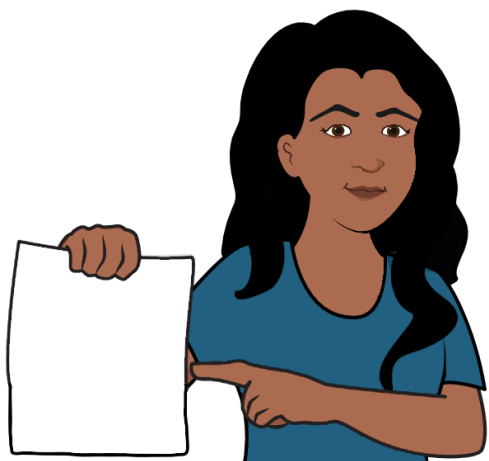


An update on accessible written information



Cathy Basterfield
Access Easy English
ASID 2023 Day 1



Today

- A look back - Australia
- Plain Language
- Easy English
- Easy Read
- Easy Language





Access to information

- is **not** a reading test
- is **not** about learning new words.





Labels

Plain Language

Plain English

Computer Literacy/Digital Literacy

Financial Literacy

Health Literacy

Legal Literacy

Mental Health Literacy

Scientific Literacy



PLAIN

Plain language definition

A communication is in plain language if its

- wording
- structure
- design are so clear

that the intended readers can

- easily find what they need
- understand what they find
- and use that information.

<https://plainlanguagenetwork.org>

and International Plain Language Federation



Access
Easy English



ISO/TC 37

4 principles

ISO 24495-1 Plain language

1. The content is what the audience **needs** or wants.
2. The audience can **find** the content.
3. The audience can **understand** the content.
4. The audience can **use** the content.



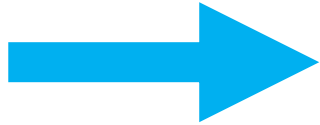


Labels

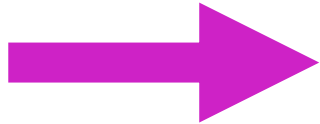
Accessible Information

Universal Design

Easier English



Easy English



Easy Language

Easy to Read



Easy Read

Simple English



Easy Read – readability & useability

Range reading equivalence

Simple Easy Read Grade 2 USA

Complex Easy Read Grade 14 USA

Understanding words age 9:04 years

Reading age 7:01 years

Buell, S. **2019**. Do participants with ID respond more accurately to questions that require literal or inferential information taken from an 'easy read' health text? J Appl Research Intellectual Disability Vol 00: pp1-13.



Access
Easy English

Development of Easy Read.

Little consensus on best practice

Widespread definition of

- intended audience
- context of when used
- how used.

Chinn, D. **2019**. Talking to producers of Easy Read information for people with intellectual disability: Production practices, textual features, and imagined audiences. JIDD Vol 44. No.4 410 – 420



Other Easy Read questions

Rogers and Namaganda **2005**. Making information easier for people with learning disabilities Brit J Learning Disabilities. 33, 52-58


Everyone needs to keep working to find better ways to make information easier

Hurtado. B, Jones, L, & Burniston, F. **2014**. Is Easy Read information really easier to read? JIDDR Vol 58 part 9 pp 822–829


Sutherland and Isherwood (2016) The Evidence for Easy-Read for People With Intellectual Disabilities: A Systematic Literature Review J of Policy & practice in Intellectual Disabilities. Vol13, Issue 4 pp 297-310

Evidence of difference. Easy English - Easy Read


Example documents - Masks. Front page and sample page



Take off your mask



1. Do not touch the front of your mask.



2. Hold on to the loops behind your ears.
Take the loops off your ears.
Your mask comes off your face.


8

Australian Easy English


21 July 2020

What type of mask should you wear?


There are different kinds of masks.




Surgical masks can only be used once.




After you have worn a surgical mask, you need to throw it away.




Cloth masks can be used again after they have been washed.



A cloth mask needs to have 3 layers.



