

# Creating Easy Read

## Why is testing important?

Testing Easy Read is an important step in the production of accessible written information. Embrace Access is proud to have a team of lived experience advisors who can test your Easy Read information. When possible, it's a great idea to include people with literacy difficulty from the beginning of your writing project. For example, to suggest important topics to write about and to work on drafts as you go.

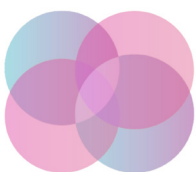
## Our team of testers



Embrace Access has a diverse team of lived experience advisors who can test your document's accessibility.

Our testers can:

- ✓ identify complex words
- ✓ suggest more accessible language
- ✓ identify confusing images
- ✓ suggest more meaningful images
- ✓ identify missing information
- ✓ suggest new topics for Easy Read.



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## Tips for testing

### 1. Create a safe space

Testers are more likely to share constructive feedback when they feel safe. It's important to explain that "nothing bad will happen" if testers do not like parts of the Easy Read document. Remind testers that their ideas "make the document better", and "all ideas are welcome." Where rapport is not yet established, take time to build trust. We suggest spending 5-10 minutes in informal chat, or even a cup of tea, to help everyone relax before getting started.

### 2. Offer specific praise

Document testing places new cognitive demands on testers with low literacy. After all, reviewing written information, and articulating feedback, is a high level skill. For new testers, it may take some practice. Specific praise shows testers what's helpful for you. For example, if a tester describes a problem with your image, you might say, "That's a helpful comment. It's great when you tell me if a picture is too busy, well done." This is a motivating way to encourage and up skill your testers.

### 3. Avoid leading questions

People with intellectual disability may be more likely to acquiesce, or agree, with others. Leading questions from facilitators can elicit false responses. For example, testers might say what they think you hope to hear. Avoid asking questions such as "I think this word is too long, isn't it?" Or, "that image doesn't make sense, does it?" You may lead your tester to agree with your point of view. Instead, try asking open questions. For example, "what do you think about this sentence?" Or, "do you have any comments about these images?" These open questions help testers offer their true perspective.

