

Tooltips & Popovers



What is it for?

Tooltips and popovers give users extra info on demand, but they often fail accessibility by being:

- Mouse-only. They don't appear for keyboard users (focus).
- Silent. Screen readers don't announce the new content.
- Hard to close. Users get 'stuck', or the tooltip vanishes too fast.

It's important to note that popovers and modals are not the same thing. A modal demands your full attention, while a popover just offers extra information

How to support it

They must work for keyboard, mouse, and screen reader users.

- Simple tooltips (read-only info) should show on hover and focus, and use aria-describedby to link the trigger button to the tooltip. This is how screen readers announce it
- Complex popovers (with buttons/links inside) should trigger on click (not hover), manage keyboard focus, and be easy to close

Useful Links

[WAI-ARIA Authoring Practices - Tooltip Pattern](#)