Website Accessibility: Where to Start

A Practical Checklist for Evaluating Your Website's User Experience

Navigation & Keyboard

- [ ] **Keyboard Navigable:** You can tab through all buttons, forms, and links using only the Tab and Enter keys.
- [ ] **Focus Highlight:** An obvious box or outline appears around elements when tabbing through them.
- [ ] **Skip to Content:** A hidden link appears at the very top of the page when tabbing to let users jump straight to the main text.

Content & Media

- [ ] **Image Alt Text:** All images describing something useful have short descriptive text tags for screen readers (and purely decorative images are marked as empty).
- [ ] **Video Captions:** All videos have synchronized captions and no background audio autoplays without user permission.
- [ ] **Clear Headings:** Pages use structural headings (Heading 1, Heading 2, etc.) in logical order rather than just using bold text.

Design & Readability

- [ ] **Color Contrast:** Text stands out sharply against its background color (e.g., black text on white background).
- [ ] **Not Color Alone:** Instructions don't rely only on color to explain something (e.g., "click the red button" vs. "click the Red Submit button").
- [ ] **Zoomable Text:** Users can zoom in up to 200% on a screen without text breaking or forcing sideways scrolling.

Forms & Buttons

- [ ] **Labeled Inputs:** Every text field, checkbox, and drop-down has a clear visible label above or beside it.
- [ ] **Clear Error Messages:** If someone misses a required field, the error clearly states which box needs fixing and how.
- [ ] **Tappable Targets:** Buttons and links are large enough to easily tap with a thumb on a smartphone screen.