HREFLANG TAGS FOR BEGINNERS

A COMPLETE CHECKLIST

If you’re creating a multilingual website, you’ll need hreflang tags. But, hreflang tags are notoriously difficult to implement.

Use our beginner’s checklist, which highlights exactly how to navigate this complex subject, step-by-step.

BEST PRACTICES WHEN USING HREFLANG TAGS

- Choose only one method of implementation
  - For HTML content Add hreflang attributes in the section of every page
  - For non-HTML content Add hreflang attributes to the files’ HTTP headers
  - Add hreflang tags to all web pages of your website Add the attribute only to your website’s XML sitemap using xhtml:link
- Use the correct language and region codes for hreflang link attributes
- Add hreflang tags to all pages of your website with language and regional variants, not just the homepage
- Don’t add hreflang tags to noindexed pages
  - Remove noindex tags from pages you want indexed
- Index web pages after adding hreflang tags
- Add return hreflang links to all original web pages and alternates and have them point to each other
- Create a fallback page for uncatered variants that Google can serve to visitors with language and region settings you haven’t catered for
  - Add the x-default hreflang attribute to these pages
- Update your hreflang tag implementation when a page is deleted or redirected
- Update your hreflang tags as your website grows, e.g. if you add a new domain for a country
- Use a hreflang checker tool to verify that your hreflang tags work after implementation

USEFUL TOOLS FOR IMPLEMENTING HREFLANG TAGS

1. Weglot automatically adds hreflang tags if you use it to translate your website
2. Hreflang tags generator
3. Weglot’s hreflang tag checker

For a more in-depth look into adding hreflang tags to your website, check out our complete list of resources:

- Hreflang tag guide
- How to fix “your site has no hreflang tags” error
- How to use and implement hreflang and canonical tags correctly
- Hreflang tag language codes

Who are we?
Weglot is a no-code website translation solution that allows you to launch a multilingual website instantly.

WEGLLOT
Ready to start your website translation project? Start your Weglot 10-day free trial.