Complete WCAG AA Color Pairing Guide

This guide shows approved color combinations from the expanded palette that meet WCAG 2.2 Level AA (success criteria 1.4.3 and 1.4.1). Each combination is shown with "Burner ipsum" in Bespoke Slab (28px) and Roboto (16px). Ratios are calculated with the WCAG relative-luminance formula.

23	19	3	1	8
Text color pairs	AAA pairs	AA-only pairs	Large text only	Backgrounds approved for link text

AAA Meets Level AAA (7:1 normal, 4.5:1 large) AA Meets Level AA (4.5:1 normal, 3:1 large) AA Large only 3:1 to 4.49:1. Headings 24px+ (or 18.67px+ bold) only

Quick Navigation

Maximum Contrast (Black & White)
Dark Backgrounds
Light Backgrounds
Mid-Tone Combinations
Accent Color Combinations
Link Text: Purple 400 (#534BE7)

Maximum Contrast Combinations

The highest contrast pairs in your palette, perfect for critical text and key interfaces. These provide the best readability.

White on Black

21.00:1 AAA #FFFFFF on #000000

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Black on Gray 25

20.47:1 AAA #000000 on #FCFCFC

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

White on Gray 950

19.17:1 AAA #FFFFFF on #0F0F0F

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

White on Gray 900

18.42:1 AAA #FFFFFF on #141414

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Text on Dark Backgrounds

Light text on dark backgrounds for dark mode interfaces, headers, and hero sections.

White on Gray 800

14.55:1 AAA #FFFFFF on #292929

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

White on Gray 700

10.05:1 AAA #FFFFFF on #424242

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

White on Gray 600

7.81:1 AAA #FFFFFF on #525252

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

White on Gray 500

4.74:1 AA #FFFFFF on #737373

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Purple 600 on White

14.24:1 AAA #181287 on #FFFFFF

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Text on Light Backgrounds

Dark text on light and tinted backgrounds for body text and main content areas.

Black on White

21.00:1 AAA #000000 on #FFFFFF

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Gray 900 on White

18.42:1 AAA #141414 on #FFFFFF

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Gray 800 on Yellow 50

13.29:1 AAA #292929 on #FFF5CC

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Gray 800 on Orange 25

13.18:1 AAA #292929 on #FFF1EA

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Gray 800 on Green 50

12.74:1 AAA #292929 on #D4F7F2

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Gray 800 on Purple 50

9.97:1 AAA #292929 on #D4D2F9

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Mid-Tone Combinations

Gray-on-gray combinations for secondary text, captions, and subtle UI elements.

Gray 900 on Gray 200

14.62:1 AAA #141414 on #E5E5E5

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Gray 700 on Gray 50

9.63:1 AAA #424242 on #FAFAFA

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Gray 600 on Gray 100

7.17:1 AAA #525252 on #F5F5F5

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Accent Color Combinations

Colored text on various backgrounds for links, buttons, and brand accents.

Green 600 on White

4.74:1 AA #188173 on #FFFFFF

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Blue 300 on Gray 800

3.68:1 AA Large only #467BEC on #292929

Large text only (24px+, or 18.67px+ bold). Fails for 16px body text and links.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Blue 300 on Black

5.30:1 AA #467BEC on #000000

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Purple 600 on Gray 200

11.30:1 AAA #181287 on #E5E5E5

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Orange 200 on Gray 800

7.50:1 AAA #FFA477 on #292929

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum

ROBOTO 16PX (REVERSED)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides.

Link Text: Purple 400 (#534BE7)

Backgrounds that support the link color #534BE7 at 16px body size. All 8 pass AA; none reach AAA.

Two tests apply to every link:

- **1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum):** link text needs 4.5:1 against its background, the same as body text.
- **1.4.1 Use of Color:** a link must be identifiable by more than color. Either underline it, or give it 3:1 against the surrounding text *and* add a non-color cue on hover and focus. #534BE7 measures 2.44:1 against Gray 800 body text, so **links in body copy must be underlined.**
- Keep a visible focus indicator. The samples below use a 2px #534BE7 outline on keyboard focus.

Link on White

5.95:1 AA #534BE7 on #FFFFFF
Link vs. Gray 800 body text: 2.44:1. Below 3:1, so an underline is required (1.4.1).

INLINE LINK IN ROBOTO 16PX BODY TEXT (GRAY 800)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides, and Black Rock City rises again.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX LINK
Burner ipsum

STANDALONE LINK, ROBOTO 16PX BOLD
Read the survival guide

Link on Gray 25

5.80:1 AA #534BE7 on #FCFCFC
Link vs. Gray 800 body text: 2.44:1. Below 3:1, so an underline is required (1.4.1).

INLINE LINK IN ROBOTO 16PX BODY TEXT (GRAY 800)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides, and Black Rock City rises again.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX LINK
Burner ipsum

STANDALONE LINK, ROBOTO 16PX BOLD
Read the survival guide

Link on Gray 50

5.70:1 AA #534BE7 on #FAFAFA
Link vs. Gray 800 body text: 2.44:1. Below 3:1, so an underline is required (1.4.1).

