

Baking ADA compliance into UX from the beginning
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Core Principals:

Two core principals should guide UX designers who wish to build accessibility in from the beginning of the project.

You must give the user as much control as possible. Design is important, but design that excludes people is bad design. Expect that a user who has disabilities will change your web page by substituting an easier to read font, enlarging the font and/or changing the color space they view the web page in. If your design does not hold up under these changes, it is not good design.

People with disabilities are people. People with disabilities expect, and deserve, as nearly identical access as possible to all media, information and popular culture. Podcasts should have transcripts. Product images should have text descriptions detailed enough to allow people to “see” what they are getting even if they can’t process the product image. A design is not usable if only temporarily able-bodied people can use it.

Common Violations:

1. Web pages with inadequate contrast: Black text on a white background is the most universally easy to read and reverses well for people who either need it to see or prefer it for night time reading.
2. A non-scalable font is used.

Designing for Compliance:

Checking the Design:

Best Practices for working with testers with disabilities:

Recruiting people with disabilities for testing: