

Heading Styles

Create a uniform heading structure through use of styles in Word. This allows screen readers to navigate a document and improves accessibility for everyone.

Adding and Editing Headings

- Select the text and *choose the appropriate style* under *Styles* on the *Home* ribbon. (e.g., "Heading 1")
- 2. Headings 1, 2, or 3 can also be assigned using *CTRL* + *ALT* + *1*, *2*, *or 3*, respectively.



Alternative Text for Images

Images can be given appropriate alternative text in Word. This alt text is read by a screen reader in a Word file and should remain intact when exporting to HTML or PDF.

Adding Alt Text

- 1. Right-click on the image and choose *Format Picture*.
- 2. Select the *Layout & Properties* icon and choose *Alt Text.*
- 3. Enter appropriate alt text only in the *Description* field (not the *Title* field).

Columns

When creating columns, *always use true columns*, not columns created by hand with the *Tab* key.

Creating Columns

- 1. Select *Page Layout* on the ribbon.
- 2. Select *Columns* under *Page Setup* and choose the *appropriate number of columns.*



Lists

Use *true numbered and bulleted lists* to emphasize a point or a sequence of steps.

Creating Lists

 Select the *Numbered List* or *Bulleted List* option on the *Home* ribbon, under the *Paragraph* section.



Links

Word *automatically creates a hyperlink* when a user pastes a full URL onto a page. These may not make sense to screen reader users, so *more information is needed*.

Adding Hyperlinks

- 1. Select the text you want linked, right click, and select *Hyperlink* or *CTRL* + *k*.
- 2. Make sure the text in the *Text to Display* field is a meaningful description and type the link URL in the *Address* bar.

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	Addr <u>e</u> ss:	http://ncdae.org/resources/newsletter/	Remove Link

Data Tables

Accessible tables need a *clear table structure* and *table headers* to help guide a screen reader user.

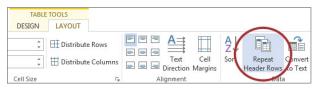
Creating Tables

 Select the *Insert* tab on the ribbon, then select *Table* > *Insert Table*.

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 To add table headers to the first row, select *Table Tools> Layout* on the ribbon, then choose the *Repeat Header Rows* option in the *Data* section.



Options in the *Design* tab may be used to change appearance but will not provide the necessary accessibility information.

Accessibility Checker

Word includes an accessibility resource that *identifies accessibility issues.*

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- Select File> Info.
 Select the Check for Issues button and choose Check Accessibility.
- 3. The Accessibility Checker task pane will show *accessibility errors, warnings, and tips* on how to repair the errors. Select specific issues to see *Additional Information* at the bottom of the task pane.

Other Principles

- Ensure that font size is sufficient, around 12 points.
- Provide *sufficient* contrast.
- Don't use color *as the only way* to convey content.
- Provide a *table of contents* for long documents.
- Use *simple* language.

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