

How to create accessible eLearning

Complying with government-mandated regulations is one way to think about accessibility, but improving the overall design for all of your users is another. When you build accessibility into the foundation of your design you create something beautiful, functional, and accessible without having to compromise on creativity.

Not sure how to make that happen, all you need is some help from the **CRAB** - snip snip!



The **CRAB** methodology



Clarify

CLARIFY the aim of the content, and the steps needed achieve this aim.

Think about what behaviour change needs to take place, why the learners need to make this change, and how to do it.

Reduce

Simplify and **REDUCE** the content.

Anything outside the steps towards the aim is an unnecessary distraction.

Adapt

ADAPT your core content to meet accessibility requirements using the checklist below.

Everything you have left after the **REDUCE** step is essential, and must be accessible to the entirety of your audience.

Break

Push the design until it **BREAKS**.

Make design choices until accessibility is impacted, then take one step back.

Three on-the-go design checks



If in doubt, grey it out

Use a greyscale filter to quickly review contrast and hierarchy.



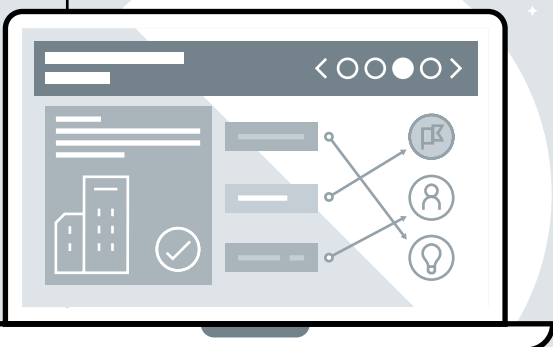
Lean back and squint

Zoom out or use a blur filter to quickly review legibility and hierarchy.



Consistency is king

Keep repeated elements (e.g. navigation, instructions, feedback) consistent throughout.



Visual design checklist

Colour

- Does my content pass contrast checks? Aim for 4.5:1 minimum ratio on essential content.
- Is my use of colour informative or decorative? Colour should not signify meaning on its own.
- Have I kept colour variations to a minimum? Too many colours can overwhelm and reduce relative contrast.
- Have I used colour hierarchy appropriately? Bolder colours draw more attention. Where should attention be?

Text

- Am I using clear, legible fonts? Avoid decorative and script fonts or fonts that are indistinct at smaller sizes.
- Is my font size appropriate? Maintain a strong hierarchy between header and body text. Aim for at least 12pt (16px) for body text.
- Am I using too many fonts? Limit your design to two font families for consistency and to reduce confusion.

Content & Layout

- Have I used plain, non-figurative language? Obscure wording or too much detail can slow down the learner, or even block their path completely.
- Is my reading order/hierarchy clear? What's the first element the learner should pay attention to? Is there a clear direction/path to follow to reach the end?
- Is my use of imagery informative or decorative? Relevant images convey meaning. How does the image aid learning?

