

extraordinary bodies

Disabled and non-disabled people work together in our company through genuine collaboration. Articles and interviews about our work may refer to disability in some way, shape or form.

This guide aims to help outside agencies, partners or other people use appropriate language and context.

Under the **social model of disability**, people are disabled by barriers within society, rather than being 'victims' of impairments or conditions.

You can help increase public awareness by using the correct language, and approaching your story from the perspective of the social model of disability.

Basic language guide	
✓	✗
disabled	handicapped, crippled, invalided
disabled people	the disabled, people with disabilities
has ... (an impairment)	suffers from..., victim of ...
non-disabled	able bodied, normal, healthy
learning disabled*	mentally disabled, retarded, backward
wheelchair user	wheelchair bound, confined to a wheelchair, in a wheelchair
Deaf	the deaf
Deaf sign language user, BSL user	deaf and dumb, deaf mute
blind or partially sighted people, visually impaired people (VIP)	the blind
mental health service user / survivor	mentally ill, insane, mad, crazy
has cerebral palsy	spastic
person of short stature	dwarf, midget

* learning disabled people may choose to use the term 'differently abled'

Many disabled people find that written English is not always easily accessible, either because it is their second language or because they face other barriers to literacy. For example British Sign Language users must learn a completely different grammatical structure when learning to read and write in what is essentially a foreign language.

For resources on writing in plain English see the [Plain English Campaign](http://www.plainenglish.co.uk): <http://www.plainenglish.co.uk>

For resources on making making easy read information visit <https://www.mencap.org.uk/easyread-video>

For more information on how the UK is trying to become a country where disabled people have the same opportunities as everyone else visit: <http://www.scope.org.uk> Information about support for disabled artists and cultural organisations can be found at www.shapearts.org.uk. Have a look at their Access Resource Pack at <https://www.shapearts.org.uk/FAQs/access-resource-pack>