

Improve Link Text-Prepare Links for Screen Readers

One feature of a typical screen-reader is that the visually-impaired user can configure it to read all of the links on a page before reading the text of the page. This is especially great for students who are revisiting a section of your course--they don't have to listen to a whole page being read in order to go to a site or document to which a link has been created.

- ✚ The feature of pulling links first is not so great if the link text doesn't give the student any idea what the link may deliver.
- ✚ Imagine **hearing** a list of links with text that reads, "[Click here](http://beyondsight.com/goodies.htm)," or (letter by letter) <http://beyondsight.com/goodies.htm>.
- ✚ This link text may be perfectly understandable when accompanied by the text on the page, but when it is separated from that text, it could be hard to know or remember why the link is useful.
- ✚ The best idea is to make your link text very descriptive.
- ✚ Go to the **Author** side of the **Text/Multimedia-type Content Item**, and on the **Design** side of the **Visual Editor**, highlight the underlined link.
- ✚ Type what you want as the new link.
 - ✓ Change "[Click here](#)" to "[Click here to visit the Fact Sheet for Web Content Accessibility Guidelines](#)."
 - ✓ Change "<http://beyondsight.com/goodies.htm>" to something like, "[here are some free demos of adaptive technology software](#)."
- ✚ Click **Save Changes** before going to another page or checking the **Course** side of the page.

Expanding your link text is a quick and easy way to make small alterations to your course that will result in better ease-of-use for the visually-impaired student (and for your sighted students as well!).