INLINE LINK IN ROBOTO 16PX BODY TEXT (GRAY 800)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides, and Black Rock City rises again.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX LINK
Burner ipsum

STANDALONE LINK, ROBOTO 16PX BOLD
Read the survival guide

Link on Gray 100

5.46:1 AA #534BE7 on #F5F5F5
Link vs. Gray 800 body text: 2.44:1. Below 3:1, so an underline is required (1.4.1).

INLINE LINK IN ROBOTO 16PX BODY TEXT (GRAY 800)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides, and Black Rock City rises again.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX LINK
Burner ipsum

STANDALONE LINK, ROBOTO 16PX BOLD
Read the survival guide

Link on Yellow 50

5.44:1 AA #534BE7 on #FFF5CC
Link vs. Gray 800 body text: 2.44:1. Below 3:1, so an underline is required (1.4.1).

INLINE LINK IN ROBOTO 16PX BODY TEXT (GRAY 800)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides, and Black Rock City rises again.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX LINK
Burner ipsum

STANDALONE LINK, ROBOTO 16PX BOLD
Read the survival guide

Link on Orange 25

5.39:1 AA #534BE7 on #FFF1EA
Link vs. Gray 800 body text: 2.44:1. Below 3:1, so an underline is required (1.4.1).

INLINE LINK IN ROBOTO 16PX BODY TEXT (GRAY 800)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides, and Black Rock City rises again.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX LINK
Burner ipsum

STANDALONE LINK, ROBOTO 16PX BOLD
Read the survival guide

Link on Green 50

5.21:1 AA #534BE7 on #D4F7F2
Link vs. Gray 800 body text: 2.44:1. Below 3:1, so an underline is required (1.4.1).

INLINE LINK IN ROBOTO 16PX BODY TEXT (GRAY 800)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides, and Black Rock City rises again.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX LINK
Burner ipsum

STANDALONE LINK, ROBOTO 16PX BOLD
Read the survival guide

Link on Gray 200

4.73:1 AA #534BE7 on #E5E5E5
Link vs. Gray 900 body text: 3.10:1. Meets 3:1, but keep the underline for consistency.

INLINE LINK IN ROBOTO 16PX BODY TEXT (GRAY 900)
Burner ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. The playa provides, and Black Rock City rises again.

BESPOKE SLAB 28PX LINK
Burner ipsum

STANDALONE LINK, ROBOTO 16PX BOLD
Read the survival guide

Backgrounds not approved for #534BE7 link text

Background	Hex	Ratio	Level	Use
Gray 300	#D6D6D6	4.10:1	AA Large only	Headings 24px+ (or 18.67px+ bold) only
Purple 50	#D4D2F9	4.08:1	AA Large only	Headings 24px+ (or 18.67px+ bold) only
Black	#000000	3.53:1	AA Large only	Headings 24px+ (or 18.67px+ bold) only
Gray 950	#0F0F0F	3.22:1	AA Large only	Headings 24px+ (or 18.67px+ bold) only
Gray 900	#141414	3.10:1	AA Large only	Headings 24px+ (or 18.67px+ bold) only
Orange 200	#FFA477	3.07:1	AA Large only	Headings 24px+ (or 18.67px+ bold) only
Gray 800	#292929	2.44:1	Fail	Do not use
Purple 600	#181287	2.39:1	Fail	Do not use
Gray 400	#A3A3A3	2.36:1	Fail	Do not use
Gray 700	#424242	1.69:1	Fail	Do not use
Blue 300	#467BEC	1.50:1	Fail	Do not use
Purple 300	#7069E6	1.38:1	Fail	Do not use
Gray 600	#525252	1.31:1	Fail	Do not use
Gray 500	#737373	1.26:1	Fail	Do not use
Green 600	#188173	1.25:1	Fail	Do not use

Link text on dark backgrounds: per brand guidelines, use Orange 200 (#FFA477) or White (#FFFFFF). Orange 200 passes AA on Gray 700 and darker, and on Purple 600. It drops to large-text only on Gray 600, so use White there. Orange 200 measures 1.94:1 against White body text, so **links must be underlined** on dark backgrounds too.

Orange 200 (#FFA477) and White (#FFFFFF) as link text on dark backgrounds

Background	Hex	Orange 200 ratio	Orange 200 level	White ratio	White level
Black	#000000	10.83:1	AAA	21.00:1	AAA
Gray 950	#0F0F0F	9.88:1	AAA	19.17:1	AAA
Gray 900	#141414	9.50:1	AAA	18.42:1	AAA
Gray 800	#292929	7.50:1	AAA	14.55:1	AAA
Gray 700	#424242	5.18:1	AA	10.05:1	AAA
Purple 600	#181287	7.34:1	AAA	14.24:1	AAA
Gray 600	#525252	4.03:1	AA Large only	7.81:1	AAA