

Symbols of Access for People with Disabilities

Use these 12 graphic symbols to promote and publicize the accessibility of places, programs, and other activities for people with various disabilities.







Organizations, both public and private, are working to be fully accessible to this country's 54 million citizens with disabilities as well as foreign visitors. Organizations that receive government funding are required to provide accessible programs and services under Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The 1990 Americans with Disability Act (ADA) extends accessibility provisions to the private sector, to help guarantee people with disabilities employment and the right to enter the economic, social, and cultural mainstreams. The ADA goes well beyond federally funded organizations to encompass private entities that serve the public, including cultural organizations that do not receive federal funds, retail businesses, movie theaters, and restaurants.

These symbols are intended to help you advertise your access services to customers, audiences, staff, and other


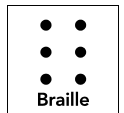
targeted publics. Advertisements, newsletters, conference and program brochures, membership forms, building signage, floor plans, and maps are examples of material that might display these symbols. We encourage you to place these symbols next to the relevant information in all your publications and media.

Any language accompanying the symbols should focus on the accommodation or service, not on who uses it. For example, "Ramped Entrance" may accompany the wheelchair symbol. This is important because not only do individuals in wheelchairs use ramps, but so do people with baby carriages, luggage, packages, and so on. Language that fosters dignity is important too. For example, "Reserved Parking" or "Accessible Parking" may be used with the wheelchair symbol to indicate that parking spaces designated for people with disabilities.


Accessibility for People with Hearing Loss

	<p>VOLUME CONTROL TELEPHONE</p> <p>This symbol indicates the location of telephones that have handsets with amplified sound and/or adjustable volume controls.</p>	<p>SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION</p> <p>The symbol indicates that Sign Language Interpretation is provided for a lecture, tour, performance, event, conference, or other program.</p>	
	<p>ASSISTIVE LISTENING SYSTEMS</p> <p>These systems transmit amplified sound to hearing aids, headsets, or other devices. They include infrared, loop, and FM systems. Portable systems may be available from the equipment suppliers that service conferences and meetings.</p>	<p>TELEPHONE TYPEWRITER (TTY)</p> <p>This device is also known as a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD). TTY indicates a device used with the telephone for communication with and between deaf, hard of hearing, speech impaired, and/or hearing persons.</p>	
	<p>OPEN CAPTIONING (OC)</p> <p>This symbol indicates that captions, which translate dialogue and other sounds in print, are always displayed on the videotape, movie, or television program. Open Captioning is preferred by many people, including deaf and hard of hearing individuals, or people whose second language is English. It is also helpful in teaching children how to read and in keeping sound levels minimized in museums and restaurants.</p>	<p>CLOSED CAPTIONING (CC)</p> <p>This symbol indicates a choice for whether or not to display captions for a television program or video. TV sets have caption decoders to display dialogue for programs that are captioned. Federal law requires TV sets with screens 13" or larger to have caption decoders by July 1993. Also, videos that are part of exhibitions may be closed captioned, using the symbol with instructions to press a button to activate captions.</p>	



Accessibility for People with Vision Loss

	<p>INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE BLIND/LOW VISION</p> <p>This symbol indicates access for people who are blind or have low vision, such as a guided tour, a path to a scent garden in a park, or a tactile tour or museum exhibit that may be touched.</p>	<p>BRAILLE SYMBOL</p> <p>This symbol indicates that printed material is available in Braille, including exhibit labeling, publications, and signage.</p>	 Braille
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Accessibility for People with Vision Loss (continued)

<p>Large Print</p>	<p>ACCESSIBLE PRINT (18 PT. OR LARGER)</p>	<p>AUDIO DESCRIPTION</p>	
	<p>The symbol for large print is “Large Print” printed in 18 pt. or larger text. In addition to indicating that large-print versions of books, pamphlets, museum guides, and theater programs are available, you may also use the symbol on conference or membership forms to indicate that print materials may be provided in large-print formats. Sans serif or modified serif print with good contrast is important, and special attention should be paid to letter and word spacing.</p>	<p>A service for persons who are blind or have low vision that makes the performing arts, visual arts, television, video, and film more accessible. Description of visual elements is provided by a trained Audio Descriptor through the Secondary Audio Program for televisions and monitors. In live Audio Description, a trained Audio Descriptor offers live commentary or narration via headphones and a small transmitter, consisting of concise, objective descriptions of visual elements: i.e., a theater performance or a visual arts exhibition.</p>	

Information & Wheelchair Accessibility

	<p>THE INFORMATION SYMBOL</p>	<p>SYMBOL FOR WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY</p>	
	<p>The most valuable commodity of today's society is information; to a person with a disability it is essential. The symbol may be used on signage or on a floor plan to indicate the location of the information or security desk, where there is more specific information or materials concerning access accommodations and services such as “LARGE PRINT” materials, audio cassette recordings of materials, or sign-interpreted tours.</p>	<p>The wheelchair symbol should only be used to indicate access for individuals with limited mobility, including wheelchair users. The symbol is used to indicate an accessible entrance or bathroom, or that a phone is lowered for wheelchair users. Remember that a ramped entrance is not completely accessible if there are no curb cuts; an elevator is not accessible if it can only be reached via steps.</p>	

Use these symbols in print & web materials to welcome participation by all people with disabilities.



How to Get Electronic Versions of Disability Access Symbols

DOWNLOAD IMAGES FROM THE GRAPHIC ARTISTS GUILD WEBSITE: The downloadable files (under 150k each) of these symbols are available in both positive (black on a white background) or negative (white on a black background.) Each is in an uncompressed TIF format. To download the complete set of symbols, go to: www.gag.org/resources/das.php

WINDOWS: Download complete TIFF-format set in a ZIP file at:
www.gag.org/res/das/FINAL_symbols_for_webcd.zip

MAC FORMAT: To download a complete set in TIFF format in a Stuffit file, go to: www.gag.org/res/das/dasp.sit

ORDER BY MAIL: Get Mac or PC disk copies of all symbols from the Graphic Artists Guild Foundation at 212-791-3400.

COLORADO COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

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