

Accessible Tables

- Table information difficult to follow for visually impaired readers – screen readers/braille embossers may linearise information
- Provide table descriptions (metadata)
 - Caption
 - Summary

Table Example

Country	Population (millions)	% Exports to EU
Ireland	4.2	63.4
France	62.9	62.6
Belgium	10.9	76.4
United Kingdom	60.4	56.9

Table Summary

```
<table summary="A table containing the
  figures for population and for
  percentage of exports going to other EU
  countries for Ireland, France, Belgium
  and United Kingdom">
```

```
<tr> table continues.....
```

Note: summary is not displayed by visual browsers – similar to alt attribute for images.

Table Headers

- Use `<th> ... </th>` to create column headings. Do not be tempted to use `<td>... </td>` with fonts/colours to make first row **look like** column headings
- Insert abbreviations to headers – provides alternative (shorter) version for screen readers

Headers and Abbreviations

```
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th abbr="population">Population (millions)</th>
<th abbr="EU exports"> Percentage of Exports to EU</th>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td><td>4.2</td><td>63.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td><td>62.9</td><td>62.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td><td>10.9</td><td>76.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td><td>60.4</td><td>56.9</td>
</tr>
```

Associating Headers with Data – scope

associates data with row and column headings

```
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th scope="column" abbr="population">Population
  (millions)</th>
<th scope="column" abbr="EU exports"> Percentage Exports to
  EU</th>
</tr>
<tr>
<th scope="row">Ireland</th>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>63.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<th scope="row"> France</th>
<td>62.9</td><td>62.6</td>
</tr>
```

.....

.....*and so on*

Other Considerations

- For complex tables (e.g. nested) use `id` to associate data cells with specific headers
- Keep tables simple
- Keep tables for presenting data – avoid using tables for presentation (use CSS instead)