

# Worksheet 1: What does disability mean in the modern world?

Decide which statements are true and which are false:

	TRUE	FALSE
1. According to the 'Equality Act 2010', a disability can be physical or mental.		
2. Addiction to alcohol itself is not classed as a disability. However, a problem arising directly from alcoholism (such as liver damage) can be.		
3. A temporary injury (such as a two-hour back spasm that only occurs once) is always classed as a disability.		
4. For something to be classed as a disability under British law, it has to have 'substantial' or 'long-term' negative effects on daily life.		
5. Every organisation in the country must employ at least one manager who has a disability.		
6. It is always easy to tell whether someone has a disability when you first meet them.		
7. Hay fever is classed as a disability.		
8. Some conditions (e.g. cancer) can be classed as a disability as soon as an initial diagnosis is made.		

What have I learnt from the activity above?

Fill in the gaps below to show your understanding:

(a) It is important that certain **mental illnesses**, as well as physical illnesses, can be considered as disabilities. This is because .....

.....  
 .....

(b) **Temporary injuries** are not usually classed as disabilities because .....

.....  
 .....

(c) Examples of disabilities that are **not necessarily obvious** when you meet someone for the first time include .....

.....  
 .....

(d) It is vital to **promote the rights** of people with a disability because .....

.....  
 .....

## Worksheet 2: Why is promoting the rights of people with a disability important?

1. If someone with a disability doesn't have equal opportunities to work, to take part in government or to undertake important research, then we will all miss out on the benefits that s/he can bring to society.

2. It is morally wrong to have a society in which certain people (people with a disability, people who are heterosexual, people who are male, etc.) don't have the same right as others.

3. People with a disability are underrepresented in key roles in society such as CEOs, MPs, teachers and lawyers.

4. In the past, people with certain disabilities were segregated from mainstream society. It's important to make sure that the public are educated about this, so that this can't happen again in the future.

5. Minority groups often find it hard to get their message across. It's therefore important for the general public to promote minority group rights, so that any problems can be resolved as soon as possible.

6. The concept of multiple identities is really important in the modern world. Somebody's disability might be a key part of their personality, e.g. Prab's blindness might make him a particularly good lawyer.

7. According to the charity Scope, 40% of people without a disability have recently avoided talking to someone with a disability...because they are worried about 'saying the wrong thing'.

# Disability in the modern world

SPECIFICATION LINK: THEME A, LIVING TOGETHER IN THE UK – RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING

## Objectives

- LO1** I can find out what the word 'disability' means in the modern world.
- LO2** I can explore why promoting the rights of people with a disability is important.

<b>Class:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Last lesson:</b>	
<b>G &amp; T pupils:</b>	<b>SEN pupils:</b>	<b>M:</b>	<b>F:</b>

## Connect

- Which well-known **positive role models** can you name who have a **disability**?
- Discuss with **another student** which types of disability are well-represented on TV/in the wider public sphere.

## Activate

- Put students into small groups and ask them to have a **3-minute discussion**:
  - The 2016 Paralympics raised the profiles of athletes who have a disability. What are the benefits of the general public following the achievements of Paralympic competitors?*
  - The Paralympics is the most famous celebration of the achievements of citizens with a disability. What are the disadvantages of this?*
- Ask a few spokespersons to **feed back** their ideas.
- Examples of good feedback for question 1:**

*'Viewers who have a disability are able to watch an event that is representative of people like them.'*

*'People who don't have a disability become better informed about the abilities of those people who do.'*

*'There is often a lot of focus on what people with a disability can't do. However, the Paralympics shows very talented and determined people – who happen to have a disability – performing very complex and challenging tasks at a high level.'*
- Examples of good feedback for question 2:**

*'There's a danger that the Paralympics downplays the challenges that many people with a disability face in their daily lives. For the majority of citizens with a disability, normal life does not involve sponsorship deals, access to world-class coaches or medals and roaring crowds! Also, the Paralympics only happens once every four years, whereas*

*disability affects people every day.'*

*'As with people who don't have a disability, not all citizens with a disability are good at sports/athletics or have an interest in it. It's important that people with a disability have plenty of famous role models who work in careers outside of sport.'*

*'The Paralympics is shown separately to the Olympics. Where is all the TV coverage of people with a disability doing things alongside those without one? For example, why don't more TV series feature leading characters who happen to have a disability?'*

## Demonstrate

### Worksheet 1 What does disability mean in the modern world?

- Ask students to **fill in the table** on Worksheet 1, by deciding which statements about disability are true and which are false. Share answers with the class.
- Answers:** (1): true, (2): true, (3): false, (4): true, (5): false, (6): false, (7): false, (8): true.
- Ask students to **complete the sentences** on the bottom part of Worksheet 1.
- Examples of good answers:

*(a) It is important that certain **mental illnesses, as well as physical illnesses, can be considered as disabilities. This is because some people with a mental illness can be in significant discomfort and/or distress. In serious cases of mental illness, it can be extremely challenging to perform 'normal' activities (including going to work, looking after children or using public transport).***

*(b) **Temporary injuries are not usually classed as disabilities because they do not have 'substantial' or 'long-term' negative effects on someone's life. For example, having a sprained ankle for a few days is different to having arthritis in the ankle for***

ten years.

*(c) Examples of disabilities that are **not necessarily obvious** when you meet someone for the first time include visual impairment, liver damage and schizophrenia.*

*(d) It is vital to **promote the rights** of people with a disability because the law provides us all with equal rights in all situations. It is only fair that every citizen is entitled to safe housing, employment, healthcare, education and to taking part in government.*

- Ask a few volunteers to **read out** their completed statement (d).
- Give students Worksheet 2. Ask them to read it and to **highlight keywords**. For example, 'equal opportunities' could be highlighted in shape number one.

## Consolidate

**Worksheet 2 Race: Why is promoting the rights of people with a disability important?**

- **Circle time activity:** remind students of circle time rules (one person speaks at a time, everyone faces the person who's talking, students use open body language, etc).
- Choose students to **answer the following** (and after they answer, choose other students to challenge their opinions in an appropriate manner):
  1. What does 'disability' mean in the modern world?
  2. Why is it important to promote the rights of people with a disability?
  3. Why are there specific laws to protect the rights of people with a disability?
  4. Why does society need more role models who have a disability, outside of the sporting world?
  5. What is the most useful or interesting thing that you've learnt this lesson?

## Extra challenge

We supposedly live in an inclusive society, and yet Paralympic athletes compete separately to non-disabled athletes. **Does this patronise disabled citizens?** Justify your answer with a strong argument.

## Extra support

**Consolidate activity:** give students questions in advance and let them volunteer to answer certain ones.

## Recommended websites

[www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk)

## Homework

Find a media clip of a disabled UK citizen who's a role model, in a job that's not sports-related.