WHIDEGROUP

THE WCAG 2.1 CHECKLIST: HOW TO MAKE YOUR WEBSITE ACCESSIBLE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

2020

Web accessibility is the inclusive practice of ensuring there are no barriers that prevent interaction with, or access to, websites for people with physical disabilities, situational disabilities, and/or socio-economic restrictions on bandwidth and speed.

For catering to all categories of users with equal opportunities for web browsing, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), provides **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)**, which contain clear instructions on how to make a website browsable. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1, the latest available edition, are organized into three levels of conformance:
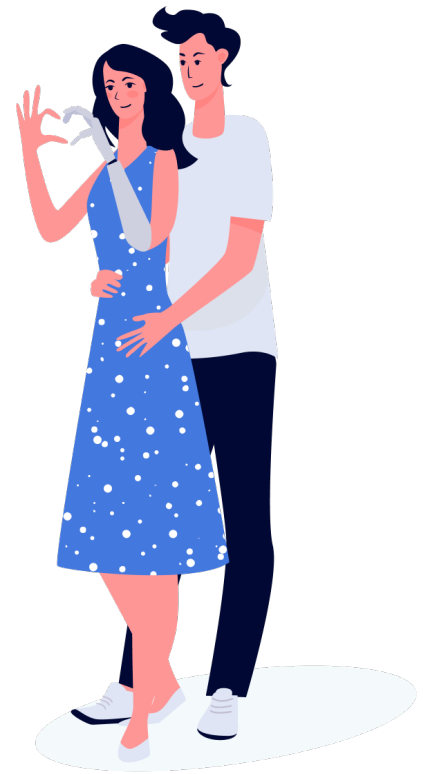
- Level A – looks at the most basic web accessibility features.

- Level AA – deals with the biggest and most common barriers for disabled users.

- Level AAA – manages the highest (and most complex) level of web accessibility.

Below you can find details about each level and check whether your website is compatible.

WCAG 2.1 Checklist Level A (beginner)

#	Guideline	Summary	Yes	No	N/A
1.1.1	Non-text Content	Provides text alternatives for non-text content			
1.2.1	Audio-only and Video-only (Pre-recorded)	Provides an alternative to video-only and audio-only content			
1.2.2	Captions (Pre-recorded)	Provides captions for videos with audio			
1.2.3	Audio Description or Media Alternative (Pre-recorded)	Video with audio has a second alternative			
1.3.1	Info and Relationships	Contains logical structure			
1.3.2	Meaningful Sequence	Presents content in a meaningful order			
1.3.3	Sensory Characteristics	Uses more than one sense for instructions			
1.4.1	Use of Colour	Doesn't use presentation that relies solely on color			
1.4.2	Audio Control	Doesn't play audio automatically			
2.1.1	Keyboard	Accessible by keyboard only			
2.1.2	No Keyboard Trap	Doesn't trap keyboard users			
2.2.1	Timing Adjustable	Time limits have user controls			

2.2.2	Pause, Stop, Hide	Provides user controls for moving content			
2.3.1	Three Flashes or Below	No content flashes more than three times per second			
2.4.1	Bypass Blocks	Provides a 'Skip to Content' link			
2.4.2	Page Titled	Uses helpful and clear page titles			
2.4.3	Focus Order	Displays a logical order			
2.4.4	Link Purpose (In Context)	Every link's purpose is clear from its context			
3.1.1	Language of Page	Page has a language assigned			
3.2.1	On Focus	Elements do not change when they receive focus			
3.2.2	On Input	Elements do not change when they receive input			
3.3.1	Error Identification	Clearly identifies input errors			
3.3.2	Labels or Instructions	Labels elements and gives instructions			
4.1.1	Parsing	No major code errors			
4.1.2	Name, Role, Value	Build all elements for accessibility			

WCAG 2.0 Checklist Level AA (Intermediate)

#	Guideline	Summary	Yes	No	N/A
1.2.4	Captions (Live)	Live videos have captions			
1.2.5	Audio Description (Pre-recorded)	Users have access to audio description for video content			
1.4.3	Contrast (Minimum)	Contrast ratio between text and background is at least 4.5:1			
1.4.4	Resize Text	Text can be resized to 200% without loss of content or function			
1.4.5	Images of Text	Doesn't use images of text			
2.4.5	Multiple Ways	Offers several ways to find pages			
2.4.6	Headings and Labels	Uses clear headings and labels			
2.4.7	Focus Visible	Ensures keyboard focus is visible and clear			
3.1.2	Language of Parts	Tells users when the language on a page changes			
3.2.3	Consistent Navigation	Uses menus consistently			
3.2.4	Consistent Identification	Uses icons and buttons consistently			
3.3.3	Error Suggestion	Suggests fixes when users make errors			
3.3.4	Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)	Reduces the risk of input errors for sensitive data			

WCAG 2.0 Checklist Level AAA (Advanced)

#	Guideline	Summary	Yes	No	N/A
1.2.6	Sign Language (Pre-recorded)	Provides sign language translations for videos			
1.2.7	Extended Audio Description (Pre-recorded)	Provides extended audio description for videos			
1.2.8	Media Alternative (Pre-recorded)	Provides a text alternative to videos			
1.2.9	Audio Only (Live)	Provides alternatives for live audio			
1.4.6	Contrast (Enhanced)	Contrast ratio between text and background is at least 7:1			
1.4.7	Low or No Background Audio	Audio is clear for listeners to hear			
1.4.8	Visual Presentation	Offers users a range of presentation options			
1.4.9	Images of Text (No Exception)	Doesn't use images of text			
2.1.3	Keyboard (No Exception)	Accessible by keyboard only, without exception			
2.2.3	No Timing	No time limits			
2.2.4	Interruptions	Doesn't interrupt users			
2.2.5	Re-authenticating	Saves user data when re-authenticating			

2.3.2	Three Flashes	No content flashes more than three times per second			
2.4.8	Location	Lets users know where they are on the site			
2.4.9	Link Purpose (Link Only)	Every link's purpose is clear from its text			
2.4.10	Section Headings	Breaks up content with headings			
3.1.3	Unusual words	Explains any strange words			
3.1.4	Abbreviations	Explains any abbreviations			
3.1.5	Reading Level	At highest, content reflects a 8th grade reading level			
3.1.6	Pronunciation	Explains any words that are hard to pronounce			
3.2.5	Change on Request	Doesn't change elements on your website until users ask			
3.3.5	Help	Provides detailed help and instructions			
3.3.6	Error Prevention (All)	Reduces the risk of all input errors			

After learning some of the basics about levels of accessibility and the requirements for each separate level, you might think that an average accessible website must look fairly boring and bleak, and we understand why. However, it's not like that! For inspiration, we've compiled a list of websites that are highly successful in combining web accessibility while still encompassing an appealing design. You can find them **here** along with our experience in making the website accessible.

Making your website friendly to people with disabilities is not just a nice thing to do, it's vital to today's realities and business success. By implementing disability-friendly designs, you'll be able to welcome as many people as possible to your site. Don't miss the chance to ensure customer satisfaction along with growing your traffic and conversion rate.

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Whidegroup is an e-commerce development company with 10+ years of experience in the industry. We help online entrepreneurs develop their online e-commerce websites and support them throughout their e-commerce journeys.

To learn more about Whidegroup, get a bit more information on making your website disability-friendly or clarify any of the Checklist points, or send any other website-related questions, please visit: www.whidegroup.com or email us at info@whidegroup.com

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