Maxability WCAG 2.0 checklist

Maxability's WCAG 2.0 checklist is a simplified version for the readers to easily understand and implement accessibility. This checklist no way supersedes original WCAG 2.0 checklist at W3C WAI. We still recommend using WCAG 2.0 checklist at W3C WAI website for complete reference.

Since WCAG 2.0 guidelines are not technology specific, we tried to explain the techniques in this WCAG 2.0 checklist in more generic terms. This means each technology will have a specific way of testing or making an element accessible. Ensure that the technology specific technique is used to fix the problem. The summary column gives a brief understanding of each success criteria. Navigate to the link under read more column for detailed explanation.

It will be helpful to have the WCAG 2.0 checklist handy while developing, retrofitting or testing the accessibility of a website. So we have provided a downloadable PDF.

This document is split into two sections. Jump directly to:

- WCAG 2.0 Level A checklist
- WCAG 2.0 Level AA checklist

If you are only looking for a specific level in WCAG 2.0.

 We hope that this WCAG 2.0 checklist helps in making the digital content more accessible. For any feedback or suggestion drop us a note from our Contact Us form.

WCAG 2.0 Level A Checklist

Principle 1: Perceivable

Check-point	Summary	Read more
Guideline 1.1: Text Alternatives		
1.1.1 Non-text content	All informative and functional non-text content such as images, icons, charts, image maps etc must have alternative text that describes the meaning or purpose.	1.1.1 non-text content
Guideline 1.2: Time-based Media		
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)	Text description must be provided for prerecorded audio only content. Either a text description or an audio description must be provided for prerecorded video only content	1.2.1 Audio only and video only (prerecorded)
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)	Captions must be provided for the entire audio content in prerecorded synchronized media.	1.2.2 Captions (prerecorded)
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)	Either a text description or an audio description must be provided for prerecorded video content of the synchronized media	1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)
Guideline 1.3 Adaptable		
1.3.1 Info and relationships	Information, structure, and relationships conveyed through presentation can be programmatically determined or are available in text. Eg: properly marked headings, associating labels with form elements etc.	1.3.1 Info and relationships
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence	Content must be in a meaningful sequence when the user navigates the page/ screen using different assistive technologies or user agents.	1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics	Sound, size, shape, visual location or orientation should not be the only way of providing instructions or information to the user.	1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics
Guideline 1.4: Distinguishable		
1.4.1 Use of Color	Provide additional queues when color is used as only visual means to convey information, indicating an action, prompting a response or distinguishing a visual element.	1.4.1 Use of Color
1.4.2 Audio Control	Take care that no audio is automatically played for more than 3 seconds when the page first loads.	1.4.2 Audio Controls

Principle 2: Operable

Check-point	Summary	Read more
Guideline 2.1: Keyboard Accessible		
2.1.1 Keyboard	Make sure that all the focusable elements of the web page can be navigated with keyboard and all the actions such as filling up text fields, selecting an option, activating a link, submitting a form etc can be performed by keyboard alone.	2.1.1 Keyboard
2.1.2 No Keyboard trap	Make sure that keyboard focus is not trapped within a portion of the page or within a component. If focus should be trapped within the component provide a mechanism such as short-cut command to exit from the component using a keyboard. The method of exiting the component should be informed to the user before using it.	2.1.2 No Keyboard trap
Guideline 2.2 Enough Time		
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable	When a session time out is part of the application, ensure that an accessible mechanism of adjusting, extending or turning off the time limit is available.	2.2.1 Timing Adjustable
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide	Make sure that moving, blinking, scrolling or auto updating content on the web page can be read by every user.	2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide
Guideline 2.3 Seizures		
2.3.1 3 Flashes or Below Threshold	Ensure that no content on the web page flashes more than 3 times in one second.	2.3.1 3 Flashes or below threshold
Guideline 2.4: Navigable		
2.4.1 Bypass blocks	Repeated blocks of content on repeated web pages such as top navigation must be easily skipped by the users those depend on assistive technologies and keyboard only.	2.4.1 Bypass blocks
2.4.2 Page titled	Titles of the page should describe the topic or purpose.	2.4.2 Page titled
2.4.3 Focus Order	Make sure that elements that receive focus while operating or navigating the web page must be sequential and meaningful.	2.4.3 Focus Order
2.4.4 Link Purpose (in context)	The target or purpose of the link must be identified by the link text alone or its associated content or its surrounding content.	2.4.4 Link Purpose (in context)

