



Canva's Accessibility Features



1. The Design Accessibility Checker

This is the primary hub for creators. Located under **File > Accessibility > Check design accessibility**, this tool scans your design in real-time and flags:

- **Color Contrast:** Detects text that is difficult to read against its background.
- **Typography:** Flags font sizes that are too small or fonts that are stylistically difficult to read.
- **Missing Alt Text:** Identifies images and elements that lack descriptions for screen readers.

2. Headings & Reading Order

Canva now allows you to create a "logical" structure so screen readers can navigate your designs properly.

- **Text Semantics:** You can add text boxes as “**Heading (H1), Subheading (H2) and Body (Paragraph)**”. This ensures a screen reader knows what is a title versus body text.
- **Reading Order:** Using the **Layers** panel (Position > Layers), you can arrange elements. Canva generally reads from the bottom layer to the top; you can now select "Match reading order to layers" when exporting to ensure the sequence makes sense.
- **List Formatting:** Using built-in bulleted or numbered list tools ensures screen readers announce them as a "list" rather than just individual lines of text.

3. Visual & Alternative Content

- **Alternative Text (Alt Text):** You can right-click any image or element to add a description or mark it as "Decorative" (so screen readers skip it). If the image adds reference to the content, it is important this step is done.

- **Auto-Captions:** For video and audio content, Canva can automatically generate captions. You can then edit these for accuracy. The Caption app is located in the “Apps” sidebar. This can also be adjusted in the Profile settings so ALL content is auto-captioned.
- **Translate:** The "Translate" app within Canva helps make designs accessible to non-native speakers by converting text into over 100 languages instantly. Translation can be done on specific text, a page or the entire content (presentation). It will create a copy of the text so both languages will appear. This can be accessed from the “Resize” menu: **Resize > Magic Switch > Translate** OR from the App list itself.



4. PDF Export Features

When exporting as a **PDF Standard**, Canva includes:

- **Tagging:** It automatically embeds accessibility tags (if you haven't "flattened" the PDF).
- **Reading Order:** Checking the box beside maintain reading order will allow screen readers to read in the order determined by position.
- **Clickable Links:** Hyperlinks remain active and can be tagged with descriptive "screen reader" text.



5. Motion Settings

These features help users with vestibular (motion) sensitivities:

- **Reduce Motion:** Users can turn off animations and transitions when viewing or presenting a design to prevent issues like dizziness or seizures. This can be done per presentation: **File > Accessibility > Reduce Motion** OR as a user setting so ALL content viewed or presented will have Reduced Motion: **User Profile > Settings > Accessibility > “Reduce Motion . . . Dropdown”**.



6. User Experience

These features below are **USER settings** so will be maintained regardless of what content they are viewing / editing in Canva. These can be set by going to: **“User Profile (from home page) > Settings > Accessibility”**. There are a number of personalization options available.

- **High Contrast Mode:** Canva supports system-level high-contrast settings to make the interface easier to navigate.
- **Light/Dark Mode:** Users can toggle the interface to reduce eye strain.
- **Auto-Generated Captions:** Captions will be generated and displayed for all spoken-word video and audio content throughout Canva

7. Keyboard Shortcuts

Canva provides an extensive list of keyboard shortcuts to allow for navigation without a mouse. Use the link below to view the shortcuts and when to use them.

[Canva Keyboard Shortcuts](#)

Some tips about Canva and Accessibility

- **Avoid "Flatten PDF":** Never check the "Flatten" box when downloading a PDF, as this turns all text into an image and destroys all accessibility tags.
- **PNG/JPG Limitation:** If a design is downloaded as an image (PNG/JPG), all the accessibility work (Alt text, headings) is lost. If possible, embed the image so screen readers can still access the "text" and read it.
- **Manual Check:** The accessibility checker is great for contrast, but it cannot tell if the "Reading Order" actually makes logical sense—that still requires a human check.