

Checklist for Accessible Font Design

This checklist will help you ensure that your font choices meet web accessibility standards and enhance the user experience for everyone, including individuals with disabilities. Use this guide to make informed, inclusive decisions for your digital platforms.

1. Font Style and Readability

- ☐ Use simple, clean, sans-serif fonts (e.g., Arial, Verdana, Roboto).
- ☐ Avoid decorative or overly stylized fonts that hinder readability.
- ☐ Ensure font weight is appropriate: avoid excessively light or thin styles that may not render well on all devices.

2. Font Size and Scaling

- ☐ Set a base font size of at least 16px for body text.
- ☐ Use scalable units like em or rem to allow users to resize text without breaking layout.
- ☐ Test text scaling to confirm readability at 200% zoom or higher.

3. Spacing for Accessibility

- ☐ Set line spacing (line height) to at least 1.5x the font size.
- ☐ Provide adequate letter spacing (tracking): avoid overcrowded characters.
- ☐ Use paragraph spacing to distinguish text blocks without relying solely on indentation.

4. Color and Contrast

- ☐ Maintain a minimum contrast ratio of 4.5:1 for body text and background colors.
- ☐ Use contrast checkers (e.g., WebAIM Contrast Checker) to verify compliance.
- ☐ Avoid using color alone to convey meaning; include text labels or patterns for additional context.

5. Consistency in Typography

- ☐ Limit your design to 1-2 font families for a cohesive look.
- ☐ Use consistent styling (e.g., bold for emphasis, italic for citations) across all content.
- ☐ Clearly distinguish headings, subheadings, and body text using hierarchy.



6. Specialized Fonts for Specific Needs

- ☐ Provide dyslexia-friendly font options (e.g., OpenDyslexic, Lexend).
- ☐ Avoid all-uppercase text for long paragraphs; it's harder to read for all users.
- ☐ Ensure sufficient size and style for hyperlinks, making them easy to identify (e.g., underlined and distinct color).

7. Testing and Validation

- ☐ Test fonts with assistive technologies like screen readers (NVDA, JAWS, or VoiceOver).
- ☐ Verify text readability across multiple devices, screen sizes, and resolutions.
- ☐ Simulate vision impairments using tools like browser extensions or accessibility simulators.

8. Additional Considerations

- ☐ Provide a user-friendly option to adjust text size and contrast on your site.
- ☐ Include alt text for image-based text elements or avoid using them entirely.
- ☐ Update and review your typography choices regularly based on user feedback and evolving accessibility standards.

Tools and Resources for Implementation:

[WebAIM Contrast Checker](#)

[WAVE Accessibility Evaluation Tool](#)

[Google Fonts Accessibility Recommendations](#)

[Microsoft Accessibility Insights](#)

Final Tip: Your font choices reflect your commitment to inclusivity and user-centered design. Accessibility is not just a requirement—it's an opportunity to welcome all users to your platform!