

Disability Prejudice

Q1 In each pair below, there's one way of talking about disability that's offensive and one that's not. For each pair, say which is the offensive term and explain why the other one's better:

- handicapped person / disabled person
- spastic / has cerebral palsy
- wheelchair-user / wheelchair-bound
- disabled people / the disabled

Q2 Explain how Robin could have handled each of these situations better:

- Robin's football team is one man down for the all-important Yeovil Local Yokel League match. Bryan says his cousin Boris is staying for the weekend and he could play in the match. Robin says there's no way Boris can play — he's deaf.
- Robin sees a really pretty girl on the bus. He's about to go and talk to her when he sees her guide dog and realises she's blind. He feels all awkward and embarrassed and decides not to talk to her after all.
- A woman and a man come into the café where Robin works on Saturdays. The man, who's in a wheelchair, asks for a coffee. Robin says to the woman, "White or black?"
- The man from the café can't hold his head straight so he drinks his coffee with a straw. Instead of clearing up the other tables, Robin leans on the counter staring.



DISCUSSION
QUESTION

Q3 Many deaf people don't think of themselves as disabled.

Do you agree?

Make a list of bullet points explaining what you think "being disabled" means.

DISCUSSION
QUESTION

Q4 If there are disabled people at your school or you are disabled:

Make a list of the ways life at your school is different for the disabled and non-disabled people.

OR If there are no disabled people at your school:

Imagine that somebody who is paralysed and uses a wheelchair is joining your class.

How will life at school be different for them? How will the school routine have to change?