result of a time limit. This success criterion should be considered in conjunction with [Success Criterion 3.2.1](#), which puts limits on changes of content or context as a result of user action.

Pause, Stop, Hide:

[2.2.2](#) For moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating information, all of the following are true: (Level A) [Understanding Success Criterion 2.2.2](#)

- **Moving, blinking, scrolling:** For any moving, blinking or scrolling information that (1) starts automatically, (2) lasts more than five seconds, and (3) is presented in parallel with other content, there is a mechanism for the user to pause, stop, or hide it unless the movement, blinking, or scrolling is part of an activity where it is essential; and
- **Auto-updating:** For any auto-updating information that (1) starts automatically and (2) is presented in parallel with other content, there is a mechanism for the user to pause, stop, or hide it or to control the frequency of the update unless the auto-updating is part of an activity where it is essential.

Note 1: For requirements related to flickering or flashing content, refer to [Guideline 2.3](#).

Note 2: Since any content that does not meet this success criterion can interfere with a user's ability to use the whole page, all content on the Web page (whether it is used to meet other success criteria or not) must meet this success criterion. See [Conformance Requirement 5: Non-Interference](#).

Note 3: Content that is updated periodically by software or that is streamed to the user agent is not required to preserve or present information that is generated or received between the initiation of the pause and resuming presentation, as this may not be technically possible, and in many situations could be misleading to do so.

Note 4: An animation that occurs as part of a preload phase or similar situation can be considered essential if interaction cannot occur during that phase for all users and if not indicating progress could confuse users or cause them to think that content was frozen or broken.

Seizures:

[Guideline 2.3](#) Do not design content in a way that is known to cause seizures. [Understanding Guideline 2.3](#)

Three Flashes or Below Threshold:

[2.3.1 Web pages](#) do not contain anything that flashes more than three times in any one second period, or the flash is below the general flash and red flash thresholds. (Level A) [Understanding Success Criterion 2.3.1](#)

Note: Since any content that does not meet this success criterion can interfere with a user's ability to use the whole page, all content on the Web page (whether it is used to meet other success criteria or not) must meet this success criterion. See [Conformance Requirement 5: Non-Interference](#).

Navigable:

[Guideline 2.4](#) Provide ways to help users navigate, find content, and determine where they are. [Understanding Guideline 2.4](#)

Bypass Blocks:

[2.4.1](#) A mechanism is available to bypass blocks of content that are repeated on multiple Web pages. (Level A) [Understanding Success Criterion 2.4.1](#)

Page Titled:

[2.4.2](#) Web pages have titles that describe topic or purpose. (Level A) [Understanding Success Criterion 2.4.2](#)

Focus Order:

[2.4.3](#) If a Web page can be navigated sequentially and the navigation sequences affect meaning or operation, focusable components receive focus in an order that preserves meaning and operability. (Level A) [Understanding Success Criterion 2.4.3](#)

Link Purpose (In Context):

[2.4.4](#) The purpose of each link can be determined from the link text alone or from the link text together with its programmatically determined link context, except where the purpose of the link would be ambiguous to users in general. (Level A) [Understanding Success Criterion 2.4.4](#)

Readable:

[Guideline 3.1](#) Make text content readable and understandable. [Understanding Guideline 3.1](#)

Language of Page:

[3.1.1](#) The default human language of each Web page can be programmatically determined. *(Level A)* [Understanding Success Criterion 3.1.1](#)

Predictable:

[Guideline 3.2](#) Make Web pages appear and operate in predictable ways. [Understanding Guideline 3.2](#)

On Focus:

[3.2.1](#) When any component receives focus, it does not initiate a change of context. *(Level A)*
[Understanding Success Criterion 3.2.1](#)

On Input:

[3.2.2](#) Changing the setting of any user interface component does not automatically cause a change of context unless the user has been advised of the behavior before using the component. *(Level A)* [Understanding Success Criterion 3.2.2](#)

Input Assistance:

[Guideline 3.3](#) Help users avoid and correct mistakes. [Understanding Guideline 3.3](#)

Error Identification:

[3.3.1](#) If an input error is automatically detected, the item that is in error is identified and the error is described to the user in text. *(Level A)* [Understanding Success Criterion 3.3.1](#)

Labels or Instructions:

