

SUCCESS CRITERION 1.3.6 · LEVEL AAA

Identify Purpose



“I swap your icons for symbols I already know. That only works if your page tells my browser what each thing is for.”

Who this helps: Cognitive Impairments

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Identify Purpose

The purpose of user interface components, icons, and regions can be programmatically determined.

Principle 1: Perceivable

Guideline 1.3: Adaptable

What each role can do

Product manager

Plan for personalization: require that regions, controls and icons expose their purpose.

Designer

Use conventional icons and landmark regions so purpose is predictable and can be mapped to personal symbols.

Developer

Mark up regions with landmarks and give controls and inputs machine-readable purpose (ARIA, autocomplete tokens).

Tester

Test with a personalization or symbol-substitution extension and confirm each control keeps its meaning.

Once it is fixed



> “My symbols, your site, and it all still makes sense. Thanks for speaking my shorthand!”

WCAG Quotes

Every WCAG 2.2 success criterion, told by the person it helps.

mpaiva.com/wcag-quotes/1-3-6-identify-purpose

The quotes are written to illustrate the criterion. They are not testimonials from real people.