

# WCAG 2.2 AA conformance checklist

A working reference for teams maintaining WCAG conformance through the 2.1 → 2.2 transition. Covers all 55 Level A and AA success criteria, grouped by the four POUR principles, with the **9 new criteria in WCAG 2.2 flagged inline**.

This document is synthesized from the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 Recommendation (5 October 2023). It is not a substitute for the standard itself, but a hand reference for engineering and QA teams running pre-launch reviews.

## How to use this checklist

Walk a representative set of pages – landing, content, form, transactional. Don't audit the whole site; sample.

Mark each item as **Pass / Fail / N/A**. If a criterion doesn't apply to your interface, mark N/A and note why.

For failures, capture the URL, the element, and a short note. Don't try to fix during the audit pass – separate observation from remediation.

The summary scorecard at the end tracks Level A and AA conformance separately. Both must pass for AA conformance.

## Perceivable

Information and user interface components must be presentable to users in ways they can perceive.

### Level A

**1.1.1 Non-text Content** – All non-text content has a text alternative (alt text, ARIA labels, or equivalent). *Failure pattern: decorative images without `alt=""`; informative images with missing or generic alt text.*

**1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)** – Prerecorded audio has a transcript; prerecorded video-only has a transcript or audio description. *Failure pattern: marketing videos with no transcript or captions.*

- 1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)** – Prerecorded audio in video has captions. *Failure pattern: auto-generated captions used without review.*
- 1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)** – Audio description or media alternative for prerecorded video.
- 1.3.1 Info and Relationships** – Information, structure, and relationships conveyed visually are also conveyed in markup. *Failure pattern: headings styled with CSS instead of `<h1>` – `<h6>` ; tables built from `divs`.*
- 1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence** – Content reads in a meaningful order when CSS is disabled.
- 1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics** – Instructions don't rely solely on shape, color, size, or position ("click the round button on the right").
- 1.4.1 Use of Color** – Color is not the only way information is conveyed. *Failure pattern: required form fields marked only with red text.*
- 1.4.2 Audio Control** – Audio that plays for more than 3 seconds can be paused, stopped, or muted.

## Level AA

- 1.2.4 Captions (Live)** – Live audio in video has captions.
- 1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)** – Audio description is provided for prerecorded video.
- 1.3.4 Orientation** – Content doesn't restrict its view to a single display orientation (portrait or landscape) unless essential.
- 1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose** – Input fields collecting user data have `autocomplete` attributes identifying their purpose.
- 1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)** – Text and images of text have a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1 (3:1 for large text). *Failure pattern: light grey body text on white; brand color buttons that don't meet contrast against their background.*
- 1.4.4 Resize Text** – Text can be resized up to 200% without loss of content or functionality.
- 1.4.5 Images of Text** – Images of text are avoided unless essential.
- 1.4.10 Reflow** – Content reflows for a viewport of 320 CSS pixels wide without horizontal scrolling, except where two-dimensional layout is essential (data tables, maps).

**1.4.11 Non-text Contrast** – UI components and graphical objects have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1 against adjacent colors. *Failure pattern: form field borders too faint; icon-only buttons with insufficient contrast.*

**1.4.12 Text Spacing** – No loss of content when line-height, paragraph spacing, letter-spacing, and word-spacing are adjusted within standard ranges.

**1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus** – Tooltips and popovers triggered by hover or focus are dismissible, hoverable, and persistent.

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## Operable

User interface components and navigation must be operable.

### Level A

**2.1.1 Keyboard** – All functionality is available via the keyboard. *Failure pattern: custom dropdowns and modals built from divs that don't trap or move focus.*

**2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap** – Keyboard focus can move away from any element using only the keyboard.

**2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts** – Single-character keyboard shortcuts can be turned off or remapped.

**2.2.1 Timing Adjustable** – Time limits can be turned off, adjusted, or extended (with exceptions).

**2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide** – Moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating content can be paused. *Failure pattern: auto-rotating carousels with no pause control.*

**2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold** – Nothing flashes more than three times per second.

**2.4.1 Bypass Blocks** – A mechanism (skip link, landmarks) is available to bypass blocks of repeated content.

**2.4.2 Page Titled** – Pages have titles that describe topic or purpose.

**2.4.3 Focus Order** – Components receive focus in an order that preserves meaning and operability.

**2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)** – The purpose of each link can be determined from the link text alone or in context. *Failure pattern: "Click here" / "Read more" links with no surrounding context.*

- 2.5.1 Pointer Gestures** – Multipoint or path-based gestures (swipes, pinches) have a single-pointer alternative.
- 2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation** – Single-pointer actions can be aborted before completion (use `mouseup` / `touchend`, not `mousedown` / `touchstart`).
- 2.5.3 Label in Name** – The accessible name of a control contains the visible label text.
- 2.5.4 Motion Actuation** – Functionality triggered by device motion (shake, tilt) can also be triggered by a UI control.

