

# Disability language and etiquette

## Inappropriate and appropriate language guide



<b>Inappropriate</b>	<b>Appropriate</b>
The Disabled	Disabled people
People with disabilities	Disabled people
Children with disabilities	Disabled children
Invalid	Disabled person
Severely disabled	Requires substantial or significant personal help
Disabilities	Impairments (or state actual medical condition)
Suffers from	Living with (state medical condition)
Mental illness/mental health problems	Living with a mental health problem or diagnosis if appropriate but being referred to by name is preferred.
Mentally handicapped	People with learning difficulties
The deaf	Deaf people/hard of hearing people (specify which group) or hearing impaired people
The blind	Blind people/partially sighted people (specify which group) or visually impaired people
Care	Personal help/personal support
Carers (only to be used when the individual disabled person cannot make decisions for her/himself)	Family members, relatives and friends
Carers (meaning paid home carers)	Personal assistants
Special needs	Specific requirements (state what these are)
Disabled toilet	Accessible toilet
Disabled parking	Orange/Blue Badge holder parking
Wheelchair accessible	Wheelchair/scooter user or accessible to wheelchair/scooter users
For wheelchairs	For wheelchair users
Wheelchair bound or confined to a wheelchair	Wheelchair user or person who uses a wheelchair