Pearson

# Mastering Accessibility Best Practices Guide

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# Introduction/Overview

## Striving to ensure every learner succeeds

Empowering learners will always be central to Pearson's mission and values. That includes designing instructional content for Mastering® that's fully accessible to students with disabilities while continually improving usability and compatibility with assistive technology.

By honoring the following best practices together, we can enable a wider array of students to thrive through their learning journey — and prepare everyone to prosper.

## Mastering course materials

Pearson's investment in accessible product design and remediation is significant and ongoing as we strive to meet and exceed Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1 AA standards) for all our educational materials including those designed for Mastering courses.

If for any reason any Pearson+ text doesn't meet a student's need, Pearson is well-prepared to provide other course material options. To save everyone time and effort we've partnered with top providers and accessibility experts to expand our capabilities and expedite solutions.

# Alternative course materials

## Microsoft PowerPoint Decks

Microsoft PowerPoint decks copyrighted 2018 or later are accessible documents.

Add the desired alternative text in the text box

1. Right-click on the image and choose “Edit Alt Text”
2. Add the desired alternative text in the text box

## Accessible eTextbooks

Accessible eTextbooks from Pearson are available for reading, writing, math, and statistics products if they show a copyright year of 2014 or later. All business products published in 2016 or later also include accessible eTextbooks.

Please email us at disability.support@pearson.com for title-specific details or if you encounter any issues.

Pearson eTexts feature seamlessly integrated and accessible videos and other rich media. They engage students while providing them essential access:

- Screen reader and keyboard accessible
- Compatible with common screen magnifiers
- Contrast-optimized for vision-impaired access for most features
- Many titles include alternative text

To open eTextbooks, go to the MyLab course menu in your browser and select the eTextbook option.

## Alternate format text

Alternate format text can be found within the Pearson VitalSource accessible digital textbooks library — You may also purchase Pearson titles as eTextbooks from VitalSource and get instant access to eTextbooks through the VitalSource Bookshelf platform. (Learn more about accessible digital eTextbooks from Pearson and get answers to common questions about them.)

Alternative text can be read by screen readers and text-to-speech programs, enabling visually impaired or blind users to understand the purpose and function of non-text content.

AccessText Network — Upon request and at no added cost, additional Pearson titles are available for qualified students who buy or rent our print or eTextbook versions through AccessText Network, a clearinghouse for files from all major higher education publishers.

This method is ideal for:

- Schools intending to produce their own braille or large format documents
- Students requiring a printed textbook versus digital book as a result of a disability

## Braille and large print

Pearson and Allyant, the leading provider of accessible textbook formats in North America, partnered to significantly reduce the turnaround time and cost of providing top-selling Pearson titles in braille and reflowed large print.

T-Base can deliver top-selling braille or reflowed large-print textbooks within 10 business days at a substantial cost reduction to institutions. Purchasing accessible textbooks through this new, more efficient process enables educators to focus on helping students succeed in their studies.

Explore the ever-expanding Allyant Catalog. Order textbooks in braille or reflowed large print by emailing Allyant at: info@allyant.com or calling: 1-800-563-0668.

# Mastering accessibility features

## Mastering platform and navigation accessibility features

Students can access Mastering assignments, complete these assignments, and check their scores using screen reader and keyboard navigation.

There's no need to turn on Accessibility Mode in Mastering when using a screen reader and/or keyboard. It activates automatically. The platform's interface also works with common screen magnifiers and is contrast-optimized with vision-impaired access for most features.

## Assignment questions

Most Mastering questions can be navigated with a keyboard and screen reader.

- Our goal is to make all content accessible, and we continue to increase the number of accessible questions.
- Ongoing improvements to align to graphing questions to WCAG 2.0 AA standards are underway.

Instructors can learn how to find accessible assignment questions from our help pages.

The dynamic response feedback (e.g.: Correct, Wrong, Try Again, Answer Requested) students receive when answering questions can also be navigated with a keyboard and screen reader.

