

WCAG 2.1 Level AA Checklist

All 50 Level A and AA Success Criteria in plain language, flagged by what an automated scanner can check (13) versus what needs manual review (37).

Standard: WCAG 2.1 (W3C) · also the basis of EN 301 549 / EAA · **Updated:** June 2026 · **Source:** <https://wcagc.com/tools/wcag-checklist>

Scanner can check

Manual review required

1 Perceivable

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

- ☐ **1.1.1 Non-text Content** Level A Scanner can check
All non-text content (images, icons, controls) has a text alternative that serves the equivalent purpose.

- ☐ **1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)** Level A Manual review
Provide a transcript for prerecorded audio-only, and a transcript or audio track for prerecorded video-only.

- ☐ **1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)** Level A Manual review
Synchronized captions are provided for all prerecorded audio in video content.

- ☐ **1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)** Level A Manual review
Provide an audio description or full text alternative for prerecorded video content.

- ☐ **1.2.4 Captions (Live)** Level AA Manual review
Synchronized captions are provided for all live audio content in synchronized media.

- ☐ **1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)** Level AA Manual review
An audio description is provided for all prerecorded video content in synchronized media.

- ☐ **1.3.1 Info and Relationships** Level A Scanner can check
Structure and relationships (headings, lists, tables, form labels) are conveyed in markup, not by visual styling alone.

- ☐ **1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence** Level A Manual review
When sequence affects meaning, the correct reading order can be programmatically determined.

- ☐ **1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics** Level A Manual review
Instructions don't rely solely on shape, size, position, or sound (e.g. "click the round button on the right").

- ☐ **1.3.4 Orientation** Level AA Manual review
Content does not restrict its view to a single display orientation (portrait or landscape) unless essential.

- ☐ **1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose** Level AA Scanner can check
The purpose of common input fields (name, email, etc.) is programmatically identified, e.g. via autocomplete.

- ☐ **1.4.1 Use of Color** Level A Manual review
Color is not the only visual means of conveying information, indicating an action, or distinguishing an element.

- ☐ **1.4.2 Audio Control** Level A Manual review
Audio that plays automatically for more than 3 seconds can be paused, stopped, or muted.

- ☐ **1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)** Level AA Scanner can check
Text and images of text have a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1 (3:1 for large text).

- ☐ **1.4.4 Resize Text** Level AA Manual review
Text can be resized up to 200% without loss of content or functionality and without assistive technology.

- ☐ **1.4.5 Images of Text** Level AA Manual review
Real text is used instead of images of text, except where the presentation is essential (e.g. logos).

- ☐ **1.4.10 Reflow** Level AA Manual review
Content reflows to a single column at 320 CSS pixels wide without loss of information or two-dimensional scrolling.

- ☐ **1.4.11 Non-text Contrast** Level AA Manual review
UI components and meaningful graphics have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1 against adjacent colors.

- ☐ **1.4.12 Text Spacing** Level AA Manual review
No loss of content when users override line height, paragraph, letter, and word spacing within set limits.

- ☐ **1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus** Level AA Manual review
Content that appears on hover or focus is dismissable, hoverable, and persistent.

2 Operable

UI components and navigation must be operable.

- ☐ **2.1.1 Keyboard** Level A Manual review
All functionality is operable through a keyboard, without requiring specific timings for keystrokes.

- ☐ **2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap** Level A Manual review
Keyboard focus can be moved away from any component using only the keyboard.

- ☐ **2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts** Level A Manual review
Single-character key shortcuts can be turned off, remapped, or are only active on focus.

- ☐ **2.2.1 Timing Adjustable** Level A Manual review
Users can turn off, adjust, or extend any time limit, with limited exceptions.

- ☐ **2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide** Level A Manual review
Moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating content can be paused, stopped, or hidden.

- ☐ **2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold** Level A Manual review
Nothing flashes more than three times per second, or flashes are below the general and red thresholds.

- ☐ **2.4.1 Bypass Blocks** Level A Scanner can check
A mechanism (skip link, landmarks, headings) lets users bypass blocks of content repeated on pages.

- ☐ **2.4.2 Page Titled** Level A Scanner can check
Pages have titles that describe their topic or purpose.

- ☐ **2.4.3 Focus Order** Level A Manual review
Focusable components receive focus in an order that preserves meaning and operability.

- ☐ **2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)** Level A Scanner can check
The purpose of each link can be determined from the link text alone or with its surrounding context.

- ☐ **2.4.5 Multiple Ways** Level AA Manual review
More than one way is available to locate a page within a set (e.g. search and a sitemap or menu).

- ☐ **2.4.6 Headings and Labels** Level AA Scanner can check
Headings and labels describe the topic or purpose of the content they introduce.

- ☐ **2.4.7 Focus Visible** Level AA Manual review
A visible focus indicator is shown for any keyboard-operable interface.

- ☐ **2.5.1 Pointer Gestures** Level A Manual review
Functionality using multipoint or path-based gestures has a single-pointer alternative.

- ☐ **2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation** Level A Manual review
Actions triggered by a single pointer can be aborted or undone (no down-event activation).

- ☐ **2.5.3 Label in Name** Level A Scanner can check
For components with visible text labels, the accessible name contains that visible text.

- ☐ **2.5.4 Motion Actuation** Level A Manual review
Functionality triggered by device or user motion can also be operated by UI components and can be disabled.

3 Understandable

Information and the operation of the UI must be understandable.

- ☐ **3.1.1 Language of Page** Level A Scanner can check
The default human language of each page is programmatically set (e.g. the html lang attribute).

- ☐ **3.1.2 Language of Parts** Level AA Manual review
The language of phrases or passages that differ from the page language is programmatically identified.

- ☐ **3.2.1 On Focus** Level A Manual review
Receiving focus does not trigger an unexpected change of context.

- ☐ **3.2.2 On Input** Level A Manual review
Changing a setting does not automatically cause an unexpected change of context unless the user is warned.

- ☐ **3.2.3 Consistent Navigation** Level AA Manual review
Navigation repeated across pages appears in the same relative order each time.

- ☐ **3.2.4 Consistent Identification** Level AA Manual review
Components with the same functionality are identified consistently across the set of pages.

- ☐ **3.3.1 Error Identification** Level A Manual review
Input errors are detected and described to the user in text.

- ☐ **3.3.2 Labels or Instructions** Level A Scanner can check
Labels or instructions are provided when content requires user input.

- ☐ **3.3.3 Error Suggestion** Level AA Manual review
When an input error is detected and a fix is known, suggestions are provided to the user.

- ☐ **3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)** Level AA Manual review
For legal, financial, or data submissions, actions are reversible, checked, or confirmed.

4 Robust

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

- ☐ **4.1.1 Parsing** Level A Scanner can check
Markup has complete tags, no duplicate IDs, and proper nesting. (Obsolete in WCAG 2.2, but required for 2.1.)

- ☐ **4.1.2 Name, Role, Value** Level A Scanner can check
For all UI components the name, role, state, and value are programmatically determinable (correct ARIA/HTML).

- ☐ **4.1.3 Status Messages** Level AA Manual review
Status messages can be presented to assistive technology without receiving focus (e.g. aria-live regions).

Automated tools reliably catch only part of WCAG conformance. A clean automated scan is not a guarantee of accessibility — the criteria marked “Manual review” require human testing. © 2026 wcagc.com