The Ultimate Webdesign Usability Checklist

Technical
1. Did you validate your (X)HTML using W3C Markup Validation Service?
2. Did you validate your CSS using W3C CSS Validation Service?
3. Did you check your website in at least IE, FF, Opera and Safari?

Images
4. Did you add the ALT and TITLE attributes to all your important images?
5. Did you add the LONGDESC attributes to all your image that need a description?
6. Did you write effective ALT text?
7. Did you make the size of your pages less then 50KB?
8. Did you choose the appropriate filetype for your images?
9. Did you add a description to images that support your content?
10. Did you use plain text instead of images for important content?

Content
11. Did you use a sans-serif typeface with a decent font size for your body text?
12. Did you adjusted the leading and tracking, if necessary, to increase readability?
13. Did you align your body text to the left? (depends on language)
14. Did you use EM or percentages instead of PX?
15. Did you make sure that there are no whole sentences in uppercase?
16. Did you use less then 78 characters, including spaces, per line?
17. Did you make brief and precise paragraphs with explanatory titles?
18. Did you use lists to sum things up?
19. Did you write your conclusion first and then your explanation?
20. Did you create enough contrast between the text and the background?
21. Did you make your website also accessible for text-only browsers?
22. Did you make sure that there are no 'under construction' pages?
23. Did you include a print function on pages with a large amount of text?
24. Did you include a print stylesheet?
25. Did you replace all special characters with the ISO Latin-1 codes?
26. Did you spell check your content and did you proofread for grammar errors?

Navigation

27. Did you make sure that all your links work? W3C Link checker does the job.
28. Did you include a link to all your main pages on your homepage?
29. Did you include your main navigation on every page?
30. Did you use no more then 8 items in your main navigation?
31. Did you distinguish the active and nonactive page in the menu?
32. Did you use self explanatory link text instead of 'click here'?
33. Did you use self explanatory link text instead of business terms?
34. Did you make a distinction between visited and non-visited links?
35. Did you make a distinction between links and plain text?
36. Did you add the TITLE attribute to all your links?
37. Did you use breadcrumbs if you have a large amount of pages?
38. Did you include a search option if you have a large amount of pages?
39. Did you make your logo link to your homepage?
40. Did you make a skip to content link at the top of your pages?
41. Did you make a skip to menu link at the top of your pages?
42. Did you make it possible to browse your website using SHIFT-TAB and RETURN?
43. Did you make sure you didn't use any javascript links?

Structure

44. Did you make a consistent page structure?
45. Did you place your logo at the top left?
46. Did you place an explanatory tag line next to your logo?
47. Did you place your search box at the top right?
48. Did you place important content above the fold/scroll?
49. Did you make your design on a grid system?
50. Did you make your design fluid using percentages?
51. Did you make your website also viewable on low resolutions?
52. Did you make custom titles (as in TITLE tag) for all your pages?

Forms

53. Did you make sure that users don't return to an altered form after an error?
54. Did you make a friendly and informative error page?
55. Did you make a friendly 'thank you' page with a confirmation email?
56. Did you add only a 'submit' button and no 'reset' button?
57. Did you tell the user what to expect after clicking the submit button?
58. Did you split long forms up into multiply pages?
59. Did you gave the user room to type?
60. Did you place an asterisk when a field is compulsatory?
61. Did you keep the standard look of input fields that is generated by the browser?
62. Did you create a logical order of asking information?
63. Did you use double input fields for passwords only?
64. Did you let the computer, not the user, handle information formatting?
65. Did you make sure that users can fill in the entire form using the TAB key?
66. Did you explain to the user why you ask certain information?
67. Did you explain to the user what you are going to do with that information?
68. Did you use realtime validation using AJAX?
69. Did you use the LABEL tag?
70. Did you place the LABEL above the input field, instead of next to it?

71. Did you choose the correct input type for different data?
72. Did you make the top input field automatically active using setfocus?
73. Did you destinguish the active field from non-active fields using input:focus?
74. Did you use the FIELDSET and LEGEND entities when appropriate?
75. Did you check if your forms also work with Javascript turned off?

Multimedia
76. Did you make sure that essential information/navigation is not made in Flash?
77. Did you make sure that music and videoclips don't start playing automatically?
78. Did you make sure that music and videoclips can be turned off at any time?
79. Did you inform the user about the size and length of your music and videoclips?

Extra features
80. Did you make a custom 404 page?
81. Did you make a site map?
82. Did you make a rss feed? (if you add content regularly)
83. Did you make a high contrast version of your website?
84. Did you make good looking URL's (like this one)?
85. Did you make sure that there are no frames on your website?
86. Did you make sure that there are no pop ups on your website?
87. Did you make a contact form instead of just an email link?