

How to Fix Moodle's HTML Issues with Guidance

Blackboard Ally is the designated accessibility tool integrated into our university's Moodle. It serves as a critical resource for enhancing the accessibility of online course content. This guidance is specifically tailored to help you fix any HTML issues that Ally detects. By following the steps and recommendations outlined here, you can ensure that your course materials meet Ally's standards of accessibility, making learning more inclusive for students.

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1. Media Issues

1.1 The image can induce seizures (Severe)

Sometimes, animated images/videos contain flashing or contrasting lights or patterns that can lead to seizures for people who suffer from photosensitive epilepsy, which is a very serious and potentially life-threatening condition. Animated images with these characteristics can be generally unpleasant to look at, even for those not prone to seizures.

How to fix: delete this kind of image/video and replace them with more appropriate ones.

1.2 The image does not have a description (Major)

The screenshot displays a web accessibility checker interface. On the left, a table lists 13 issues with their IDs, descriptions, and counts. On the right, a detailed view of the first issue is shown, including an accessibility score of 24% and a description of the problem: 'This image is missing a description'. Below this, there are buttons for 'What this means' and 'How to write a good description'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Add image description' with a text input box and an 'Add' button. Below that, there is a checkbox for 'Indicate image is decorative' and a note: 'This image is used for decoration only and a description is not needed'. A 'Help' link is also visible at the bottom right.

ID	Issue	Count
1.	Document: The document is missing a title	33,787
2.	Document: The document does not have a language set	21,089
3.	Document: The document's heading structure does not begin at one	8,058
4.	Document: The document does not have an appropriate heading structure	2,256
5.	HTML: The HTML content contains links without discernible text	2,082
6.	HTML: The HTML content has malformed tabs	2,037
7.	HTML: The HTML content does not have an appropriate heading structure	1,981
8.	Document: The document does not have the correct language set	1,877
9.	HTML: The HTML content does not have a language set	276
10.	HTML: The HTML content is missing a title	219
11.	HTML: The HTML content has malformed definition lists	204
12.	Document: The document's heading structure goes beyond six levels	78
13.	HTML: The HTML content has links or buttons with redundant text	33

How to fix: input texts in the Add image description box, then click the “**Add**” button, or click the “**Indicate image is decorative**”. Please note that the description should be different with the image’s file name.

1.3 The image has contrast issues (Major)

Accessibility score for: sample picture.png

24%

All issues ⓘ

This image has contrast issues

Guidance not available yet

We are updating the guidance for this issue.

Drop file to upload or **Browse**

Help ⓘ

1. Document: The document is missing a title	22,767	>
2. Document: The document does not have a language set	21,089	>
3. Document: The document's heading structure does not begin at one	8,004	>
4. Document: The document does not have an appropriate heading structure	2,216	>
5. HTML: The HTML content contains links without discernible text	2,082	>
6. HTML: The HTML content has malformed ids	2,037	>
7. HTML: The HTML content does not have an appropriate heading structure	1,981	>
8. Document: The document does not have the correct language set	1,877	>
9. HTML: The HTML content does not have a language set	376	>
10. HTML: The HTML content is missing a title	219	>
11. HTML: The HTML content has malformed definition lists	204	>
12. Document: The document's heading structure goes beyond six levels	79	>
13. HTML: The HTML content has links or buttons with redundant text	22	>

How to fix: replace the image with a more appropriate one. Or upload in this interface indicated by using the “**Browse**” Button.

1.4 The HTML content has videos without captions or with automated captions (Major)

Accessibility score for: Videos

0%

This item has videos with automated or no captions

What this means

Guidance not available yet

We are updating the guidance for this issue.

