FONTCUE — FREE CHECKLIST

Text Contrast Checklist

Run every text and background pair through these checks before you publish or print.

- [ ] **1. Write down the exact colors**

  Get the hex codes of the text and the background. Over a photo, sample the lightest and darkest spot behind the letters.

- [ ] **2. Measure the contrast ratio**

  Enter both hex codes into a WCAG-based contrast checker and note the ratio (1:1 to 21:1).

- [ ] **3. Check regular text: 4.5:1 or higher**

  Body copy, captions and small labels need at least 4.5:1 (WCAG 2.2 level AA).

- [ ] **4. Check large text: 3:1 or higher**

  Large means 18 point or bigger, or 14 point bold or bigger. Logos and pure decoration are exempt.

- [ ] **5. View it at thumbnail size**

  Shrink the design to phone-feed size and see whether the words still read.

- [ ] **6. Switch to grayscale**

  If the text melts into the background without color, the lightness gap is too small.

- [ ] **7. Text on a photo: measure the worst spot**

  Check the brightest patch behind the letters, not the average tone.

- [ ] **8. Fix: overlay, shadow or outline**

  Try a 30 to 50 percent overlay, a subtle shadow or a stroke, and a bolder weight.

- [ ] **9. Avoid pale gray and deep blue on black**

  Pale gray on white and dark blue, purple or red on black fail most often.

- [ ] **10. Re-measure after every fix**

  Save the pairs that pass and reuse them across projects.