# FunDAI Checklist: Accessible Use of Color, Color Contrast and Text/Font Style

## Color

* **Color used to emphasize or convey information is supplemented with secondary formatting.***Explanation:* Students unable to distinguish between colors rely on secondary formatting as cues to help figure out emphasis or meaning.
* **Color-coding is supplemented with a secondary mechanism, such as a shape or symbol.***Explanation:* Students unable to distinguish between colors rely on shapes or symbols as cues to help figure out content.

## Contrast

* **Strong color contrast is present between the foreground (text or graphics) and the background. The content is readable.***Explanation: Students with low vision or colorblindness need sufficient contrast between the foreground (text or graphics) and the background. Good contrast also benefits mobile users. Tip: If unsure of the contrast, use The Paciello Group’s Color Contrast Analyzer; download from: developer.paciellogroup.com/resource.*
* **Black text on a red background or red text on a black background is avoided.** *Explanation: Some students with color blindness lack the ability to detect the lower color wave frequencies associated with red; red appears black, so this combination should be avoided.*
* **Color combinations that seem to vibrate or create an afterimage are avoided**. *Explanation: Placing areas of brightly colored hues together can cause an afterimage effect (or “visual vibration”), which makes it difficult to focus on the content.*

## Text/Font Style

* **Basic, simple, easy-to-read fonts are used.***Explanation: Use fonts that are available by default in modern operating systems. Avoid decorative, frilly fonts. Good options to consider are: Arial, Calibri, Tahoma, Trebuchet MS, and Verdana.*
* **Blinking or moving text is avoided.***Explanation: Text that blinks or moves can be distracting to all learners and especially so for learners with attention deficits or cognitive disabilities. Additionally, for those susceptible, there is a possibility that blinking text will trigger a seizure.*
* **Real text, not text in a graphic, is used whenever possible.***Explanation: When text is actually an image, it cannot be read by a screen reader. Providing an alternative text may be an option; however, using real text is the recommendation because when the image needs to be significantly enlarged for students with low vision, the text in the image may become distorted and unrecognizable.*