

PDF accessibility – accessible data tables

Example tables

The following are examples of tables as they appear in the article [PDF accessibility – accessible data tables](#). For the purposes of this PDF, Table 3 has been corrected using Acrobat Professional as described in the article. An additional Table (1A) is included to demonstrate potential colour contrast problems. Otherwise the examples are as they appear in the article.

A grid, not a table

The first example is a grid, not a table. It's layout was set using the tab key in MS Word. It makes very little sense when heard using [JAWS](#).

Name	Coffee	Tea	Water
Sam	11	13	13
Bob	12	16	11
Sue	10	15	12

Simple tables

Table 1 below is an example of a simple table with one level of column headings. Unlike the grid above, provided that the PDF has been tagged properly, this can be navigated easily using the standard JAWS table commands as set out in Table 2 below.

Table 1: Simple table

Name	Coffee	Tea	Water
Sam	1	3	3
Bob	2	6	1
Sue	0	5	2

Colour contrast problems

People with vision impairments may wish to view a PDF using one of Acrobat's high contrast colour schemes (accessible via Acrobat's Accessibility

SetUp Assistant). Table 1A is included here to demonstrate the results for these users of using tables with background colours.

Table 1A: Simple table with background colours

Name	Coffee	Tea	Water
Sam	1	3	3
Bob	2	6	1
Sue	0	5	2

Table 2. JAWS table navigation commands

Function	JAWS command
Next table	T
Previous table	Shift + t
Read next row	Windows key + down arrow
Read previous row	Windows key + up arrow
Read row	Windows key + comma
Read column	Windows key + period
Next cell in a row	Alt + Ctrl + right arrow
Previous cell in a row	Alt + Ctrl + left arrow
Cell below in a column	Alt + Ctrl + down arrow
Cell above in a column	Alt + Ctrl + up arrow

Complex tables

The next example, Table 3, is defined as a complex table because it has more than one level of column headings. The PDF has been modified as described in the article so that the top level heading containing "2008" is correctly associated with both columns beneath it.

Table 3: Complex table

Name	2007		2008	
	Entered	Won	Entered	Won
Sam	5	1	4	2
Bob	6	3	4	1
Sue	11	4	10	3

Further information

For further information on any issue raised in this article, or on our PDF accessibility training course, please email info@pws-ltd.com or call us on 01932 355 222 or 07918 952 874.

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