



Disability Etiquette

COMMUNITY
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Disability

- Condition caused by an accident, trauma, genetics or disease
- The condition may limit a person's mobility, hearing, vision, speech or mental functions
- Some people have more than one disability



Handicap

 Is a physical or attitudinal constraint imposed upon a person.



Examples of handicap and disability

- A person uses a wheelchair because of his disability due to having a stroke.
- Stairs, narrow doors and curbs are handicaps imposed on this same person who uses a wheelchair.



Acceptable and unacceptable ways of talking about people with disabilities

- Acceptable: The person, persons with a disability
- Unacceptable: Cripple; (the image is of a twisted, deformed, useless body.)



Acceptable: Person with Cerebral Palsy

Unacceptable: Cerebral palsied.
(Never identify people solely by their disability.)

Acceptable: A person who has Multiple Sclerosis

Unacceptable: A person “afflicted” with Multiple Sclerosis



Acceptable: Deafness/hearing impairment

Unacceptable: Deaf and dumb. (Inability to hear or speak does not indicate intelligence)

Acceptable: Person who has a mental illness

Unacceptable: Psycho, nut, crazy, loony, manic, schizo



Acceptable: A person who has polio

Unacceptable: A “Victim” of polio

Acceptable: Able bodied, able to walk,
see, hear, etc

Unacceptable: “Healthy when used to
contrast with “disabled”
implies the person with a
disability is unhealthy.



Accessibility

- Means different things to different people
- If you have a mobility impairment accessibility means ramps, elevators, parking, doors easy to open, reachable levels for counters and phones and furniture.
- If you have a visual impairment accessibility means Braille, large type, books on tapes, etc.



Attitudinal Barriers

 Inferiority

Belief that disabled are second class citizens

 Pity

Feeling sorry for persons with a disability, thus being superior and demeaning the person

 Hero

Worship

Thinking the person with a disability as brave or special.



Attitudinal Barriers

Ignorance

Dismissing persons with disabilities as incapable of accomplishing tasks

The Spread Effect

Assumes that a person's disability negatively affects other senses, or personality traits, or that the total person is impaired.



Attitudinal Barriers

- Stereotypes Both positive and negative generalizations people form about disabled. Ex. All blind people are great musicians.
- Fear Many are afraid they will do or say the wrong thing so they avoid a person with a disability.



Thank You!