Some people use a headscarf or a face covering.



This might not be as good as a:

- surgical mask
- cloth mask with 3 layers.

Page 5

Australian Easy Read

30 July 2020 www.health.gov.au



2022 findings

Easy English



What about the other people who help you at school? Like

- a person who helps you read
- a person signs in class
- a therapist.



You were home with your family.
What was it like?



Did you have a place to do your school work?

Easy Read

What is dysphagia?



Dysphagia affects how you:

- eat
- drink
- swallow.



People with disability who have dysphagia are more at risk of their health problems getting worse.



They are also more at risk of bad health problems from:

- choking
- breathing problems.

What are the symptoms of dysphagia?



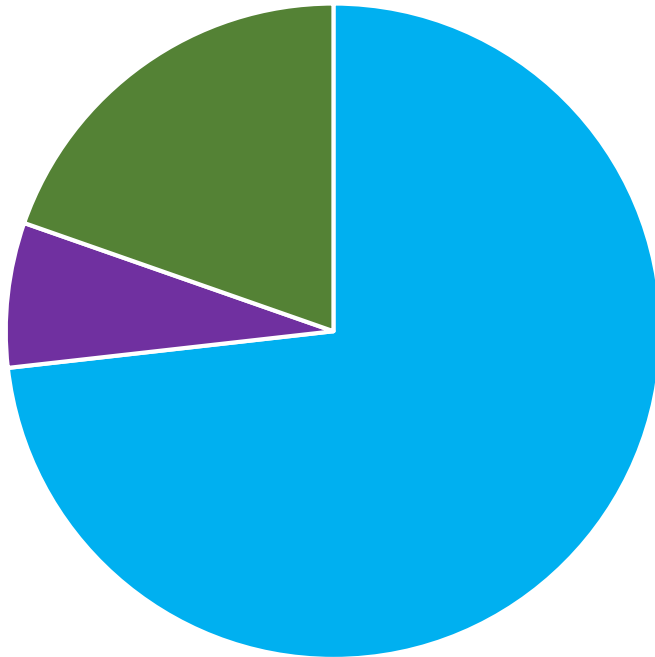
A **symptom** is a sign you might be sick.

You might:

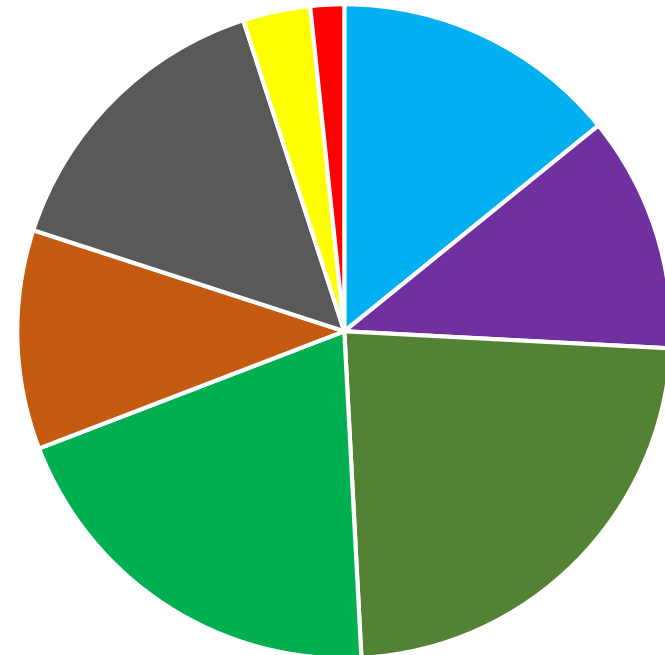
- see symptoms
- feel symptoms.