## Level AA

- 2.4.5 Multiple Ways** – More than one way is available to locate a page within a set (search, sitemap, navigation).
- 2.4.6 Headings and Labels** – Headings and labels describe topic or purpose.
- 2.4.7 Focus Visible** – Keyboard focus is visible. *Failure pattern:* `outline: none` on focusable elements with no replacement focus indicator.
- 2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum)** – When an element has keyboard focus, it is not entirely hidden by author-created content (sticky headers, cookie banners). **[New in 2.2]**
- 2.5.7 Dragging Movements** – Drag-and-drop functionality has a single-pointer alternative (clicking, tapping). **[New in 2.2]**
- 2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum)** – Pointer targets are at least 24×24 CSS pixels, with exceptions for inline targets, equivalent alternatives, and user-agent-controlled spacing. **[New in 2.2]**

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## Understandable

Information and the operation of the user interface must be understandable.

### Level A

- 3.1.1 Language of Page** – The default human language is identified in markup ( `<html lang="en">` ).
- 3.2.1 On Focus** – Receiving focus on a component doesn't initiate a change of context.

**3.2.2 On Input** – Changing the setting of a component doesn't automatically initiate a change of context unless the user has been advised.

**3.2.6 Consistent Help** – When help mechanisms (contact info, chat, FAQ link) are repeated across pages, they appear in the same relative order. **[New in 2.2]**

**3.3.1 Error Identification** – When an input error is detected, the item in error is identified and described in text.

**3.3.2 Labels or Instructions** – Labels or instructions are provided for user input.

**3.3.7 Redundant Entry** – Information previously entered by the user in the same process is auto-populated or available for selection. **[New in 2.2]**

## Level AA

**3.1.2 Language of Parts** – Inline language changes are identified in markup ( `lang` attribute on the relevant element).

**3.2.3 Consistent Navigation** – Navigational mechanisms appear in the same relative order across pages.

**3.2.4 Consistent Identification** – Components with the same functionality are identified consistently.

**3.3.3 Error Suggestion** – When an input error is detected and suggestions for correction are known, the suggestions are provided.

**3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)** – For pages that cause legal commitments or financial transactions, submissions are reversible, checked, or confirmed.

**3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum)** – Authentication doesn't require a cognitive function test (recalling a password, transcribing characters) unless an alternative is available (password manager support, copy-paste enabled, third-party SSO). **[New in 2.2]**

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## Robust

Content must be robust enough to be interpreted reliably by a wide variety of user agents, including assistive technologies.

## Level A

- 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value** – For all UI components, the name, role, and value can be programmatically determined and set. *Failure pattern: custom buttons ( `<div onClick="... ">` ) without `role="button"` or keyboard support.*

## Level AA

- 4.1.3 Status Messages** – Status messages can be programmatically determined through role or properties so they can be presented to the user by assistive technologies without receiving focus. *Failure pattern: toast notifications that announce visually but don't reach screen readers (missing `aria-live` ).*

## Summary scorecard

Principle	Level A criteria	Level AA criteria	Pass	Fail	N/A
Perceivable	9	11			
Operable	14	6			
Understandable	7	6			
Robust	1	1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>24</b>			

Level AA conformance requires all 55 criteria pass (or are documented as N/A with justification).

## What's new in WCAG 2.2

WCAG 2.2 adds nine success criteria on top of 2.1 and removes one (4.1.1 Parsing was withdrawn because modern user agents handle parsing errors gracefully). The new criteria focus on cognitive accessibility, low-vision users, and motor-impairment accommodations:

**2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum)** – AA

**2.4.12 Focus Not Obscured (Enhanced)** – AAA

**2.4.13 Focus Appearance** – AAA

**2.5.7 Dragging Movements** – AA

**2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) – AA**

**3.2.6 Consistent Help – A**

**3.3.7 Redundant Entry – A**

**3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum) – AA**

**3.3.9 Accessible Authentication (Enhanced) – AAA**

Teams already conforming to 2.1 AA need to address the five new A and AA criteria (2.4.11, 2.5.7, 2.5.8, 3.2.6, 3.3.7, 3.3.8) to reach 2.2 AA. The AAA criteria are optional.

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*Prepared by Nessim Works. Sources: W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 (October 2023). For the authoritative standard, see [www.w3.org/TR/WCAG22](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG22).*

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