

# WCAG 3: Pronunciation of Text

This document is a continuation of the joint effort between the Silver and ACT Task Force. This document proposes a new outcome, Pronunciation of Text, which is a variation on WCAG 2's success criterion 3.1.2, Language Of Parts. This document is a continuation of work started in the [WCAG 3 Method Format update](#) document. This document was created to further explore the question of how to guarantee inter-rater reliability in WCAG 3 using ACT rules.

## Outcome: Changes Of Natural Language (Normative)

Assistive technologies using text to speech can pronounce blocks of text in their natural language.

### Exceptions

In the following cases, assistive technologies pronounce blocks of text with the user's choice of accessibility supported speech synthesizer:

- Languages with no known pronunciation
- Languages for which there is no accessibility supported speech synthesizer

Examples:

- Latin is a language with no known pronunciation
- Haryanvi is a language with no accessibility supported speech synthesizer

[Changes Of Natural Language HOW-TO](#)

### Editor's note

- There is a potential conflict of definitions in using the term “pronunciation”. This term is also used in the [pronunciation task force](#). The working group is looking for feedback on the use of this term.
- This outcome is a significant departure from WCAG 2's language of page and language of parts success criteria. It focuses on the desired outcome, without declaring whether it is the responsibility of the content authors, user agent, or assistive technology. This creates flexibility in how issues around pronunciation can be addressed. The working group is looking for feedback on how to best communicate this approach.

## Functional categories for Pronunciation of Text

1. Use without vision
2. Use without ability to read

## Methods (Informative)

Text in HTML has appropriate language indicators

- [HTML lang attribute indicates the language of text](#)
- User agent automatic language detection for text

## Definitions (Normative)

### Assistive Technology

Hardware and/or software that acts as a user agent, or along with a mainstream user agent, to provide functionality to meet the requirements of users with disabilities that go beyond those offered by mainstream user agents.

### Block of Text

Any natural language text, including alternative text, that starts on a new line and ends with a hard line break is a block of text. Each of the following are examples of a Block of Text: For instance a paragraph, each item in a multi-line list, lines in a block of code, each cell in a table.

**(needs work)** Any natural language text, including alternative text, that isn't part of a larger sentence. A block of text starts on a new line and ends with the line break. Examples include paragraphs, large quotations, lists, buttons, table cells. Quotations inside a paragraph or links inside sentences are not blocks of text. A paragraph broken by a line break (<br>) would be two blocks of text. A poem would be a block of text for every line. A definition list could be on one line on a wide screen could be one block of text and one the narrow screen it would be two blocks of text.

“A paragraph is typically a run of phrasing content that forms a **block of text** with one or more sentences that discuss a particular topic, as in typography, but can also be used for more general thematic grouping. For instance, an address is also a paragraph, as is a part of a form, a byline, or a stanza in a poem”. - from [HTML5 Semantics, structure and APIs of HTML documents](#) (Editor's draft)

- Self-referential (paragraph is phrasing content and phrasing content is a paragraph)
- What is “part of a form”

[HTML 4.01 definition of block-level and inline links](#) (superseded)

### Natural Language

Natural Language (sometimes just *language*) refers to the spoken, written, or signed communications used by human beings. [Reference i18n](#)