

## Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0

### Guideline 1.2 Time-based Media: Provide alternatives for time-based media

	WCAG 2-A	WCAG 2-AA	WCAG 2-AAA
<b>C Prerecorded audio-video</b>			
C1 Captions	Yes ( <a href="#">1.2.2</a> )	Yes	Yes
C2 Audio description	Yes (alt C3) ( <a href="#">1.2.3</a> )	Yes ( <a href="#">1.2.5</a> )	Yes
C3 Full text alternative	Yes (alt C2) ( <a href="#">1.2.3</a> )	No	Yes ( <a href="#">1.2.8</a> )
C4 Sign language	No	No	Yes ( <a href="#">1.2.6</a> )
C5 Audio description (extended)	No	No	Yes ( <a href="#">1.2.7</a> )

#### Level A

Captions\*

Audio description or Media alternative\*\*

#### Level AA

Captions

Audio description\*\*\*

#### Level AAA

Captions

Audio description or Audio description (extended)

Media alternative

Sign language

\*Captions are not needed when the synchronized media is, itself, an alternate presentation of information that is also presented via text on the Web page.

\*\*If all of the information in the video track is already provided in the audio track, no audio description is necessary.

\*\*\* Where pauses in foreground audio are insufficient to allow audio descriptions to convey the sense of the video, Media Access Australia suggests providing extended audio description (even though it is a AAA requirement).

On all government websites, Level A must be achieved by 31 December 2012 and Level AA by 31 December 2014. Meeting Level AAA is up the discretion of the department. The departments that do choose to meet Level AAA requirements often do so because their audience requires the accessibility that is only included at this level.

From the W3C WCAG 2.0 glossary:

#### Captions

Synchronized visual and/or text alternative for both speech and non-speech audio information needed to understand the media content.

Captions enable people who are deaf or hard of hearing to watch synchronized media presentations. Captions provide the part of the content available via the audio track. Captions not only include dialogue, but identify who is speaking and include non-speech information conveyed through sound, including meaningful sound effects.

**Audio description**

Narration added to the soundtrack to describe important visual details that cannot be understood from the main soundtrack alone.

Audio description provides people who are blind or visually impaired access to the visual information in a synchronized media presentation. The audio description augments the audio portion of the presentation with the information needed when the video portion is not available. During existing pauses in dialogue, audio description provides information about actions, characters, scene changes, and on-screen text that are important and are not described or spoken in the main sound track.

**Media alternative/alternative for time-based media (full text alternative)**

Document including correctly sequenced text descriptions of time-based visual and auditory information and providing a means for achieving the outcomes of any time-based interaction.

This involves providing all of the information in the synchronized media (both visual and auditory) in text form. An alternative for time-based media provides a running description of all that is going on in the synchronized media content. The alternative for time-based media reads something like a screenplay or book. Unlike audio description, the description of the video portion is not constrained to just the pauses in the existing dialogue. Full descriptions are provided of all visual information, including visual context, actions and expressions of actors, and any other visual material. In addition, non-speech sounds (laughter, off-screen voices, etc.) are described, and transcripts of all dialogue are included. The sequence of description and dialogue transcripts are the same as the sequence in the synchronized media itself. As a result, the alternative for time-based media can provide a much more complete representation of the synchronized media content than audio description alone.

Individuals whose vision is too poor to reliably read captions and whose hearing is too poor to reliably hear dialogue can access the alternative for time-based media by using a refreshable braille display.

**Sign language interpretation**

Translation of one language, generally a spoken language, into a sign language.

Sign language enables people who are deaf or hard of hearing and who are fluent in a sign language to understand the content of the audio track of synchronized media presentations. Written text, such as that found in captions, is often a second language. Because sign language provides the ability to provide intonation, emotion and other audio information that is reflected in sign language interpretation, but not in captions, sign language interpretation provides richer and more equivalent access to synchronized media.

People who communicate extensively in sign language are also faster in sign language and synchronized media is a time-based presentation.

**Extended audio description**

Audio description that is added to an audio-visual presentation by pausing the video so that there is time to add additional description

Note: This technique is only used when the sense of the video would be lost without the additional audio description and the pauses between dialogue/narration are too short.

Extended audio description provides people who are blind or visually impaired access to a synchronized media presentation beyond that which can be provided by standard audio description. This is done by periodically freezing the synchronized media presentation and playing additional audio description. The synchronized media presentation is then resumed.