

Accessibility Best Practices for Designers, Developers

This checklist highlights the main accessibility points, emphasizing concise, "do this" descriptions, grouped per role.

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[Accessibility Checklist](#)



Actions/Responsibilities of Designers

Content Headings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Break up content into logical chunks and precede each area of content with a descriptive heading.
Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that link text accurately describes the destination of the link. Link text must not be empty.• Avoid using ambiguous link names, such as "Click Here" or "More".• Ensure links are underlined. Otherwise provide high contrast (3:1 contrast ratio) between link and non-linked text.
Color	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide designs in which color or other sensory characteristics (shape, size, visual location, etc.) are not used as the only means of conveying information, such as using only red coloring to denote required fields.
Contrast	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide designs with text vs. background color contrast of at least 4.5:1.
Page Layout	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide visible form labels close to their controls.• Avoid complex page layouts (e.g. Three or more columns).
Consistency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide designs that use labels, controls, status indicators, and other UI elements consistently across all pages.

Actions/Responsibilities of Developers

HTML Validity	Ensure that... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elements have complete start and end tags.• Elements are nested according to their specifications.• Elements do not contain duplicate attributes.• All IDs are unique.
HTML Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a language tag (<html lang="en">) on every page.• Provide a descriptive <title> value that will change depending on the current page.• Use one and only one <h1> on every page.• Heading tags (<h1>, <h2>, etc.) MUST be hierarchically ordered.• For positional layout, do NOT use HTML table elements.• For lists, use list tags (, ,).
Page Title	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a descriptive page <title> that distinguishes it from other pages. Use <page name> - <site name> format.
Form Labels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide an accessible name to all fields by using a <label> tag with a "for" attribute that references the <input> ID.• Ensure that error messages are properly connected with their associated form fields.• Provide a description for groups of related form elements by using <fieldset> and <legend> tags.
Tables	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For tabular data use proper table markup including scope attributes (<table>, <th scope="row/col">, <td>, etc.).• For table headers using colspan or rowspan, use scope="colgroup/rowgroup".
Images	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To display decorative or non-meaningful images, such as icons and backgrounds, use CSS methods.• Use the tag ONLY to show 'content' images, such as photos or illustrations, that are meaningful to the content.• An alt property must be present on all tags. Purely decorative images should use null alt text (alt="").
Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use <button> for elements that perform a within-page function. Use links <a> for elements that load a new page.
'Skip Navigation'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a method to skip the page header and navigation menus and go straight to the content, through a hidden "skip to main content" or "skip navigation" link at the top of the page.

Keyboard Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the page is completely keyboard accessible. • Ensure that interactive custom elements can be reached and activated with the keyboard alone. • Ensure that the HTML content in the DOM is in a logical order (visually from left-to-right and top-to-bottom). • Ensure that all keyboard-interactive elements have a visible focus indicator. The more noticeable, the better.
Zoomability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that users can enlarge browser text up to 200% without breaking any page functionality. Optimally, this is accomplished through a responsive design.
ARIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid custom ARIA elements and use standard HTML controls and elements, such as <input>, <select>, and <button>. • No ARIA is better than bad ARIA. • If you use ARIA attributes, ensure they are applied correctly on the right elements, as described in the ARIA 1.1 specification.
Errors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all error text is clearly marked as such with a heading, "Error:", or by use of an error symbol.
Dynamic Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If an element creates or shows new custom content, ensure that the content directly follows the activating element in the DOM (such as a hide/show dropdown). • Ensure that content changes, status messages, and system state changes are announced to assistive technology.

Content Considerations and 3rd Party Responsibilities

Video	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide audio descriptions, transcripts, and captioning for video.
Audio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide transcripts for audio.
Images	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide meaningful alt text for all tags.
Machine Readability	<p>Use web technologies that are compatible with screen readers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTML for any text content (e.g. use HTML tables instead of images of tables, use plain text instead of images of text). • MathML for math content • Highcharts for graphs and charts • Able Player as a media player for video and audio content
PDF	<p>For sites that provide PDFs, also provide HTML, Word, and EPUB3 versions. Optimally, ensure that PDFs are properly tagged.</p>