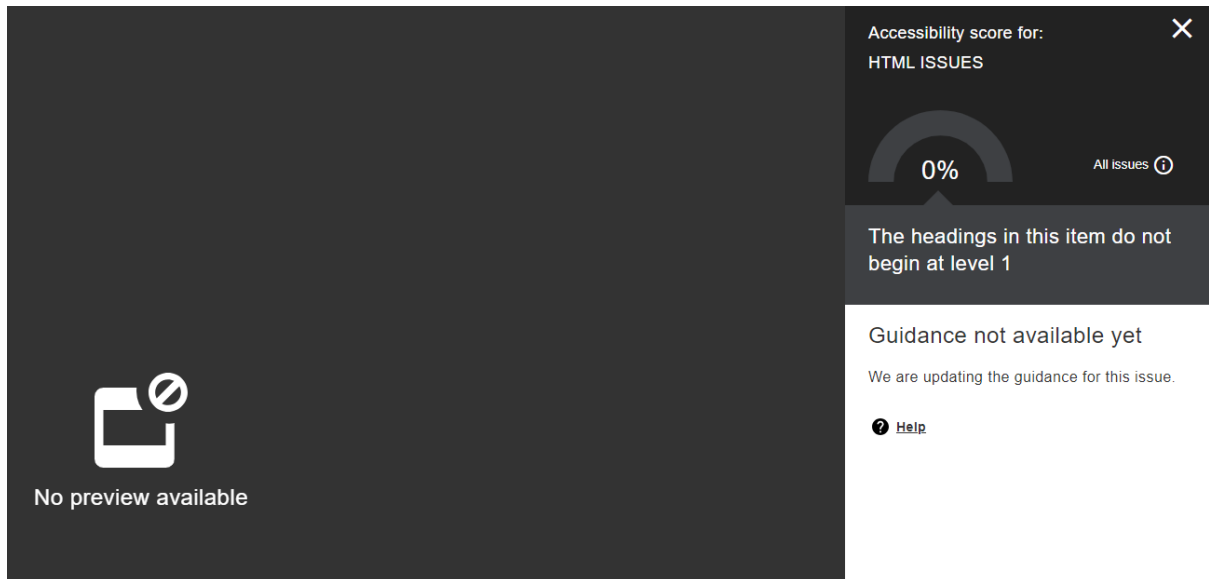
Help ⓘ

No preview available

How to fix: Normally, this issue caused by the "Record Video" functionality in the Moodle editor because this function does not generate automated captions for videos. However, Panopto videos automatically generate subtitles for lecture captures, and Microsoft Teams also provides automatic captions for recorded online sessions. If this issue occur, please upload your video to Panopto and share it via Panopto links. For videos from external sources, such as YouTube, automatic captions are typically available as well.

