Accessibility Evaluation Tools for Canvas Courses

Shawn Jordison

Learning Objectives

- **Explain what an Accessibility Checker does**
- **List what most Accessibility Checkers check**
- **Explain the limitations of each tool within Canvas**
- **Distinguish which Accessibility Checker works best for your situation**

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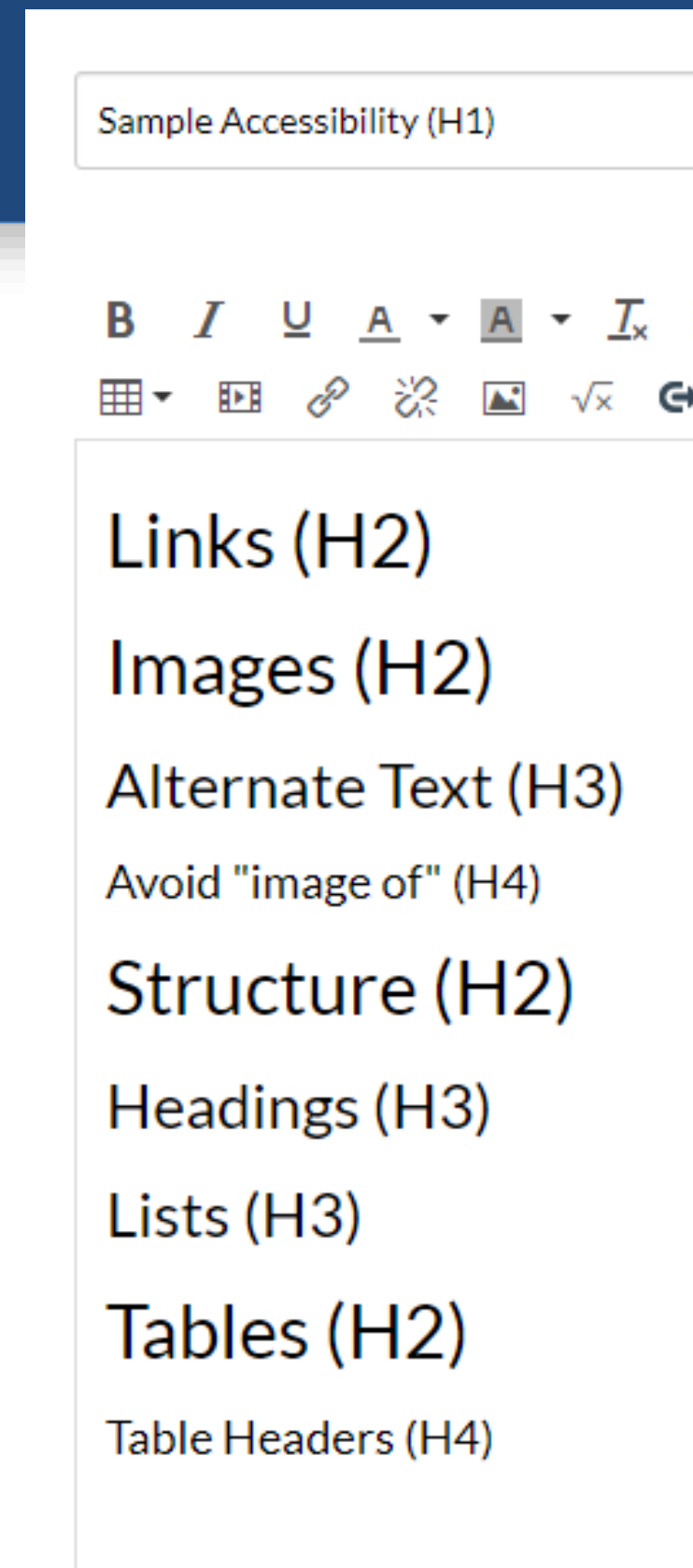
What does an Accessibility Checker do?

- **It aids with manually checking a course**
- **It provides a snapshot of common errors**
- **It gives tips and hints on how to fix accessibility errors**
- **It makes remediation simpler for HTML based pages**

What does it mean to be accessible in Canvas?

- Heading styles are consistently used
- Lists are properly formatted
- Links are unique and descriptive
- Tables have designated row and column headers
- Every image in the course has descriptive alternative text
- There is sufficient contrast between background and foreground colors
- Visual elements are not used as the sole method of conveying importance of information
- Files in the course are accessible
- Videos are captioned
- Audio has a transcript

Headings in Canvas (1)

Headings provide multiple benefits, but for a student using a screen reader, it allows them to navigate more effectively. Effective use of headings can allow that student to drill down to what they need to access rather than requiring that they read through the whole page.

Sample Accessibility (H1)

Links (H2)

Images (H2)

Alternate Text (H3)

Avoid "image of" (H4)

Structure (H2)

Headings (H3)

Lists (H3)

Tables (H2)

Table Headers (H4)

Headings in Canvas (2)

Option A

What is Lorem Ipsum?

