

# ACCESSIBILITY FOR VISUAL DESIGN: RESOURCES

## Accessibility Standards

- [Introduction to Web Accessibility](#)
- [WCAG Quick Reference for Perceivable Content](#)

## Color Vision Deficiency

- [Coblis Color Vision Deficiency Simulator](#) (online)
- [Color Oracle](#) (download)
- [Accessible Color Palette Generator](#)

## Contrast

- [WebAim Contrast Checker](#)
- [Adobe Contrast Checker](#)
- [Why Color Contrast is Not as Black and White as It Seems](#) (explains the problem with current standards)

## Alt-Text

- [Decision Tree for Writing Alt-Text](#)
- [Testing with Screen Readers](#)
- [Download NVDA](#) (free screen reader for Windows only)
- [Using NVDA Screen Reader](#)

# GUIDELINES FOR MAKING COLOR ACCESSIBLE

1. Avoid **color combinations** that are problematic for color-blind users (red/green or blue/yellow).
2. Avoid using color **as the only visual means** of conveying information or indicating an action (like a link).

## HOW TO MEET WCAG CONTRAST GUIDELINES

1. Find the hex code of your text and background colors in any graphic, presentation, or authoring tool.
2. Enter the hex codes into a Contrast Checker. See [WebAim](#) or [Adobe Color](#).
3. To meet Level AA: the contrast ratio should be greater than or equal to 4.5:1 for normal text (12pt to 17pt) and 3:1 for large text. (14 pt bold or 18pt or larger)
4. To meet Level AAA: the contrast ratio should be greater than or equal to 7:1 for normal text and 4.5:1 for large text.
5. If you think the contrast is not good enough, make your text larger and/or increase the color contrast.

## ALT-TEXT FOR CATEGORIES OF IMAGES

ALT-TEXT FOR CATEGORIES OF IMAGES	
<b>Informative Images</b>	Write a short description that conveys the essential information.
<b>Decorative Images</b>	Use null alt-text by entering a pair of quotation marks with no space ("").
<b>Functional Images</b>	Convey the action the image will initiate. If the image is important, include a brief description.
<b>Images of Text</b>	Provide the exact text in the alt-text area because screen readers can't read graphic text.
<b>Complex Images</b>	1) <b>Alt-text:</b> Short description and the location of the long description. 2) <b>Long Description:</b> Text version of the essential information conveyed by the image.

## HOW TO IMPROVE LEGIBILITY

<b>Font Choice</b>	Use sans serif fonts for digital screens.
<b>Font Size</b>	Larger font sizes generally improve legibility but not so large that it is difficult to read. Minimum font size: 12pt.
<b>Spacing</b>	Provide sufficient space between letters, words and sentences. Line spacing: ~1.5 times the font size.
<b>Contrast Ratio</b>	Normal sized text and images of text: at least 4.5:1. Large text: 18-point or 14-point bold: at least 3:1.

## HOW TO IMPROVE READABILITY

<b>Spacing</b>	Use appropriate spacing between lines and paragraphs so readers know what is related.
<b>Lines Length</b>	Limit lines of text to around 70 to 80 characters.
<b>Structure</b>	Make text easy to read with clear headings and subheadings, bullet points, and numbered lists when possible.
<b>Alignment</b>	Use left-aligned text for blocks of text, as it is easier to read than other alignments.
<b>Language</b>	Use clear and concise language. Limit jargon.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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