

The Ultimate On-Page SEO Checklist

Use this step-by-step guide for every new and existing piece of content to ensure maximum visibility in search engines.

Part 1: Core On-Page Elements

- **Title Tag:**
 - ☐ Is the title under 60 characters?
 - ☐ Does it include the primary keyword near the beginning?
 - ☐ Is the title compelling and written for humans (not just bots)?
 - ☐ Is the title unique for this page?
- **Meta Description:**
 - ☐ Is the meta description under 160 characters?
 - ☐ Does it accurately summarize the page content?
 - ☐ Does it include the primary keyword naturally?
 - ☐ Does it contain a call-to-action (e.g., "Learn more," "Discover how")?
- **URL:**
 - ☐ Is the URL short, descriptive, and easy to read?
 - ☐ Does it contain the primary keyword?
 - ☐ Are words separated by hyphens (-), not underscores (_)?
- **Technical:**
 - ☐ Is the correct canonical URL specified to avoid duplicate content?
 - ☐ Is relevant Schema markup (e.g., Article, FAQ, Product) implemented?

Part 2: Content Structure & Readability

- **Heading Structure:**
 - ☐ Is there only ONE `<h1>` tag on the page (usually the article title)?
 - ☐ Are `<h2>` and `<h3>` tags used to create a logical hierarchy?
 - ☐ Do headings accurately describe the content that follows?
 - ☐ Are secondary keywords used in headings where it feels natural?
- **Content Body:**
 - ☐ Is the primary keyword mentioned within the first 100 words?
 - ☐ Is the content valuable, well-researched, and easy to understand?
 - ☐ Are paragraphs short (3-5 sentences)?
 - ☐ Is the content scannable (using bullet points, numbered lists, and bold text)?

Part 3: Images & Media Optimization

- **Image Alt Text:**

- ☐ Does every meaningful image have descriptive, unique `image alt text`?
- ☐ Does the alt text describe the image for visually impaired users?
- ☐ Is the primary keyword included in the alt text of at least one image if relevant?
- **File Names & Performance:**
 - ☐ Are image file names descriptive (e.g., `on-page-seo-checklist.jpg`)?
 - ☐ Are images compressed to ensure fast loading times?
 - ☐ Is lazy loading implemented for images below the fold?

Part 4: Internal Linking & Site Architecture

- **Internal Links:**
 - ☐ Are there 2-5 links to other relevant, authoritative pages on your website?
 - ☐ Does the anchor text of the links accurately describe the destination page?
 - ☐ Do links provide genuine value to the reader?
- **External Links:**
 - ☐ Are there 1-2 links to external, high-authority, non-competing websites?
 - ☐ Do external links open in a new tab (`target="_blank"`)?

Part 5: Final Review & Technical Checks

- **User Experience:**
 - ☐ Is the page mobile-friendly and responsive?
 - ☐ Does the page load in under 3 seconds?
 - ☐ Is there a clear call-to-action (CTA) on the page?
- **Indexing:**
 - ☐ Has the page been submitted to Google Search Console for indexing?
 - ☐ Have you checked for any crawl errors related to this page?