[3.3.2](#) Labels or instructions are provided when content requires user input. *(Level A)*
[Understanding Success Criterion 3.3.2](#)

Compatible:

[Guideline 4.1](#) Maximize compatibility with current and future user agents, including assistive technologies. [Understanding Guideline 4.1](#)

Parsing:

[4.1.1](#) In content implemented using markup languages, elements have complete start and end tags, elements are nested according to their specifications, elements do not contain duplicate attributes, and any IDs are unique, except where the specifications allow these features. *(Level A)* [Understanding Success Criterion 4.1.1](#)

Note: Start and end tags that are missing a critical character in their formation, such as a closing angle bracket or a mismatched attribute value quotation mark are not complete.

Name, Role, Value:

[4.1.2](#) For all user interface components (including but not limited to: form elements, links and components generated by scripts), the name and role can be programmatically determined; states, properties, and values that can be set by the user can be programmatically set; and notification of changes to these items is available to user agents, including assistive technologies. *(Level A)* [Understanding Success Criterion 4.1.2](#)

Note: This success criterion is primarily for Web authors who develop or script their own user interface components. For example, standard HTML controls already meet this success criterion when used according to specification.

Conformance Requirements

In order for a Web page to conform to WCAG 2.0, all of the following conformance requirements must be satisfied:

1. Conformance Level: One of the following levels of conformance is met in full.

- **Level A:** For Level A conformance (the minimum level of conformance), the Web page satisfies all the Level A Success Criteria, or a conforming alternate version is provided.
- **Level AA:** For Level AA conformance, the Web page satisfies all the Level A and Level AA Success Criteria, or a Level AA conforming alternate version is provided.
- **Level AAA:** For Level AAA conformance, the Web page satisfies all the Level A, Level AA and Level AAA Success Criteria, or a Level AAA conforming alternate version is provided.

Note 1: Although conformance can only be achieved at the stated levels, authors are encouraged to report (in their claim) any progress toward meeting success criteria from all levels beyond the achieved level of conformance.

Note 2: It is not recommended that Level AAA conformance be required as a general policy for entire sites because it is not possible to satisfy all Level AAA Success Criteria for some content.

2. Full pages: Conformance (and conformance level) is for full Web page(s) only, and cannot be achieved if part of a Web page is excluded.

Note 1: For the purpose of determining conformance, alternatives to part of a page's content are considered part of the page when the alternatives can be obtained directly from the page, e.g., a long description or an alternative presentation of a video.

Note 2: Authors of Web pages that cannot conform due to content outside of the author's control may consider a [Statement of Partial Conformance](#).

3. Complete processes: When a Web page is one of a series of Web pages presenting a process (i.e., a sequence of steps that need to be completed in order to accomplish an activity), all Web pages in the process conform at the specified level or better. (Conformance is not possible at a particular level if any page in the process does not conform at that level or better.)

Example: An online store has a series of pages that are used to select and purchase products. All pages in the series from start to finish (checkout) conform in order for any page that is part of the process to conform.

4. Only Accessibility-Supported Ways of Using Technologies: Only accessibility-supported ways of using technologies are relied upon to satisfy the success criteria. Any information or functionality that is provided in a way that is not accessibility supported is also available in a way that is accessibility supported. (See [Understanding accessibility support.](#))

5. Non-Interference: If technologies are used in a way that is not accessibility supported, or if they are used in a non-conforming way, then they do not block the ability of users to access the rest of the page. In addition, the Web page as a whole continues to meet the conformance requirements under each of the following conditions:

1. when any technology that is not relied upon is turned on in a user agent,
2. when any technology that is not relied upon is turned off in a user agent, and
3. when any technology that is not relied upon is not supported by a user agent

In addition, the following success criteria apply to all content on the page, including content that is not otherwise relied upon to meet conformance, because failure to meet them could interfere with any use of the page:

- **1.4.2 - Audio Control,**
- **2.1.2 - No Keyboard Trap,**
- **2.3.1 - Three Flashes or Below Threshold,** and
- **2.2.2 - Pause, Stop, Hide.**

Note: If a page cannot conform (for example, a conformance test page or an example page), it cannot be included in the scope of conformance or in a conformance claim.

For more information, including examples, see [Understanding Conformance Requirements.](#)

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