# Media

## Mastering videos

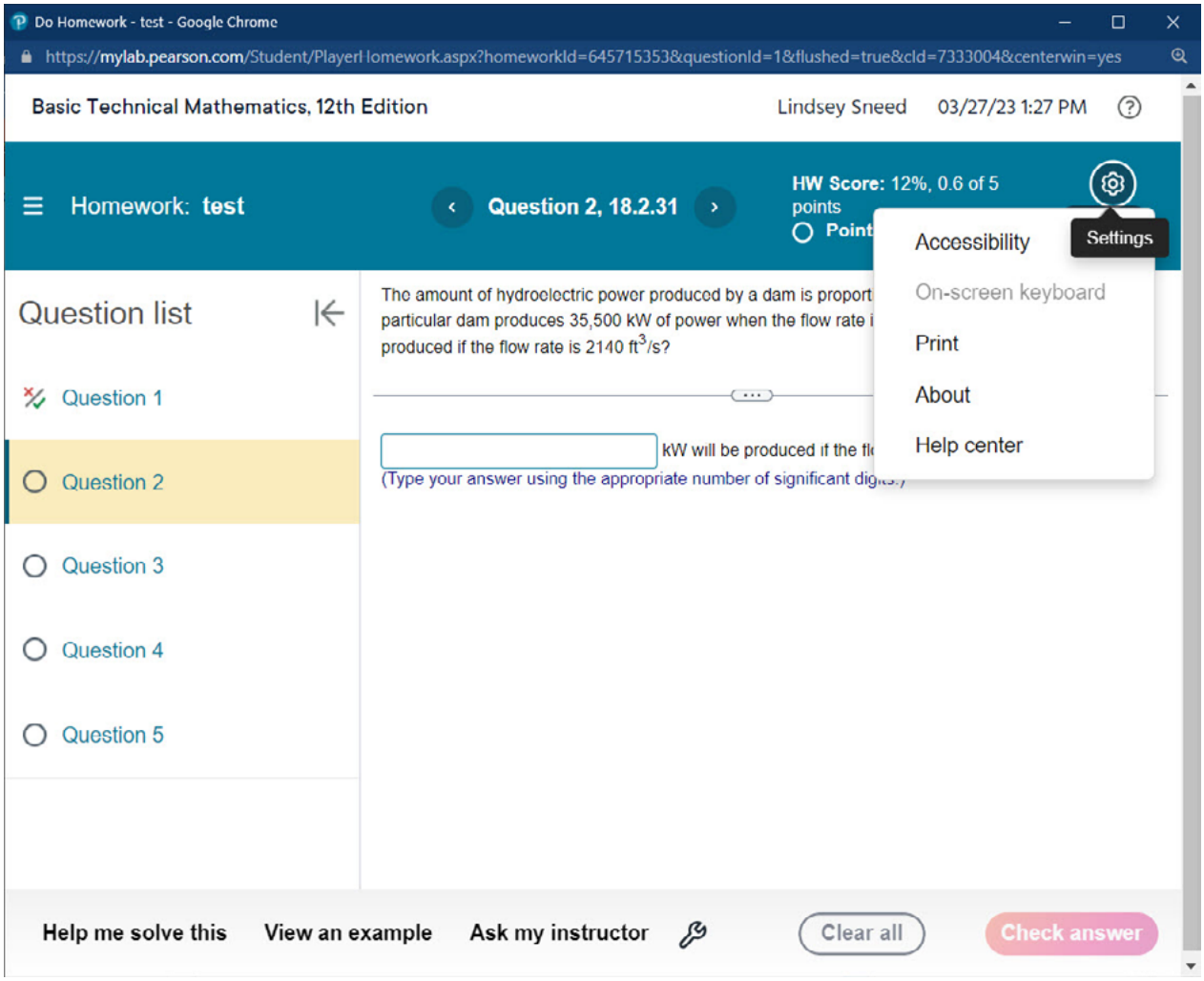
- Are navigable using screen readers and keyboards and are closed captioned.
- Video transcripts are available upon request. Some are available as supplemental materials within the course and do not require a request.
- Will include audio descriptions in future releases of visual details on screen that are not apparent from the audio alone.

## Other rich media

Since 2014, all new rich-media Mastering items have been developed with accessibility standards in mind. Hundreds of Mastering's older, most popular animations, videos, and interactive content items were converted from their original Flash format to accessible video or HTML5 formats.

For the most up-to-date information on media, refer to Pearson's discipline-specific accessibility status flyers.

## How to turn on Accessibility Mode




## eTextbooks

All Mastering courses with a copyright 2017 or later include Pearson eText, a platform that can be accessed with screen reader and keyboard navigation.

Many Pearson eTexts already have alternative text for images. By summer of 2019, all copyright-year 2018 - 2020 Mastering titles includes alternative text.

# Support

## VPATs and other accessibility status documents

VPATs and Accessibility Conformance and Remediation Forms (ACC&R) are available for many products upon request.

To request this information, contact Pearson Disability Support.

Learn more about Pearson's Accessibility online or contact your Pearson Sales Representative.