

Document Accessibility: MS Word

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Handouts

exploreaccess.org/handouts/



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Introduction

- Provide training and technical assistance at Arkansas' University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disability (UCEDD)
- **Focus areas:** digital access, civil rights, access in higher education, universal design, leadership.



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Alternative Ways of Navigating

- Screen readers:
Voiceover, JAWS/Fusion, NVDA
- Magnification Software
- Braille display
- Voice recognition software
- Keyboard only navigation
- Other mouse alternatives



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Common Barriers in Documents

- Images with no alt text
- Poor contrast
- Links that are not descriptive
- Lack of heading structure
- Text that is not clear or large enough



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Screen Reader User Experience



Screen Reader User Experience and MS Word (YouTube)

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Using Headings to Provide Structure

- Headings provide structure to your document.
- Using normal text and applying styles such as larger size, different color, or bolder text does not create a true heading.
- Don't use headings when you don't need a true heading.

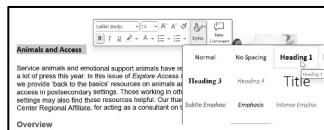
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How to Add Headings

- Highlight the text
- Click on the appropriate heading
- Or use keyboard shortcuts
 - PC: Control+Alt+1
 - Mac: Command+Option+1



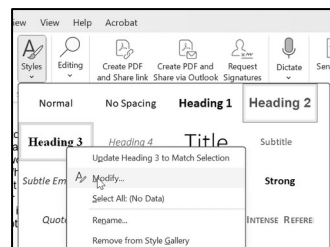
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Modify Headings

- Modify a heading by:
 - Right clicking on the heading in the styles group and choosing modify OR
 - Change the heading in your document and choosing Update Heading to Match Selection



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Alt Text:

a text description of an image
(or other non-text content)

Also called:

alternative text, image description

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Why Use Alt Text

- Without alt text, a screen reader user will not know what an image is.
- Images often convey important information.
- The screen reader will just say “graphic”



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Sample Alt Text

A Pomeranian wearing glasses looks down at an open book.



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How to Add Alt Text (1)

- Right click on the image
- Choose View Alt Text

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How to Add Alt Text (2)

- Write the description in the box that appears to the right of the document.
- Describe what is in the image.
- No need to say “image of” or “picture of”

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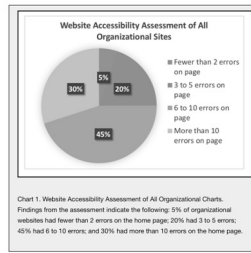
Purely Decorative Image

- Images that do not add anything to the content
- Images that are redundant to the content
- Images that are visual separators

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More Complex Images

- Brief alt text description with longer description within the text of the document.
- Brief alt text description of the image with a section at the end of the document for long descriptions.



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Chart Sample

- 45% have 6 to 10 errors on page
- 30% have more than 10 errors on page
- 20% have 3 to 5 errors on page
- 5% have fewer than 2 errors on page.



Alt text: Pie chart title: Website Accessibility Assessment of All Organizational Sites. Data summarized on slide.

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Next week is Accessibility Awareness Week!

[Click Here](#) for the schedule of events!

The keynote presenter will be Joe the Accessibility Guy... [more](#)

Learn more here:

<https://news.edu/articles/48227434526/accessawarenessweek>

Accessibility Awareness Week Flyer [DOC](#) | [PDF](#)

Share this video announcement on your social media channels!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20sfh2falahlw>

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[more](#)

<https://news.edu/articles/48227434526/accessawarenessweek>

[DOC](#) | [PDF](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20sfh2falaihflws>

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Accessibility Awareness Week

Next week is Accessibility Awareness Week! Below you will find all of the resources you need to learn more about the week's activities and to advertise the event with others.

- [Schedule of Events](#)
- [Keynote Speaker - Joe the Accessibility Guy](#)
- [News Article: Accessibility Awareness Week at Anytown University](#)
- [Accessibility Awareness Week Flyer \(DOC\)](#)
- [Accessibility Awareness Week Flyer \(PDF\)](#)
- [Accessibility Week Announcement \(YouTube\)](#)

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If Printing the Document...

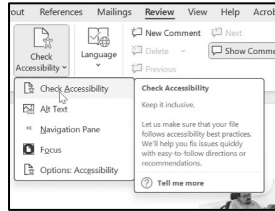
- [Latest Post: Creating Meaningful Links](#)
(<https://exploreaccess.org/post-1231413413134134134/>)
- Or use a shortened URL

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Using the Accessibility Checker (1)

- Select Review Ribbon
- Select Accessibility Checker



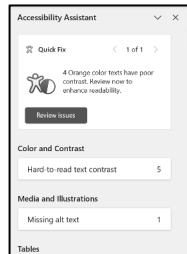
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Using the Accessibility Checker (2)

- Panel opens to the right
- Identifies accessibility issues



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Save as PDF

- Always "Save As" PDF instead of Printing to PDF
 - Newer versions: Save a Copy and then choose PDF from dropdown menu
- If using a Mac, also choose "Best for electronic distribution and accessibility"



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More Accessibility Considerations

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Choosing Fonts and Font Size

- Choose fonts that are clear and easy to read
- Print in 12-point or larger.
- Have an electronic version of your document available
- Use **ALL CAPS**, **SMALL CAPS** or *italics* sparingly



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Other Things to Avoid

- Creating lists without using the bulleted or numbered list tool
- Using full justification
- Using text boxes
- Placing important information in header, footer and watermarks
- Adding multiple space by using the return key
- Presenting data in rows without using a table

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Suggested Resources

- [Explore Access: Creating Accessible MS Word Documents](#)
- [NCDAAE Cheat Sheet: MS Word](#)
- [University of Washington: Digital Access Quick Cards: Word](#)
- [WebAIM: Microsoft Word - Creating Accessible Documents](#)

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A Partnership between U of A Partners and iCAN

- iCAN (Increasing Capabilities Access Network) is the Arkansas statewide Assistive Technology program designed to make technology available and accessible for everyone who needs it.
- Partners collaborates to promote disability access through training, technical assistance, resource development and dissemination, and research.



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Upcoming Webinars

- December 4th:
The Basics of PDF Accessibility
- January 15th:
Universal Design and Instruction
- Dates to be determined:
 - Accessible Excel Worksheets
 - Accessibility with Canva
 - Creating an Accessible Campus
- Visit: uofapartners.uark.edu/news-events



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