

Equipment and accessibility

There is a huge amount of equipment out there which can make your life easier. Products help with communication, getting information, entertainment and helping you to be independent.

What type of equipment is right for you will depend on your needs and on your remaining sight and hearing.

You may need help with [funding for equipment](#).

- [Alerting systems](#) There is a wide range of products available which might help alert you to things happening around you. Here you can find information on what types of products might be most suitable for you, and how to choose between the many products available.
- [Books and newspapers](#) Keeping up to date with information or reading for pleasure can be accessible if you have limited sight and hearing. Here are some of the available resources.
- [Braille and moon products](#) Both these methods are ways of producing text to enable it to be read by touch. Braille is a series of raised dots; Moon is similar to raised letters. Although neither can be used for conversation, they allow access to books, magazines and other information.
- [Everyday living products](#) Special equipment is available to aid you in living independently at home.
- [Help with listening](#) This section looks at personal and TV listeners to help you to hear conversations more clearly. Some items are suitable for those who wear hearing aids with a T setting.
- [Lighting](#) Good lighting is important for those with some useful sight. Here we focus on some adjustable lights and book lights for reading and writing.
- [Magnifiers](#) There are now a wide variety of Magnifiers ranging from compact handheld ones to desktop videos, ranging from CCTV functionality to enhanced contrast colour/black&white modes and ones that will even take a picture.
- [Mobile phones](#) Mobile phones have the capacity to send short messages in text, as well as enabling people to talk to one another. If your vision is good enough, you may find this a great way to keep in touch with people.
- [Mobility aids](#) Mobility aids help you to increase your awareness of your surroundings and keep you safe from obstacles. These aids also include tactile maps, which let you know of the layout of places you are visiting.
- [Products for your PC](#) PCs can open up a world of information, giving you access to live news, entertainment and communication with others. They can also be useful at work. Products for your PC can convert text into braille, change text into large print and change to colours on the screen, and speak the text to you.
- [Tactile markers](#) These help you to gain information which would otherwise be displayed visually. They can range from simple marks to Braille symbols and can give detail about dials on household appliances or the contents of tins.
- [Telephones](#) If you have enough remaining hearing, it may be possible to use an adapted telephone.
- [Textphones](#) A textphone is simply a telephone with a keyboard attached and messages appear as text in a display. The conversation is typed, rather than spoken.
- [TV and DVD](#) Accessible entertainment on TV, video and DVD is improving nowadays, with the use of subtitles, BSL and audio description.

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