# **Accessible Electronic Documents**

Read the guidelines below to find information about creating accessible digital documents. In addition to the guidelines below, there are some tools that can be used to check document accessibility.

## **PDFs**

### **Common Errors**

* PDF language is not specified
* PDF title is missing or is not meaningful
* PDF is not tagged (important for document structure)
* Tab order does not follow the document structure
* Images don’t have alternative texts
	+ Decorative or background images can be marked as decorative or “artifacts”
* Color Contrast needs manual check
* Table headers not defined
* Long PDF documents not having bookmarks
* Image-only PDFs
	+ Need to be converted into a text-based PDF using optical character recognition (OCR)

### **Create an Accessible PDF**

* Use an authoring tool that supports:
	+ Creating documents with headings & subheadings
	+ Adding alt text to images
	+ Exporting to tagged PDF

### **PDF Accessibility Remediation**

1. Recognize text for image only pdfs
2. Tag document (if needed)
3. Touch up reading order, alt text, etc.
4. Touch up structure, especially, add or modify headings
5. Create links from URLs
6. Specify language and document title
7. Do a full accessibility check

### **Learn More**

#### [**W3C Accessibility Standards Overview**](https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/#properties)

#### [**PDF Accessibility**](https://webaim.org/techniques/acrobat/)

#### [**PDF Compliance Required Fixes and Checklist**](https://www.hhs.gov/web/section-508/making-files-accessible/pdf-required/index.html)

#### [**Creating Accessible PDFs**](https://www.lynda.com/Acrobat-tutorials/Creating-Accessible-PDFs/669540-2.html)

#### [**Adobe Accessibility Guides**](https://www.adobe.com/accessibility/products/acrobat/training.html)

#### [**Adobe InDesign Accessibility**](https://www.adobe.com/accessibility/products/indesign.html)

#### **Adobe Illustrator Accessibility**

## **Word, Excel, PowerPoint**

These are the basic steps that you should always take to make sure your Word, Excel, PowerPoint documents are accessible:

* Use inbuilt accessibility checkers
* Add document language and title
* Use styling options that are built into the program; avoid copying and pasting directly from other programs
* Use "headings" to create a hierarchy in your document. This ensures proper reading order for visually impaired users and helps them understand the content
* Add alternate text to images
* Use tables only when necessary; apply table headers and add a table caption and summary
* Preserve accessibility while exporting from one format to another

### Learn More

Microsoft office has created a suite of video lessons to help users achieve document accessibility. These lessons are quick 1-2 minute videos that are categorized by product and features. We strongly encourage you to review these videos for specific issues that the inbuilt accessibility checker might flag.

#### [**Create accessible Word documents**](https://support.office.com/en-us/article/video-check-the-accessibility-of-your-document-9d660cba-1fcd-45ad-a9d1-c4f4b5eb5b7d?wt.mc_id=otc_accessibility_video_training&ui=en-US&rs=en-US&ad=US)

#### [**Create accessible Excel spreadsheets**](https://support.office.com/en-us/article/Make-your-Excel-spreadsheets-accessible-6cc05fc5-1314-48b5-8eb3-683e49b3e593)

#### [**Create accessible PowerPoint presentations**](https://support.office.com/en-us/article/video-create-more-accessible-slides-794fc5da-f686-464d-8c29-1c6ab8515465?wt.mc_id=otc_accessibility_video_training&ui=en-US&rs=en-US&ad=US)

<https://helpx.adobe.com/acrobat/using/create-verify-pdf-accessibility.html>