Principle 3: Understandable

Check-point	Summary	Read more
Guideline 3.1 : Readable		
3.1.1 Language of Page	Programmatically define the primary language of each page.	3.1.1 Language of Page
Guideline 3.2 Predictable		
3.2.1 On Focus	Ensure that the context of the element does not change when the user focus on any element on the page. Eg: popping up a submenu, submitting a form.	3.2.1 On focus
3.2.2 On Input	Ensure that change of any user input should not change the context on the page unless the user is advised in advance.	3.2.2 On Input
Guideline 3.3: Input Assistance		
3.3.1 Error Identification	When input errors can be identified automatically, ensure that items in error are clearly marked and the error message is described in text	3.3.1 Error Identification
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions	For elements that require user input, ensure that they have clear labels. If the user input need additional information provide an instruction.	3.3.2 Labels or Instructions.

Principle 4: Robust

Check-point	Summary	Read more
Guideline 4.1: Compatible		
4.1.1 Parsing	Make sure that the following are taken care in the markup • Elements have unique ids, • elements have proper opening and closing tags, • elements are properly nested and • elements does not have duplicate attributes.	4.1.1 Parsing
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	For user interface components ensure that Name, state, role and value are provided and are properly exposed to user agents and assistive technologies.	4.1.2 Name, Role, Value

WCAG 2.0 Level AA checklist

Principle 1: Perceivable

Check-point	Summary	Read more
Guideline 1.2: Time-based Media		
1.2.4 Captions (Live	Captions must be provided for the entire audio content in live synchronized media.	1.2.4 Captions (Live)
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)	Ensure that an audio description is provided for the video content in prerecorded synchronized media.	1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)
Guideline 1.4: Distinguishable		
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)	Ensure that a minimum visual contrast ratio of 4.5 : 1 is maintained between the text and its background. This minimum contrast ratio should also be maintained in case of images of text.	1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)
1.4.4 Resize text	Ensure that the text is resizable up to 200% without loss of content or functionality and without the use of assistive technologies.	1.4.4 Resize Text
1.4.5 Images of text	Use real text as much as possible instead of images of text.	1.4.5 Images of text

Principle 2: Operable

Check-point	Summary	Read more
Guideline 2.4 Navigable		
2.4.5 Multiple Ways	Provide multiple ways to identify the required page in a set of pages. Eg: Provide search, sitemap etc	2.4.5 Multiple Ways
2.4.6 Headings and Labels	The text within the headings and the labels should describe the intent before the user interacts with them.	2.4.6 Headings and Labels
2.4.7 Focus visible	Provide a clearly visible focus indicator for all the interactive elements. When the user navigates through the page, they should be able to clearly identify their current location.	2.4.7 Focus visible

Principle 3: Understandable

Check point	Summary	Read more
Guideline 3.1: Readable		
3.1.2 Language of parts	If any text or element on the web page has a different language than the primary one, programmatically define the language for that content.	3.1.2 Language of parts
Guideline 3.2 Predictable		
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation	Navigation mechanisms repeated on multiple pages within a set of pages must be consistent each time they are available.	3.2.3 Consistent Navigation
3.2.4 Consistent Identification	Ensure that the components that have same functionality are identified consistently through-out the website.	3.2.4 Consistent Identification
Guideline 3.3: Input Assistance		
3.3.3 Error Suggestion	If the errors for user input are identified and suggestions for correction are known, provide them if the suggestions does not jeopardize the security or purpose.	3.3.3 Error Suggestion
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)	Provide a mechanism to review and confirm the submission when the form include legal, financial or data.	3.3.4 Error Prevention Legal, Financial, Data