



# Proposed changes for WCAG 2.3

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# Proposed SC 1.3.XX Ruby Annotations (Level A)

- **Requirement:**

When ruby is used, the **association between the ruby base and its annotation(s)** must be **programmatically determinable**.

- **This enables:**

- Identifying which annotation belongs to which base
- Showing or hiding ruby annotations
- Adjusting visual presentation
- Preserving the base–annotation relationship in **text-to-speech** and other outputs

# Why Level A

- If the base–annotation association is lost, **the intended meaning cannot be understood.**  
This is a **content availability** issue, not an enhancement.  
→ Therefore **Level A.**

# Current Status of Ruby Support

- **Web / EPUB:**

The base–annotation relationship is generally **preserved** by default.

→ This success criterion is **already met** in most cases.

- **PDF ~10 years ago:**

Ruby was often exported as **just a smaller font on a separate line**, so the **connection to the parent text was lost**.

- **PDF today:**

Tagged PDF can now **preserve the connection**, and export tools are **much better**, though **quality still varies** and must be checked.

# Proposed reformulation of notes in two SCs

- Some notes were added in response to CJK feedback.
- But they are non-normative, ad-hoc, and do not fix the underlying issues.
- They function as an alibi, not a solution.

# Intent

- Some accessibility needs **depend on the writing system.**
- The **goal (accessibility)** is **the same across languages.**
- But the **appropriate line length, spacing, etc.** may **differ.**
  - We need a way to express **shared intent** with **language-specific values.**

# Natural-Language-Dependent Requirements (1.3.x)

- The **success criterion stays unified**.
- **Only specific parts** vary by language when needed.
- WCAG may **reference external layout specifications** (e.g., **JLReq**).
- This makes WCAG **work for all writing systems** without splitting the standard.