



Assistive Technology Glossary

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Family Center on Technology and Disability

Abbreviation Expansion Software is used to help individuals become more efficient writers. This software will automatically expand words or phrases based on pre-programmed commands that have been entered by the user. An example of an abbreviation used is first and last initials will be expanded into a name. The Abbreviation Expansion Software allows the user to minimize the number of keystrokes necessary to produce a written piece. It is often combined with word prediction programs or specialized keyboard assistance programs.

\$ F F H V V L E L O L W \) H D W X U H V

Accessibility features are various options that exist within products that allow a user to adjust the settings to their personal needs. Products can come with various accessibility features that can adjust to the individual's visual, mobility, hearing, language, and learning needs. Accessibility features allow individuals with disabilities to use products that may not otherwise be useful. They also serve as a piece of assistive technology because adjustments are being made to help the individual.

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An access utility is a software program that modifies a standard keyboard to simplify operation of the keyboard, replace the mouse, substitute visual cues for sound signals, or add sound cues to keystrokes. Many basic modifications can be made through software that already exists on your computer. Altering font size, color contrast, and adding or modifying audio alerts can all

ventions may be used to get information on cognitive, social, emotional, and functional abilities. An assistive technology assessment is designed to identify appropriate AT devices and services.

An assistive technology service is one that directly assists in the selection, buying, designing, fitting, customizing, maintaining, repairing, replacing, and coordinating of assistive technology devices. It also includes the training of students, teachers, therapists and family members on the use and maintenance of the device.

\$ X J P H Q W D W L Y H D Q G \$ O W H U Q D W L Y H & R P P X Q L F D W L
 An AAC system is one that increases or improves the communication abilities of individuals with receptive or expressive communication impairments. The system can include sign language, graphical symbol systems, synthesized speech, dedicated communication devices, and computer applications. AAC technology spans a wide range of products, from low-tech picture boards to high-tech speech recognition programs.

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 Under the Americans With Disabilities Act, professionals and organizations must communicate as effectively with people with disabilities as they do with others. Auxiliary aids and services assist in this effort. Auxiliary aids may include taped texts, interpreters or other effective methods of making materials usually delivered orally available to students with hearing impairments; readers in libraries for students with visual impairments; classroom equipment adapted for use by students with manual impairments; and other similar services and actions.

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 A battery interrupter allows a user to modify battery-operated devices for switch input. It is placed between the battery and its connection point in the battery compartment. The compartment is notched to allow the cord to pass through when closed. The device is left in its ON position, with the switch plugged into the input jack of the battery interrupter.

% U D L O O H
 This raised dot printed language is used by many people with visual impairments. Each raised word consists of 30 raised dots.



Also known as a **work sampling**, this specially-focused professional evaluation looks at particular employment tasks and job sites to determine whether the person with disabilities can perform necessary tasks and, if so, with what accommodations and other supports. It evaluates the degree to which the demands of a job and the skills of an individual are a good match.





Personal assistance services help people with disabilities complete daily tasks needed for successful participation in school, work, and community living. They include, but are not limited to, dressing, eating, personal hygiene, shopping, and home/office organization.

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A pointing or typing aid is typically a wand or stick used to strike keys on the keyboard. They are most commonly worn on the head, held in the mouth, strapped to the chin, or held in the hand.

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Portable Word Processors are often lightweight and inexpensive devices that can be easily taken from place to place. The device provides access to word processing without a computer. Some portable word processor products also include various organization features such as those in a personal digital assistant (PDA). Text can also be downloaded from the device to a computer or to a printer for saving and printing.

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Postsecondary accommodations in educational settings typically include: 1) modifications to the curriculum or educational tasks in college-level coursework or vocational training, and 2) tools, devices or services that help a student better access course material, participate in class, and submit assignments. Postsecondary accommodations in the workplace include equipment and services that help an individual get and keep a job. They include modifications to tasks, routines, and the workplace environment.

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Postsecondary activities are those that a child with disabilities can pursue after leaving high school. They are both formal and informal activities, and may include education, employment, recreation, independent living, and community participation.

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Postsecondary education is formal education that a child with disabilities can pursue after com-

the 1990s, the number of people with a mental health problem has increased in the UK (Mental Health Act 1983, 1990).

There is a growing awareness of the need to improve the lives of people with mental health problems. The Department of Health (1999) has set out a strategy for mental health care in the UK. The strategy is based on the following principles:

- People with mental health problems should be treated as individuals, with their own needs and wishes.
- People with mental health problems should be given the opportunity to participate in decisions about their care and treatment.
- People with mental health problems should be given the opportunity to live in their own homes and communities.

The strategy also sets out a number of objectives, including the following:

- To reduce the number of people with mental health problems who are admitted to hospital.
- To improve the quality of care and treatment for people with mental health problems.
- To improve the support and services available to people with mental health problems.

The strategy is a key document in the development of mental health care in the UK. It provides a framework for the development of policies and services for people with mental health problems.

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Also known as **sheltered employment**, sheltered employment takes place in a facility that is dedicated to employing persons with disabilities who need extensive supports in order to work.

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These software applications convert words that are spoken aloud to text. Speech recognition is designed to respond to a wide range of voices, without prior “training” of the software. Voice or speaker recognition, on the other hand, involves the training of a device to recognize a specific individual’s voice. Both speech and voice recognition programs may be used to create written documents without the use of a keyboard, to control specially adapted equipment, and to operate telephone, cell phone and PDA (personal digital assistant) applications.

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Switches offer an alternative method of providing input to a computer when it is not possible to use a standard keyboard or mouse. Switches come in various sizes, shapes, methods of activation and placement options. Some software programs have been developed specifically for use with 



training, integrated employment, adult services, independent living, or community participation. Transition services can include instruction, occupational and speech/language therapy, guided community experience, development of employment and other adult living objectives and, when appropriate, the acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.

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This is a telecommunications device for the deaf. TTY/TTD is a device with a keyboard that sends and receives typed messages over a telephone line.

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This is an approach to the design of products and environments that is aimed at making them accessible to all people, both those with and without disabilities. Examples of universally designed environments include buildings with ramps, curb cuts, automatic doors, widened doorways, and door handles (rather than knobs).

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Universal Design for Learning is the design of instructional materials and activities that make learning goals achievable by individuals with wide differences in their abilities to see, hear, speak, move, read, write, understand English, organize, engage, and remember. UDL is achievable via flexible curricular materials and activities that provide alternatives for students with differing abilities. These alternatives are built into the instructional design and operating systems of the educational materials; they are not added on after-the-fact.

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9 L G H R 3 K R Q H

A Voice Output Communication Aid (VOCA) is an electronic device that generates spoken language for individuals who are unable to use natural speech to express their needs and to communicate with others during a conversation. These devices are intended solely for communication purposes.

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There are two types of vocational assessment: functional and ecological. A functional vocational assessment is an evaluation of a person's ability and desire to do a job by observing her performance on various tasks in a variety of job settings. An ecological vocational assessment focuses on particular employment tasks within a designated job site to determine whether the person

