Creating Accessible Links

Descriptive text

**What do to**
Text that describes their purpose should be used for hyperlinks.

**Why it matters**
Descriptive text allows users to distinguish one link from another and helps them decide whether to follow the link.

### Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>▶️ Better descriptive text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learn more about accessibility at Appalachian.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>🔄 Poor descriptive text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To learn more about accessibility at Appalachian, click here.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**New window**

**What to do**
Links that open new windows or tabs should be limited to situations where opening them in the same window disrupts the process (i.e. if the link is for context-specific information, such as help instructions for a form). If a link opens in a new window or tab, advance warning should be provided.

**Why it matters**
Making websites behave in unpredictable ways can be disorienting, especially for users with visual disabilities.

### Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>▶️ Better new window links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A link to help on a form opens in a new window to prevent the loss of any data that has already been entered on the form.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>🔄 Poor new window links</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A link to a related resource on a web page opens in a new window.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Related Articles**
- Accessibility Articles
- Accessibility in AsULearn
- Creating Accessible Forms
- Creating Accessible Page Structure with Titles, Headings, and Lists
- Creating Accessible Tables
- Making Audio and Video Media Accessible
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- Making Timed Content Accessible
- Using Color Accessibly
• Using Digital Signage Accessibly
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