

5. Screen Readers (Madison Saunders)

Q: Should acronyms be formatted differently for screen readers?

- Best practice: add **periods** (U.S.A.) if you want them spelled out.
- Some readers pronounce all-caps letter by letter, but not consistently. Avoid all-caps for emphasis if it's not an acronym.

Q: Which screen reader is best for testing?

- Depends on your users:
 - NVDA is free and reliable (reads code more literally).
 - JAWS is widely used but sometimes “too smart,” filling in gaps.
 - VoiceOver (Mac/iOS) is necessary if your audience is Apple-heavy.
- Ideally, test with multiple tools.

Q: How do screen readers handle Google Docs or embedded content?

- Docs can work, but embedding inside another platform (e.g., Canvas) makes access clunky.
- Best practice: provide a **downloadable Word/PDF version** alongside embedded docs.

Q: Are emojis or Unicode text accessible?

- Yes, most have alt text. But don't rely solely on emojis to communicate meaning.