

WCAG 2.2 Level AA Compliance Checklist

An audit checklist for web accessibility, covering every Level A and AA success criterion in WCAG 2.2, including the six added in 2.2.

Principle 1: Perceivable

Information and user interface components must be presentable to users in ways they can perceive.

1.1 Text Alternatives

- ☐ **1.1.1 Non-text Content.** All images have alt text.
 - Informative images have descriptive alt text
 - Decorative images have an empty alt="" attribute
 - Functional images describe their purpose
 - Complex images have detailed descriptions

1.2 Time-based Media

- ☐ **1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only.** Transcripts are provided
- ☐ **1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded).** Videos have synchronized captions
- ☐ **1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative.** Videos have audio descriptions or a text alternative
- ☐ **1.2.4 Captions (Live).** Live video has real-time captions
- ☐ **1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded).** Audio descriptions cover all prerecorded video

1.3 Adaptable

- ☐ **1.3.1 Info and Relationships.** Structure is conveyed programmatically.
 - Semantic HTML (headings, lists, tables)
 - ARIA labels where needed
- ☐ **1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence.** Reading order is logical
- ☐ **1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics.** Instructions don't rely on shape, size, or color alone
- ☐ **1.3.4 Orientation.** Content works in portrait and landscape
- ☐ **1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose.** Form fields carry autocomplete attributes

1.4 Distinguishable

- ☐ **1.4.1 Use of Color.** Color isn't the only visual means of conveying information
- ☐ **1.4.2 Audio Control.** Audio that plays automatically can be paused, stopped, or turned down
- ☐ **1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum).** 4.5:1 for text, 3:1 for large text
- ☐ **1.4.4 Resize Text.** Text scales to 200% without loss of function
- ☐ **1.4.5 Images of Text.** Real text is used instead of images of text

- ☐ **1.4.10 Reflow.** Content reflows at 320px wide without horizontal scrolling
- ☐ **1.4.11 Non-text Contrast.** UI components and graphics have 3:1 contrast
- ☐ **1.4.12 Text Spacing.** Content adapts to modified spacing
- ☐ **1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus.** Extra content is dismissible, hoverable, and persistent

Principle 2: Operable

User interface components and navigation must be operable.

2.1 Keyboard Accessible

- ☐ **2.1.1 Keyboard.** All functionality is available from a keyboard
- ☐ **2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap.** Focus can always move away from a component
- ☐ **2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts.** Single-key shortcuts can be turned off or remapped

2.2 Enough Time

- ☐ **2.2.1 Timing Adjustable.** Users can extend or turn off time limits
- ☐ **2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide.** Moving, blinking, or auto-updating content can be controlled

2.3 Seizures and Physical Reactions

- ☐ **2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold.** Nothing flashes more than three times a second

2.4 Navigable

- ☐ **2.4.1 Bypass Blocks.** A skip link is present
- ☐ **2.4.2 Page Titled.** Pages have descriptive titles
- ☐ **2.4.3 Focus Order.** Focus order is logical
- ☐ **2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context).** Link text describes its destination
- ☐ **2.4.5 Multiple Ways.** There's more than one way to find a page
- ☐ **2.4.6 Headings and Labels.** Headings and labels are descriptive
- ☐ **2.4.7 Focus Visible.** The keyboard focus indicator is visible
- ☐ **2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum).** *New in 2.2.* A focused element isn't fully hidden by sticky headers, footers, or overlays

2.5 Input Modalities

- ☐ **2.5.1 Pointer Gestures.** Multi-point and path-based gestures have single-pointer alternatives
- ☐ **2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation.** Pointer actions can be canceled
- ☐ **2.5.3 Label in Name.** The visible label is part of the accessible name
- ☐ **2.5.4 Motion Actuation.** Motion-triggered functions have alternatives
- ☐ **2.5.7 Dragging Movements.** *New in 2.2.* Anything done by dragging can be done with single clicks or taps

- ☐ **2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum).** *New in 2.2.* Targets are at least 24 by 24 CSS pixels, or have that much clear space around them

Principle 3: Understandable

Information and the operation of the user interface must be understandable.

3.1 Readable

- ☐ **3.1.1 Language of Page.** The page language is set
- ☐ **3.1.2 Language of Parts.** Changes of language are marked

3.2 Predictable

- ☐ **3.2.1 On Focus.** Focus doesn't trigger unexpected changes
- ☐ **3.2.2 On Input.** Input doesn't trigger unexpected changes
- ☐ **3.2.3 Consistent Navigation.** Navigation is consistent across pages
- ☐ **3.2.4 Consistent Identification.** Components with the same function are identified the same way
- ☐ **3.2.6 Consistent Help.** *New in 2.2.* Help options (contact details, chat, FAQs) appear in the same place on every page

3.3 Input Assistance

- ☐ **3.3.1 Error Identification.** Errors are identified in text
- ☐ **3.3.2 Labels or Instructions.** Form fields have labels
- ☐ **3.3.3 Error Suggestion.** Corrections are suggested where known
- ☐ **3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data).** Submissions are reversible, checked, or confirmable
- ☐ **3.3.7 Redundant Entry.** *New in 2.2.* Information entered earlier in a process is auto-filled or selectable, not retyped
- ☐ **3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum).** *New in 2.2.* Logging in doesn't require a cognitive test, unless there's an alternative or a helper (password managers, copy and paste)

Principle 4: Robust

Content must be robust enough to be interpreted by assistive technologies.

4.1 Compatible

- ☐ **4.1.2 Name, Role, Value.** Custom UI components expose a name, a role, and their state
- ☐ **4.1.3 Status Messages.** Status messages reach screen readers without taking focus

4.1.1 Parsing was removed in WCAG 2.2; valid HTML is still good practice, but it's no longer a criterion.

Testing Tools

Automated testing

- ☐ axe DevTools (browser extension)
- ☐ WAVE (Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool)
- ☐ Lighthouse accessibility audit
- ☐ Pa11y

Manual testing

- ☐ Keyboard navigation (Tab, Shift+Tab, Enter, Space, arrow keys)
- ☐ Screen readers (NVDA, JAWS, VoiceOver)
- ☐ Color contrast analyzers
- ☐ Browser zoom at 200%
- ☐ Mobile and responsive testing

Common Violations to Watch For

1. Missing alt text on images
2. Low color contrast between text and background
3. Forms without labels
4. Elements you can't reach with a keyboard
5. Missing focus indicators
6. Broken heading hierarchy
7. Links without descriptive text ("click here")
8. Buttons and links used for the wrong job
9. Missing page language attribute
10. Dropdown menus that don't work without a mouse

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