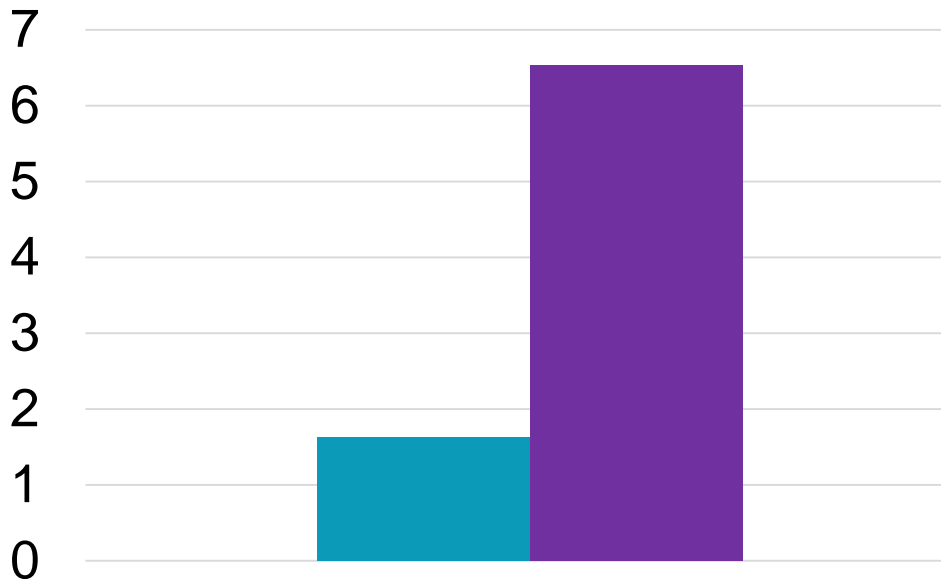
Words per document

Easy English



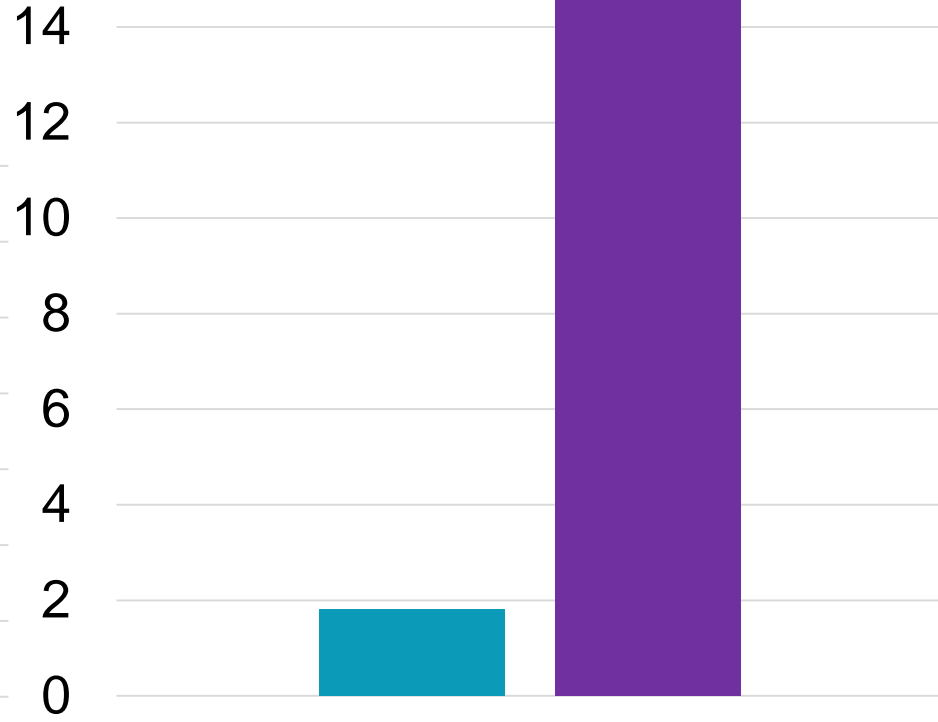
Easy Read





■ Easy English ■ Easy Read

Average Flesch-Kincaid
reading equivalence



■ Easy English ■ Easy Read

Average word endings
per document



Access
Easy English

Current newsletter Inclusion Europe

It should be a normal thing to be able to participate in the elections as a citizen.