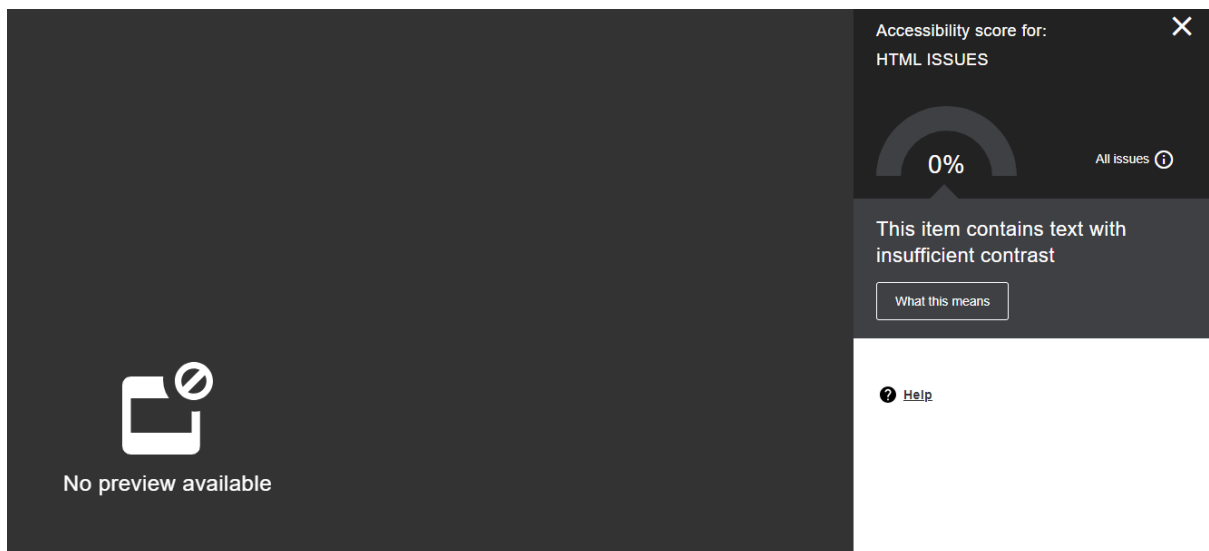
2. HTML Issues

2.1 The HTML's heading structure does not start at the right level (**Major**)



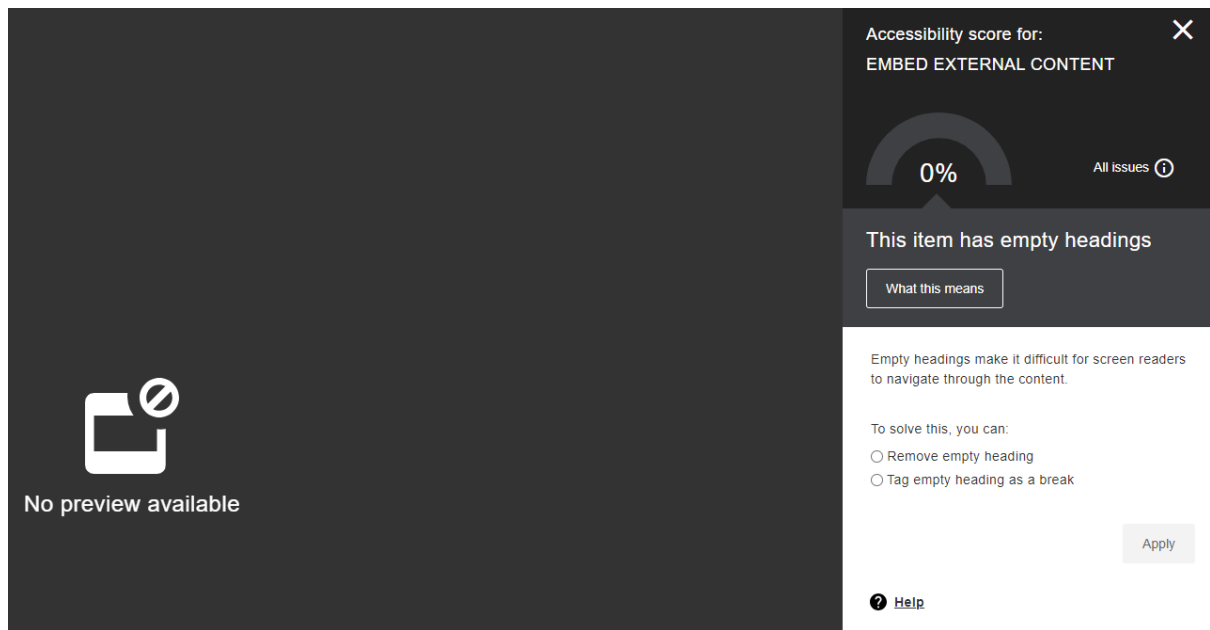
How to fix: edit the Heading tags in the Moodle editor, the structure should be start from large Heading, then medium, then small, and finally Paragraph. As they all represented different HTML heading tags (h3, h4, h5, p).

2.2 The HTML content contains text with insufficient contrast (**Major**)



How to fix: change the colour of the text using the [WebAIM: Contrast Checker](#) to ensure your colour contrast is sufficient. If your background is default white, note that all available colours in the Moodle editor have insufficient contrast, except for black colour.

2.3 The HTML content has empty headings (Major)



How to fix: Click the Ally option: “**Remove empty heading**”, or “**tag empty heading as a break**”, then click the “**Apply**” button.

Sometimes, this feature may not work as expected. In such case, you’ll need to access Moodle’s HTML Atto editor to locate and delete any Heading tags that do not contain content. For example: the tag `<h5></h5>` should be removed if it’s empty.

2.4 The HTML content has table headers that don’t have any content (Major)



How to fix: This issue usually occurs when you insert a table using Moodle’s editor but leave the first row empty. To resolve this problem, ensure that you input your header content in the first row. Note that copying a table from Excel into Moodle does not generate this issue.

