Checklist: Using WebAIM Contrast Checker for Accessible Design

Use this checklist to ensure your text and background colors meet WCAG 2.1 contrast requirements for readability and accessibility.

# Accessing the WebAIM Contrast Checker

* Go to [**WebAIM Contrast Checker**](https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker/).
* Locate the **Foreground Color** and **Background Color** input fields.

# Checking Contrast for Text and Background

* **Enter HEX codes** for both text and background colors.
  + If unsure of the HEX codes, use:
    - **The color picker tool** on WebAIM.
    - **An eyedropper tool** (available in PowerPoint, Photoshop, or browser extensions).
* Click **"Check Contrast"** to analyze color combinations.

# Understanding Results & WCAG Requirements

* Review the **Pass/Fail results** for:
  + **Normal text** (small text)
  + **Large text** (bold text ≥14pt, regular text ≥18pt)
  + **UI components & graphics** (buttons, icons, form fields)
* Ensure **AA compliance** for normal text (contrast ratio of at least **4.5:1**).
* Ensure **AAA compliance** for enhanced accessibility (contrast ratio of at least **7:1**).
* For large text, AA compliance requires a **3:1** contrast ratio.

# Adjusting Contrast if Needed

* **If the combination fails:**
  + **Lighten or darken** either text or background colors.
  + **Use WebAIM's sliders** to find an accessible alternative.
  + Ensure your brand colors remain distinguishable while meeting compliance.
* Re-run the contrast check after making changes.

# Final Steps

* Apply the **approved color contrast** in your document, website, or LMS platform (e.g., Canvas).
* **Test across devices** to ensure readability.
* Run WebAIM Contrast Checker for **all color elements**, including:
  + Text over images
  + Buttons and links
  + Charts and graphs