 The UNCRPD reaffirms the right to vote and be elected for people with disabilities.

 There are still restrictions in several EU States, especially for persons with intellectual disabilities.

 14 EU countries grant full voting rights for people with intellectual disabilities under guardianship.

 7 EU countries grant limited voting rights for people with intellectual disabilities under guardianship.


 6 EU countries grant no voting rights for people with intellectual disabilities under guardianship.

People with disabilities who are under guardianship might not be allowed to vote because of certain laws. Some people have to make a hard decision between keeping their rights and getting a disability allowance. This choice isn't fair.




page 2


**You have not been able to vote for many years.
How did you experience this?**

 It did something to me. I was disappointed, and I was angry at the judge who had taken the right to vote away.

How was your right to vote taken away?

 At the time I was in a home for young people. The judge asked me questions about day-to-day politics which I did not know how to answer. I was not so up to date in politics at that time. So the judge withdrew my right to vote.

What was your reaction when you learned that you would be able to vote at the next election?

 I was really happy. I am a citizen, I consider myself able to vote, so I always wanted to vote. Finally, I will be able to do it.

page 14

Information for all

European standards for making information easy to read and understand



Produced in the framework of the project
Pathways to adult education for people with intellectual disabilities

Information for all

2

Standards for written information

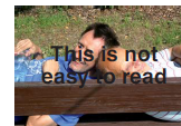
Note:

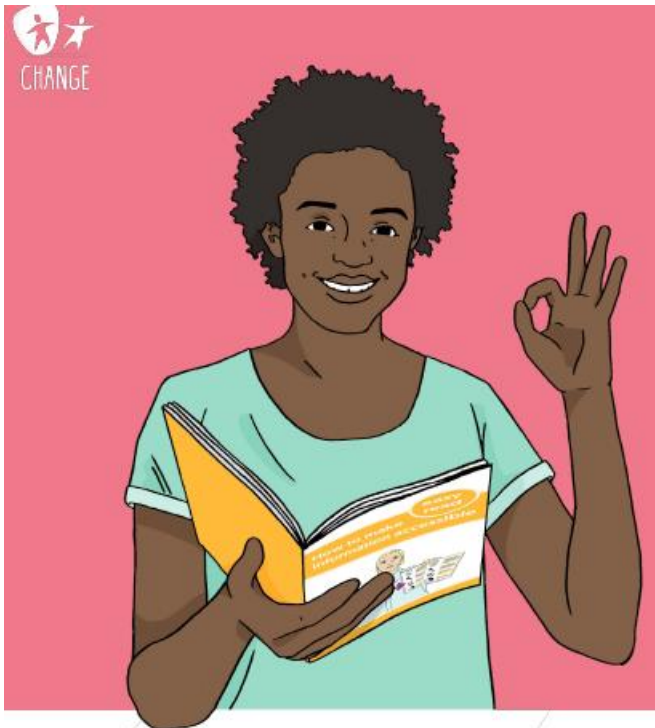
Written information that is easy for people with intellectual disabilities to understand is often called "easy-to-read" information.

When you are preparing written information, use the 20 standards in section 1 as well as the following standards.

■ Design and format

1. Use a format that is easy to read, follow and photocopy. For example, A4 or A5.
2. Think about the size of your document. A book of 100 pages is too long. People could feel they are not able to read such a long book. In this case, it would be better to write 3 smaller booklets.
3. Never use a design or layout that will make your document hard for people to read and understand. The most important thing is that your document is easy for people with intellectual disabilities to understand.
4. Never use a background that makes it difficult to read the text. For example, never use a picture or a pattern as a background.



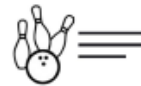


How To Make Information Accessible

A guide to producing easy read documents



Make the picture as big as possible. It is important that every detail that could help the reader understand is visible.



