# Helperbird Browser Extension

## Orientation

* Add free Helperbird Extension to Browser (Chrome or Edge or Firefox).
* Select extension (owl icon). It will appear to the right on any open web page url.
* The extension offers tools such as: Customizing text font style (including dyslexia friendly fonts), text size, color contrast, background masking and reading rulers, customized spacing, and simplifying content with a text-only format. (There is a Pro version with additional features available for $30 per year.)
* Helperbird integrates an immersive reader for easier reading and customization of text on the web page.
* Two free text to speech voices allow users to customize speed, pitch, and volume.
* Syllables broken out and read aloud for assistance in pronunciation.

## Key Features to Know:

This extension offers reading tools that make reading online easier while directly in the browser.

## WCAG Applicable Guidance Related to this Device

| **Guidance** | **Criterion** |
| --- | --- |
| [WCAG 2.1 SC 3.1.5](https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG21/Understanding/language-of-page.html) | Make text content readable and understandable. |
| [WCAG 2.1 SC 3.1.1](https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG21/Understanding/language-of-page.html) | Language of page is identified for proper pronunciation. |
| [WCAG 2.1 SC 3.1.3](https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG21/Understanding/unusual-words)  | A mechanism is available to explain unusual words. |

## Disabilities Impacted

* Dyslexia, learning disabilities, intellectual or cognitive disabilities, aging readers.

## AT Testing Instructions

| **Website Elements to Test** | **Device Instructions** |
| --- | --- |
| Readability of content with text to speech | Toggle On the Helperbird extension on a web page to test. Highlight the text to read on the webpage (On left). On the right panel, select the immersive reader icon. The left side should transition to a color contrast change and highlighted word reading with a text to speech option.  |
| Reading level | Under grammar options, select Syllables in the settings to toggle on. This feature will help the Web content professional find complex words to consider replacing with simpler text. |

## Resource Video

[Helperbird](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vwT8SAJfU3E)

[Understanding Cognitive disabilities](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=snqTS5uIzc0)- WAI

[Pope Tech](https://youtu.be/_qm5lFNDULg?si=klD8NxV3fOsfNbnA) – Plain language tips

<https://www.openadvocate.org/writeclearly/> - WriteClearly, Flesch-Kincaid grade level analyzer