2.5 The HTML content has form elements without a label (Major)



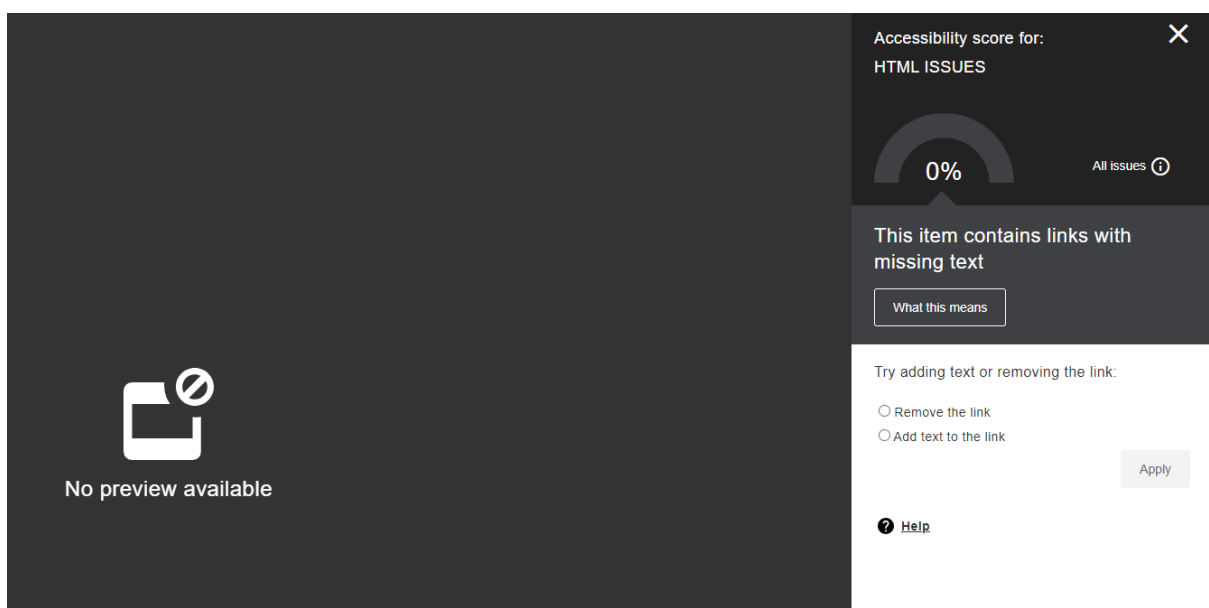
How to fix: This issue is not common unless you have some knowledge of HTML and mistakenly insert form or input tags. Please check your HTML editor to see if there are any input tags without a corresponding label tag.

2.6 The HTML content does not have an appropriate heading structure (Minor)

How to fix: Instead of adjusting font size, use the “**Heading**” style for section headings, applying them from large to small according to the sequence structure. Use the “**Paragraph**” style for the main body of text.

Resource: [Heading Order \(blackboard.com\)](https://blackboard.com)

2.7 The HTML content contains links without discernible text (Minor)



Normally, it's because hidden link content, such as ``, there is no content in between the a tags.

How to fix: Choose the “Remove the link” or “**Add text to the link**” as illustrated in the image above, then input the link text if you chose the latter option, and finally click the “**Apply**” button.

Resource: [Links With Missing Discernible Text \(blackboard.com\)](https://blackboard.com)

Note:

1. **Accessibility Report Update:** Please allow at least 30 minutes for updates due to lag issues.
2. **Outdated Issues:** Some issues may appear outdated as Moodle and Ally software are updated. Most are considered minor, such as “The HTML content does not have a language set”. These will no longer appear in future Moodle builds.
3. **Heading Structure:** In Moodle, we already utilise tags H1 and H2 for the web page design, so the largest font in the Moodle editor starts from H3 tag. It is crucial to be mindful of this structure as it can affect the experience of screen reader users, whose devices navigate based on HTML heading structure.
4. **Ally Detection Limitations:** Not all issues detected by Ally will be illustrated. Even if detected, be aware that your content might still be inaccessible based on Ally’s descriptions, including issues with contrast, heading structure, etc.