

WRT Reading Tools

Complete Documentation v1.1.2

Description	Adds a bar with reading information (time, word count, views) and accessibility tools (font resizing, contrast, clean print) to WordPress content.
Version	1.1.2
Author	LevelNetwork.it
Minimum Requirements	WordPress 5.0+, PHP 7.4+

1. Introduction

WRT Reading Tools is a comprehensive plugin designed to enhance the reading experience and accessibility of content on your WordPress site. It adds an elegant, customizable bar above or below Posts and Pages, providing readers with useful metadata and interactive tools.

The plugin is lightweight, translation-ready, and offers extensive customization options via the administration panel, including a live color preview.

2. Key Features

2.1 Information Components

- **Word Count:** Automatically calculates and displays the total number of words in the main content.
 - *New in v1.1.2:* Uses an advanced DOM/XPath method for higher accuracy, including a fallback system. You can also define a specific CSS selector in the settings.
- **Estimated Reading Time:** Shows the time needed to read the article in minutes, calculated based on word count and a configurable Words Per Minute (WPM) speed.
- **View Counter:** Tracks and displays the number of article views. It uses AJAX for maximum compatibility with caching systems, includes security nonces, and cookie tracking to prevent duplicate counts.
 - *Note:* Disabled by default; must be enabled in settings. Logged-in administrators are not counted.

2.2 Accessibility and Utility Tools

- **Font Resizer:** "+" and "-" buttons to increase or decrease the font size of the main content. Includes an optional "Reset" button. Stores user preferences via LocalStorage.
- **Contrast Mode (Night Mode):** A toggle to activate/deactivate a high-contrast or night mode. Stores the user's preference.
 - *New in v1.1.2:* A wide selection of button icons available directly from the settings.
- **Clean Print:** A button to print a clean version of the main content only, formatted for printing while hiding unnecessary elements like the bar itself, sidebars, or footers. Uses a hidden iframe for precise results.

2.3 Backend and Customization Features

- **Over 30 Color Palettes:** A large selection of predefined color schemes with a **live preview** directly on the settings page.
- **Target Selectors:** Crucial settings to define the theme's CSS selectors that the font resizer and print function should act upon, ensuring compatibility with almost all themes.
- **Custom CSS:** A dedicated field to insert additional CSS rules for further style refinement.
- **Statistics Metabox:** Adds a box in the post edit screen (sidebar) showing total views, allowing a custom starting value for that post, and an AJAX button to reset statistics.

3. Installation and Initial Configuration

1. Upload the plugin folder to the `/wp-content/plugins/` directory or install it via the dashboard (**Plugins > Add New > Upload Plugin**).
2. Activate the plugin.
3. Navigate to **Settings > Reading Tools** to access the configuration.

⚠ IMPORTANT: The first fundamental step after activation is to correctly configure the **Target Selectors** (see section 4.2) so that the font resizer and print tools work correctly on your theme.

4. Usage Guide and Best Practices

The settings page is organized into logical sections.

4.1 Display Settings

- **Show On:** Choose where to automatically display the bar (Posts only, Pages only, Both, or "Manual Placement Only" to use shortcodes only). The homepage is always excluded automatically.
- **Position:** Above or Below the content.
- **Show on Mobile:** Option to hide the bar on small screens via CSS.

4.2 Target Selectors - Crucial

- **Font Resizer Target:** Enter the CSS selector for your theme's main text container (e.g., `.entry-content` or `#main-content`). If the +/- buttons don't work, this selector is likely incorrect.
- **Clean Print Target:** Enter the selector for the specific area to be printed. Usually, this is the same as the Font Resizer target.
- **Word Count Target (Optional):** Specific selector for word calculation. If left empty, it falls back to the filtered content.

4.3 Components & Options

- Enable/Disable individually: Word Count, Reading Time, View Counter, Font Resizer.
- Configure advanced options:
 - **WPM:** Words per minute for time estimation (Default: 200).
 - **Global Start:** Initial view value for new posts.
 - **Cookie Hours:** Validity period for the view tracking cookie (Default: 6 hours).

4.4 Toolbar Buttons

- Enable/Disable additional buttons: Size Reset, Contrast, Print.
- **Contrast Button Icon:** Select the icon for the contrast button, with a live preview in the palette section.

4.5 Color Palette & Custom CSS

- Choose from over 30 palettes. The **Live Preview area** will instantly show how the bar will appear, including info icons, buttons, and chosen contrast icons.
- Use the **Custom CSS Rules** field for specific overrides.

5. Shortcodes

Starting from version 1.1.2, to ensure stability and data consistency, only one shortcode is supported:

- `[wrt_only_tools]` - Displays **only the interactive button group** (Resizer +/-, Reset, Contrast, Print), based on which buttons are enabled in global settings.
 - *Usage Example:* `[wrt_only_tools id="123"]` (ID is optional, useful for forcing HTML element uniqueness or post context).
 - *Note:* For buttons to function, the plugin assets (JS/CSS) must be loaded on the page. This usually happens if the main bar is enabled for that content type, even if hidden via CSS.

⚠ Update Note: Shortcodes for individual data points (words, time, views, full bar) present in previous versions have been removed as they were unstable or inconsistent with the new advanced calculation methods.

6. View Statistics Metabox (Admin)

In the edit screen for Posts and Pages (sidebar), you will find the "**WRT View Stats**" box:

- **Total Views:** Displays the current formatted count.
- **Reset (Button):** Immediately clears views via AJAX (requires confirmation). The count updates after a page refresh.
- **Start Count At:** Allows setting a specific starting value for **this** post.
 - *Note:* This field is editable only if the post is in draft/unpublished status or if the current count is exactly 0. Once tracking begins (>0), the starting value is no longer editable to maintain data integrity. If empty, it uses the global default.

7. Technical Notes for Developers

Main Hooks and Constants

- The plugin defines several constants in the main file (`wrt-reading-tools.php`) for versions, paths, and meta/nonce keys.
- Uses `wp_localize_script` to pass data to the frontend in the unified `wrt_frontend_params` object (or `wrt_admin_params` in the backend).
- Main filter: `the_content` (priority 20) for automatic bar insertion.
- Available filters for developers:
 - `wrt_metabox_post_types` : Modify post types where the metabox appears.
 - `wrt_available_layouts` : (Inherited structure, specifically for palettes via `wrt_get_color_palettes`).
 - `wrt_show_on_post_type` : Fine control over bar display per post type.
 - `wrt_frontend_localize_params` / `wrt_admin_localize_params` : Filter data passed to JS.

Word Count Calculation Method (DOM/XPath)

The plugin attempts to load filtered content into a `DOMDocument` , executes an XPath query based on the configured selector to extract clean text, and counts the words. If the selector is complex or DOM loading fails, it uses a fallback based on minimal cleaning of the full content via `strip_tags` .

Plugin developed by [Level Network](#).

If you find this tool useful, please consider a  [donation](#).