

DISABILITY INCLUSIVE TERMINOLOGY



A haemophiliac, an epileptic, a paraplegic

Abnormal / sub-normal

Carer

Challenged, i.e. physically challenged / intellectually challenged



Person with haemophilia; woman with epilepsy; or rather a man who has paraplegia.

Use people/person with a disability.

Assistants, attendants or care workers.

Person with a disability. Such euphemisms often create unnecessary ambiguity.



Confined to a wheelchair or wheelchair-bound

Cripple

Death instead of Deaf



A person uses a wheelchair. A wheelchair is not confining, it provides mobility to those who can't walk. It is just another way of moving around.

Person with a disability.

Deaf – persons unable to hear, identifying themselves as belonging to a community with its own language and culture. In such cases, a capital 'D' is used when referring to this group, e.g., a Deaf spokesperson said ...

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The disabled or disabled person

Differently abled

Defect

Disabled toilet / disabled parking



Person with a disability, people with a disability, woman with a disability, driver with a disability. First the person before the disability.

Person with a disability or people with a disability. It's important to remember when communicating with or about people with disabilities, that they may have one disability – but they have many abilities. So, they are able and not differently abled.

Use congenital disability, blind from birth, etc.

Accessible / inclusive toilet / parking.



Disadvantaged

Fits, i.e., epileptic fits

Handicap

Invalid



Don't use to describe a person just because they have a disability (although often society's response to a person's disability can be a disadvantage).

The preferred term is seizures.

Do not describe a disability as a handicap; however, this term can be used to describe the obstacles that restrict an individual's participation, e.g., handicapped by lack of accessible transport.

Person with a disability.

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Impaired



Disability categories:

Visual impairments / Persons who are visually impaired (includes blind and partially sighted);

Hearing impairments / Persons who are hearing impaired (includes hard of hearing, deaf and Deaf);

Mobility / physical impairments / Persons who are physically impaired (includes wheelchair-users, paraplegia, quadriplegia, cerebral palsy, amputees, etc.);

Learning difficulties / Persons with a learning difficulty (includes ADD, ADHD, dyslexia, dysgraphia, discalculia, etc.);

Mental health conditions / disorders / disabilities / persons with a mental health disability (includes depression, anxiety, panic disorder, etc.).



Mentally disabled, insane, lunatic, mad, crazy

Mongolism / mongol / mentally retarded

Midget

Normal



Mental illness more preferable, but rather use the appropriate clinical name, e.g., person with schizophrenia.

Person with an intellectual disability / person with Down syndrome.

Small person, short person, person of short stature, person of restricted growth.

This is a statistical term. In order to distinguish from people with a disability, it is acceptable to use double negatives such as non-disabled or person without a disability or descriptive terms such as sighted, hearing, ambulant.

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Patient

Patronising language

Psychiatric disability

Retarded



Rather use client, consumer, customer, commuter, visitor, patron. It should only be used when a person is actually receiving medical care or treatment, or is in hospital.

Do not describe people as brave, special or suffering just because they have a disability.

Mental illness more preferable, but rather use the appropriate clinical name, e.g., person with schizophrenia.

This is derogatory and outdated – instead use people with an intellectual disability.



Spastic

Sufferer

The blind or the deaf

Victim



This is derogatory and outdated, in most cases a person with cerebral palsy is the acceptable alternative.

Rather survivor or person with a disability. Individuals don't suffer just because they have a disability.

Avoid using 'the' in this manner, as it unconsciously eliminates the person and creates a generalisation based purely on disability.

It is inappropriate to describe people as victims of a particular disability. Some people are victims of war, crime or exploitative wages.