Make sure the picture is placed close to the text to which it belongs and there can be no confusion. Make sure the picture is not blurred or distorted or overlapped by other objects on the page.



If you decide to use colour pictures be careful that the colours do not make the picture confusing to look at. Think about how your readers will get the document. Will the pictures still be in colour when it reaches them, or will people have to look at a black and white photocopy?



Guidelines – Easy Read

- Non specific guidelines

EG

Use every day words

Use short sentences

Explain hard concepts

Keep punctuation to a minimal.



- **Guidelines - Easy English**

- Specific parameters - every day words

EG:

Syllables in words

Spelling rules

Repetition of words

Word endings.



EASY - PLAIN - ACCESSIBLE



Handbook of Easy Languages in Europe

Camilla Lindholm and Ulla Vanhatalo (eds.)

22 countries

- Europe
- Scandinavia
- UK



- Policies
- Laws
- Design issues
- Audience
- Consumer role





Access
Easy English

Easy Slovenian

Haramija & Knapp. 2019

Level	Symbol	Level description, indicators
Level 1		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• no written words, spoken words are used in storytelling• pictures are allowed (occasional use)• use of real-life objects• multisensory stimulations
Level 2		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• none or very little text• upper case or lower case (A, a)• single sentences (clauses)• each sentence is written on a separate line• up to 5 words in a sentence (line)• numerous pictures• very simplified content• very easy to understand



<p>Level 3</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very simple text • upper or lower case (A, a) • sentences can consist of clauses, but each clause is written on a separate line • from 5 to 7 words in a clause • relevant punctuation is used: full stops, exclamation marks, question marks, commas; the preferred mark is a full stop, other marks are to be avoided • dialogue can be used
<p>Level 4</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lower case as a rule (a) • longer but clear and understandable sentences are allowed (more than 1 clause) • clauses can have 10 or more words • sentences have up to 20 words • several other punctuation marks are used, e.g., colons



EASIT

<https://webs.uab.cat/easit>

The logo consists of the word "EASIT" in white, uppercase letters inside a blue rectangular box.

Easy Access
for Social Inclusion Training



Scan for audio



EASIT is a project on making information **easy to understand**.

You can make information easy to understand
using Easy-to-Read language
and Plain Language.

EASIT is the short form for **E**asy **A**ccess for **S**ocial **I**nclusion **T**raining.

The project started on 1 September 2018
and will finish on 31 August 2021.

This webpage is in Easy-to-Read language.

Easy-to-Read is making information
easy to understand.

But some words are difficult to understand.

We have written those words in **bold**

and we have explained them in the text.



Access
Easy English

EASY - PLAIN - ACCESSIBLE



Accessible Communication: A Cross-country Journey

Elisa Perego

 Frank & Timme

Original text

Walk down two wide flights of stairs, with handrails on both sides. At the landing, turn left for the second flight. When you reach the bottom, turn right and press.

Easy English

Easy Language

Walk down 2 flights of stairs. There are handrails on both sides of the stairs. When you reach the bottom turn right. Then, press.





Why Easy Language?

- Target group lower than average reading
- Varied in skills
- Benefit read easy to read books by self
- Look beyond reading

Eg: audio description, audiobooks, podcasts, audio guides





Develop recommendations and strategies for spoken Easy language.

Introduce an online tool in different languages.

There are 7 partners in 5 countries

Italy Lithuania Sweden, Slovenia, Latvia.



Example of Easy Language

We created a questionnaire to understand how easy language is used in spoken communication in these European countries:

Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, and Sweden.
446 people responded to the questionnaire.

We collected many useful articles and books for people who work with easy language.

We had a big international meeting with over 100 people.

We talked about what we learned from the survey.

Some people with learning disabilities were there too.



Issues

- Confusion - what is plain language?
- Easy Language
- Translation
- Easy Read and Easy English different
- Incorrectly labelled use of Easy English

- Guidelines...research...standards
- Audience.





Access
Easy English

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