



A, AA and AAA in a nutshell

Here is a simple list of the key differences between the different levels of website and app accessibility according to WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines).

A

Bronze level:

- All images must have well-written alt text (a hidden, short written description of the image)
- All pre-recorded video and audio must have a written transcript
- All pre-recorded videos must have subtitles and closed captions (they're not the same!)
- All functionality should be available to a keyboard, clearly visible focus states, logical tabbing order, and ensure the keyboard never gets trapped (e.g. no way to close a pop-up)
- Provide a link to 'Skip to main content' as the first focusable link on the page.
- All content must work on all device widths
- Links must be easy to see, even without colour (e.g. underlined)
- All link text must be easy to understand and explain where the link goes to
- Provide an easy way to disable background audio and adjust the volume
- Items on the page should not automatically move, blink, scroll, or update, including carousels
- Provide text instructions at the beginning forms, and clearly label form fields
- Make errors easy to discover, identify, and correct (e.g. in a form)
- Do not require time limits to complete tasks unless absolutely necessary



- Do not require special gestures (e.g. pinching, swiping, dragging)
- Avoid activating functionality through motion (e.g. shaking a phone) or provide an alternative method
- Do not have content that flashes more than 3x per second
- Use well organised and labelled HTML
- Validate all page HTML
- Use ARIA labels to enhance accessibility for assistive technologies

AA

Silver level:

- All of level A, plus:
- All pre-recorded videos must have audio description (radio-style description of scenes and non-speech sounds etc)
- All pre-recorded and live video and audio must have captions and subtitles
- Text should have a line height of at least 1.5 times the font size
- Text needs a colour contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1
- Colour contrast for graphics and components must be at least 3:1
- Avoid images of text, except logos
- Provide keyboard focus states
- Ensure that there is no loss of content or functionality when text resizes (up to 200%)
- All content must be available, no matter the device width or orientation
- Forms must allow for auto-complete
- Provide easy ways to confirm, correct, or reverse a user action where a mistake would cause a serious real-world consequence (e.g. submitting financial data).
- The website should include at least two of the following: a list of related pages; table of contents; site map; search; or list of all pages.
- Components that appear on multiple pages should be consistent
- Use ARIA live regions or ARIA alerts to announce status changes



AAA

Gold level:

- All of levels A and AA, plus:
- Sign-language to accompany all video and audio
- Text colour must have a contrast ratio of at least 7:1
- Low or no background noise behind any audio
- Must have breadcrumbs or similar
- Include a way to disable motion and animation
- Target area for clicks and taps of at least 44×44 pixels
- Provide a mechanism for users to quickly identify the definitions of unusual words, including jargon, idioms, abbreviations and acronyms
- For any text that requires more advanced reading ability than lower secondary education level, you must provide a simplified version.
- If a user gets logged out, give them a way to continue without losing their progress
- Provide relevant help such as technical or customer support

Have a read...

[Web accessibility doesn't mean compromise](#)

[The importance of Inclusive Design](#)

[Bear in Mind...10 ways to create accessible and inclusive designs](#)

Contact us

For further information or to chat about web accessibility, feel free to reach out to Steph Marques and the Accessibility Collective at

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