Lorem Ipsum is simply dummied text of the printing and typesetting industry. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since the 1500s when an unknown printer took a galley of type and scrambled it to make a type specimen book. It has survived not only five centuries, but also the leap into electronic typesetting, remaining essentially unchanged. It was popularised in the 1960s with the release of Letraset sheets containing Lorem Ipsum passages, and more recently with desktop publishing software like Aldus PageMaker including versions of Lorem Ipsum. Why do we use it?

It is a long established fact that a reader will be distracted by the readable content of a page when looking at its layout. The point of using Lorem Ipsum is that it has a more-or-less normal distribution of letters, as opposed to using 'Content here, content here', making it look like readable English. Many desktop publishing packages and web page editors now use Lorem Ipsum as their default model text, and a search for 'lorem ipsum' will uncover many web sites still in their infancy. Various versions have evolved over the years, sometimes by accident, sometimes on purpose (injected humor and the like).

Headings in Canvas (3)

Option b

What is Lorem Ipsum?

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Lists

Lists are handled differently by screen readers and can be confusing to read if used improperly. Properly designed lists can be copied to other software while maintaining the structure, which might assist students in responding to prompts.

Bulleted lists are for lists where order is unimportant

- Bread
- Milk
- Cheese

Numbered lists are for lists where order is important

1. Read the directions
2. Fill out the form
3. Send in the form

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Links: Descriptive and Meaningful (1)

https://www.google.com/search?ei=U6s2XPGILN3C0PEP362dgAQ&q=writing+learning+objectives+&oq=writing+learning+objectives+&gs_l=psy-ab.3..0l10.5272.5272..6689...0.0..0.166.166.0j1......0....1..gws-wiz.......0i71.iQv74mRCgl0

Links: Descriptive and Meaningful (2)

https://www.google.com/search?ei=U6s2XPGILN3C0PEP362dgAQ&q=writing+learning+objectives+&oq=writing+learning+objectives+&gs_l=psy-ab.3..0l10.5272.5272..6689...0.0..0.166.166.0j1......0....1..gws-wiz.......0i71.iQv74mRCgl0

Read **Bloom's Taxonomy** to learn more about writing effective learning objectives.

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Example Links

Unacceptable

- **[Click here](#) to read the article**.
- **Read our academic integrity policy – [More Info](#)**.
- **Article 1 ([Read More](#)) | Article 2 ([Read more](#))**
- **Learn more about color and accessibility [here](#) and [here](#)**.

Appropriate

- **Read about [debunking the myth of voter fraud](#)**.
- **Be sure to read our [Academic Integrity Policy](#)**.
- **[Article 1: The Fall of Man](#) | [Article 2: The Rise of Man](#)**
- **Learn more about color accessibility in terms of [contrast](#) and [color coding](#).**

Alternate Text (1)

- **Take one minute and create a sample alternate text. Share in the chat!**

Alternate Text (2)

- **Now think of all text for a fashion history course**

Alternate Text (3)

Alt Text

Elvis Presley performing on state in leather outfit

On Canvas Page, write in-depth description next to image:

Leather clothing was adapted from First World War aviation garb. Its first true rock n roll moment came from the silver screen when filmmakers tapped into youth culture in the delinquent films of the 1950s. Elvis famously wore an all leather outfit when he filmed his 1968 Comeback Special.

Table Headers

Week	Date	Chapter
1	**January** 2 – 5	5,7,8
2	**January** 14 – 18	2, 3

Tables must have headers for people using screen readers to navigate.
Avoid using tables for layout purposes.

The tools covered in this session

- **Accessibility Checker in Canvas**
  - https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-26400-how-do-i-use-the-accessibility-checker-in-the-rich-content-editor-as-an-instructor
- **WAVE toolbar**
  - https://wave.webaim.org/extension/
- **UDOIT LTI**
  - https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-6504-udoit-information
- **Pope Tech LTI**
  - https://pope.tech/lms-integration

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The Accessibility Checker in Canvas

Pros
- **Row and Column headers**
- **Table Captions**
- **Color Contrast**
- **Built in / Convenient**

Limitations
- **Does not always catch the file name in alternate text**
- **Does not check files**
- **Does not check improperly formatted links**

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Wave Toolbar

Pros

- Review entire page at once
- Interface is clear on 'how many errors' exist.
- Clear explanations of errors

Limitations

- Visual icons can impede on design of page / they don't always show up
- Does not review files
- Must first find errors, then go in and fix

UDOIT LTI

Pros
- Scan entire course quickly
- Dashboard that displays where exactly the error is located
- Strong suggestion area for common accessibility elements
- Fix some errors directly from dashboard

Limitations
- False positives for videos with closed captioning
- False positives for color contrast
- LTI integration – may need campus resources to install
- Does not check files

Pope Tech LTI

Pros
- **Scan entire course quickly**
- **Dashboard for entire school and individual courses**
- **Fix errors directly from dashboard**
- **Uses the WAVE tool on backend**

Limitations
- **LTI integration – may need campus resources to install**
- **Does not check files**
- **Does not check captioning for videos**

Pope Tech LTI Screenshots (1)

Pope Tech LTI Screenshots (2)

Contact Information

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Live Questions: