

Creating Accessible Content Color Choices

We often take color for granted when choosing palettes for our designs, assuming the appearance will be the same for everyone.

In reality, the choices that look good to people with good color vision could cause serious usability problems for people affected by various forms of color-blindness, a type of disability that affects the perception of color and occurs in a surprisingly large percentage of the population.

Color blindness (color vision deficiency, or CVD) affects approximately 1 in 12 men and 1 in 200 women in the world.

We learned from our overview that the following guidelines should be considered when incorporating color into course content:

- Avoid using color alone to convey important information
- Red/green and pastels may not be distinguishable to someone with color blind issues
- Use * or other annotation in addition to color to bring attention to important information
- Ensure that text, graphics, and images are understandable when viewed without color
- Use available tools: Run Vischeck on images and web pages to show what they look like to the color blind

Source: <http://www.colourblindawareness.org>