



Tips for Section 508 Web, Software and Online Learning Accessibility

Keywords	Summary of Guideline	Pass Example	Fail Example	Who is Affected
(a) Text tags	Provide text equivalents for all non-text elements	Every image has a descriptive alt tag	A graphic has a missing or misleading alt tag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Visually impaired people using screen readers -Users of non-graphical browsers -Those with images turned off -Users with modems too slow to load images
(b) Multimedia presentations	Provide equivalent alternative for multimedia presentations	A Video file contains synchronized captions	A multimedia files has no captions or transcripts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Visually impaired users -Audio-impaired users
(c) Color	Ensure that all information conveyed with color is also available without color.	Acceptable contrast between page background and text color	Instruction that says "click the red button"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Color Blind Users -Visually impaired users using screen readers

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(d) Readability (style sheets)	Organize pages so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.	Page is coherent if style sheets are turned off.	Information is missing or confusing if style sheets are turned off.	-Users who turn off or override style sheets -Those with browsers that don't support styles sheets -Those using screen readers that don't rely on visual cues
(e) Server side image maps	Provide redundant text links for each active region of a server-side image map.	Providing separate text links to access content	Clicking image map hot spots using a mouse is required for navigation	-People using screen readers -Users who turn off images -Those using a text-only Browser -Those unable to use a mouse
(f) Client –side image maps	Provide client-side image maps instead of server side image maps when possible	Using client side image maps with alt tags for navigation	Server-side image maps are used instead of client side	-People using screen readers -Users who turn off images -Those using a text only browser -Those unable to use a mouse
(g) Row and column data table headers	Identify row and column headers for data tables.	Data tables use <th> tag to identify table headers	Layout tables use <th> tag (there is no true header)	-People using screen readers and screen magnifiers
(h) Complex data table headers	Use the headers attribute for complex data tables that have two or more logical levels of rows or column headers	Table cells are associated with proper headers	Columns and rows do not contain header tags	-People using screen readers and screen magnifiers -People use Voice Recognition systems
(i) Frames	Provide text titles for frames	Frame titles are appropriate and facilitate navigation	Multiple untitled frames open and display multiple events	-People using screen readers and screen magnifiers

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(j) Flicker Rate	Avoid animated images or other features that cause the screen to flicker with high frequency.	Pages contain no animation or scrolling text.	Image on page emits 2 to 55 flashes per second.	-People with photosensitivity epilepsy -People who get distracted by movement
(k) Text only alternative	Provide a text only alternative to your website IF you cannot in any way meet the Section 508 standards otherwise (this is a last resort only)	The text only version contains all the same information as the main site	The text only version is not kept up to date with the main site	-Anyone who prefers a text only version -Anyone using assistive technology that cannot access the “normal” site
(l) Scripts	If you use scripting languages (such as JavaScript) to display content or to create interface elements, make sure the scripts are accessible.	Pull down menus that are keyboard accessible	Unusable scripts triggered by device dependent event handlers (such as Mouse over and onClick)	-Those with motor impairments -Those with visual impairments -People using older browsers -People with slower connection
(m) Applets and Plug-ins	Specify accessible applets and plug-ins and have a link to download if necessary	An HTML version of all content that requires proprietary software (such as Acrobat or Flash)	Additional software required to access site material may not be accessible	-People who cannot use a mouse -People who use screen readers -Hearing-impaired people who need captioning for multimedia -Blind individuals who need video description for multimedia

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(n) Electronic forms	Design accessible online forms.	All directions required to complete and submit the form are usable (such as placing text labels close to each control.)	The form does not follow a logical tab order from one field to the next	-People using magnification devices -People using screen readers -People who override font sizes -People who cannot use a mouse
(o) Navigation Links	Provide a way for users to skip repetitive navigation links	Offer a “skip navigation” link at the top of the page (very first thing on the page)	Long lists of items or menu links	-People who listen to Web pages
(p) Time delays	Alert users whenever timed responses are required and let them request additional time.	Tell users (a) how long a session will be and (b) what they must do to avoid being logged out.	Automatically refreshing pages without warning the user	-People who use screen readers -Those with motor impairments -People who need extra time to process information.

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