

Activity 8 – Reading and understanding signs, symbols and words

This activity considers the claimant's capability to read and understand written or printed information in the person's native language. To be considered able to read, claimants must be able to see the information - accessing information via Braille is not considered as reading for this activity.

If the claimant cannot read, this must be as a direct result of their health condition or impairment e.g. visual impairment, cognitive impairment or learning difficulties. Illiteracy or lack of familiarity with written English are not health conditions and should not be considered.

Notes:

Basic information is signs, symbols or dates, e.g. a green exit sign on a door.

Complex information is more than one sentence of written or printed standard size text – e.g. "Your home may be at risk if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage or any other debt secured on it. Subject to terms and conditions."

The ability to remember and retain information is not within the scope of this activity.

Consideration must be given to whether the claimant can read and understand information both indoors and outdoors. In doing so, consideration should also be given to whether the claimant uses or could reasonably be expected to use aids or appliances, such as a blue screen to read text when indoors and a portable magnifying glass to do so when outdoors. If, despite aids, the claimant cannot read both indoors and outdoors, another descriptor may apply.

When considering whether a claimant requires an aid or appliance, HPs should distinguish between:

- an aid or appliance that a claimant must use or could reasonably be expected to use, in order to carry out the activity safely, reliably, repeatedly and in a timely manner; and
- an aid or appliance that a claimant may be using or wish to use because it makes it easier to carry out the activity safely, reliably,

<p>repeatedly and in a timely manner.</p> <p>Descriptor advice in favour of an aid or appliance should <u>only</u> be given in the former case. An aid or appliance is <u>not required</u> in the latter.</p> <p>Where a claimant chooses <u>not</u> to use an aid or appliance that he or she could <u>reasonably be expected</u> to use and would <u>enable</u> them to carry out the activity without assistance, they should be assessed as needing an aid or appliance rather than a higher level of support.</p>		
A	Can read and understand basic and complex written information either unaided or using spectacles or contact lenses.	0
<p>Within the assessment criteria, the ability to perform an activity 'unaided' means without either the use of aids or appliances; or help from another person.</p>		
B	Needs to use an aid or appliance, other than spectacles or contact lenses, to be able to read or understand either basic or complex written information.	2
<p>For example: may apply to claimants who require vision aids.</p>		
C	Needs prompting to be able to read or understand complex written information.	2
<p>'Prompting' means reminding, encouraging or explaining by another person. For example: may apply to claimants who require another person to explain complex written information due to a cognitive impairment.</p>		
D	Needs prompting to be able to read or understand basic written information.	4
<p>'Prompting' means reminding, encouraging or explaining by another person. For example: may apply to claimants who require another</p>		

	person to remind them of the meaning of basic information due to a cognitive impairment.	
E	Cannot read or understand signs, symbols or words at all.	8
	For example: may apply to claimants who require another person to read everything for them due to a learning disability or severe visual impairment.	