

When to use ARIA, and the rule that makes it mostly unnecessary.

ARIA adds semantics that HTML cannot express. Prefer the HTML.

The rules

Use a native element if one exists

Do not change native semantics

Every interactive control must be keyboard usable

Never use aria-hidden on a focusable element

Genuinely useful

aria-label — name an unlabelled control

aria-live — announce dynamic updates

aria-expanded — disclosure state

aria-current — which item is active

Rarely needed

role="button" — use <button>

role="list" — use

role="navigation" — use <nav>

aria-live="polite" announces after the current speech; "assertive" interrupts. Use assertive only for errors.