

# Clear Language Methods

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## Method: Each section has a purpose

Guideline: Help users understand what things are and how to use them

### Basics:

#### Functional Outcome

- Make the purpose clear so that users know what to do.

#### Functional Category

Select from this list. See the [Functional Needs - Expanded](#) draft for details

- Sensory - Vision & Visual
- Sensory Intersections
- Cognitive - Attention
- Cognitive - Language & Literacy
- Cognitive - Learning
- Cognitive - Memory
- Cognitive - Executive
- Cognitive - Mental Health
- Cognitive & Sensory Intersections
- Independence

### Applies to:

All technologies

## Detail Description

**Make the purpose clear:** Use a clear title or heading that summarizes the purpose of content or use other clear signposts that have been tested by users with cognitive disabilities. This helps many people, including those with poor memory and attention as well as anyone who is easily distracted due to age-appropriate forgetfulness and Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder.

- Semantic Headings are an excellent way to describe the purpose of each page or section and are easy to distinguish from the main content. This works both visually and via Assistive Technology.
- Sections and Landmarks can be used to organise the page material and clearly separate side topics.

## Code Samples (or Examples)

- When someone with mild dementia is using online shopping, they may get distracted. When they look at the screen again they have forgotten what they were doing. A clear heading at the top of each page shows clearly **what the page is about and what they are doing**.
- A user with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder is looking for information in a video. They can tell by the video title or chapter where to look for content. That helps them focus and not be distracted by other content.
- Where possible, provide information to help users understand how they got to the page. Breadcrumbs or main navigation that clearly a user's location will help them understand where they are in the process. Breadcrumbs clarify steps in a process. If a page heading reads, "Service not available," the breadcrumbs help the user remember what they were doing.

## Testing

### Applicable tests (and WCAG 2 Techniques)

- 2.4.2 Page Titled
- 2.4.6 Headings and Labels
- 2.4.10 Section Headings

## Test

### Ensure by inspection (or semi-automated testing)

- Ensure each page, document, view, or screen **and their subsections** have a declaration purpose that can be found without reading the entire content.
- Ensure each section of a document, screen, view, or page has a relationship to the entire content unless it's purpose is extraneous, in which case that should also be marked in an element or role that clarifies that.
- Ensure that the method of indicating the purpose of a page or section is obvious to all users.
- Ensure that each section that represents a step in a multi-step process contains signposting to context and current position in the process (e.g. breadcrumbs).

## Test

- Unit tested: By section
- How the individual tests will be scored

0	Purpose not stated; AND Sections are not related; AND Purpose is not clear to all users (semantic), AND Steps in process and current location are not available to all users
1	Purpose stated AND Purpose is clear (and semantic) to all users
2	Purpose is stated; AND Sections are related; AND Purpose is clear to all users, AND Steps in process and current location are available to all users

## Scoring

- Critical failures for the method or specific tests
  - Purpose is either not stated or not clear for all sections on the path.
- What should the tester look for when scoring the entire scope?
  - Look for markers that identify the purpose along the path. Can a person accomplish the task using the markers to understand what they are supposed to do and to locate where they are?
  - What a 0,1, 2, 3, and 4 look like (% cutoff points or additional rules on how to assign a scale rating)
    - 4 would be an average of 1.7 or above
    - 2 would be an average of 1 or above
    - 0 would be an average below 1