

**Sounds like a good idea:** how to get started testing with a screen reader



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# Chapter 1: Introduction

Why test, and a demo



# Why test with a screen reader?

1. People who use our products use screen readers

**Why test with a screen reader?**

2. It highlights problems

quickly and clearly

# Disclaimer

I'm a tester, not an everyday user



**(Short and speedy 1,2,3,4) Demo**  
VoiceOver on Mac OS

Demo page: [The WebAIM Million](#)



# Chapter 2: Testing tips

What to test, what good sounds like



# **1. Testing the page title**

Does it describe the contents or purpose of the page?

## 2. Testing the h1

Is it the first heading?

Does it describe the contents or purpose of the page?

Is similar to the title?

### **3. Testing the headings**

Is everything that looks like a heading marked up as a heading?

Are the headings nested correctly?

**4. Testing everything else**

**(LOL OMG wat 🤯)**

# Aside

Two modes of (desktop)  
screen readers



# Browse mode

The page is read out in the HTML source order.

There are single-key shortcuts for headings, links, images, and more.

# Forms mode

The person uses the **Tab** key to move to the next focusable element.

Text, images, and disabled form elements do not receive focus.

**4. Testing everything else  
(for real this time)**

# 4. Testing interactive elements

Links

Buttons

Form fields

# What to test

1. Can I reach it and use it?
2. Does it have an accessible name?
3. Does it have a good name?

# What's good text for a link?

Links go places.

Link text should describe  
the destination.

# What's good text for a button?

Buttons do stuff.

Button text should describe  
the action.

**What's a good name for a field?**

Fields gather data.

Field name describes the input.

# Chapter 3: Setup tips

Getting started getting started



# Setup Part 1

"Have you tried turning it off  
and on again?"

Desktop: keyboard shortcuts

Mobile: accessibility shortcut

Details (and some other tweaks)

in the Appendix

# Setup Part 2

"Quiet, please!" and "Speak up!"

Desktop: **Control** to stop

Desktop: **Insert + ↓, V0 + a** to start

Mobile: **Two-finger tap**

# Demo again

1. Page title

2. h1

3. Headings

4. Interactive elements

Demo page: [The WebAIM Million](#)

# Epilogue: How to continue testing with a screen reader



Deque guides: NVDA; JAWS; VoiceOver  
Mac OS; VoiceOver iOS; TalkBack



# What else to test

- Field help text
- Error handling
- Focus management

**What screen reader(s) should we test with?**

The ones our customers use.

But some testing is way better than no testing.

# Thanks!



# Appendix

# Setup Part 1: VoiceOver on iOS

- Settings → Accessibility → General > Accessibility Shortcut → select VoiceOver
- Use the Accessibility Shortcut to switch VoiceOver on and off quickly. This lets you triple-click the side button to stop / start VoiceOver

# Setup Part 1: TalkBack on Android

- Settings → Accessibility → Volume key shortcut. Select Use service and choose TalkBack as the Shortcut service.
- Use the shortcut service to switch TalkBack on and off quickly. This lets you hold both volume keys for 3 seconds to start / stop TalkBack.

# Tweaks for testing:

## NVDA

- Preferences > Vision,  
check “Enable Highlighting”

- Tools > Speech Viewer:

Open the Speech Viewer

# Tweaks for testing:

## VoiceOver on iOS

- If you want to see the text of VoiceOver on screen, go to Settings → Accessibility → VoiceOver, Caption Panel

# Tweaks for testing:

## TalkBack on Android

- If you want to see the text of TalkBack on screen, go to  
Settings → Accessibility,  
Caption preferences → Use captions