

## Teaching English to Visually Impaired Learners

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# Glossary of terms related to Visual Impairment

For the purposes of a better understanding of the texts and videos included in this course, a simple glossary is presented that describes the most technical words used in it, explained in a functional way and for the purposes of the course.

- **Accessibility:** characteristic of an element (technological or not) that means that it can be used by anyone regardless of their circumstances.
- **ALT Text:** option that some platforms offer (e.g. Microsoft or Canva) where it is possible to add descriptive text to images that will be read by a screen reader.
- **Blind:** person who does not have the functional use of vision.
- **Braille:** Reading and writing system for VI people that consists of two columns of 3 dots each drawn in relief to be able to read by touch.
- **Braille display:** electronic device that allows you to read in Braille what appears on the screen of the computer to which it is connected.
- **Co-occurrence:** presence of two or more diseases or disorders at the same time in a person.
- **Deafblindness:** visual and hearing impairment that can co-occur in different degrees.
- **Enlarged print text:** printed text formatted with a larger font size than usual and adapted to the needs of each learner.
- **Hotkey:** key combination on the keyboard to use the computer without the need of a mouse.
- **JAWS:** screen reader that allows VI people to know what is happening on their computer.
- **Low vision:** visual deficit that requires the use of specific tools such as screen magnifiers.
- **Perkins Braille Writer:** Braille Typewriter.
- **Print:** Term that in the context of blindness refers to the use of black characters. All those writings, whether printed, handwritten or digital, that can be read by sighted people.

- **Residual vision:** remaining useful vision as a result of vision loss.
- **Screen magnifier:** software that allows you to view screen images in a larger size.
- **Screen reader:** software that allows VI users to read the contents of the screen of a technological device with a speech synthesizer or a braille display.
- **Typhlo:** Any word that includes "typhlo" refers to blindness.
- **Typhlotechnology:** Tools, aids, support, materials and everything intended for and related to visually impaired people.
- **To work in print:** to not use Braille, to work with writing in text format.
- **Visual Impairment (VI):** Visually impaired learners are those who have low vision, even with optical correction (e.g. glasses or contact lenses) or are blind.
- **Voice-guiding applications:** applications with voiceovers that indicate which screen you are on and how to work with it.
- **Non-Voice-guiding applications:** applications that require a screen reader to operate them.
- **Zoom:** online communication application.
- **Zoomtext:** A screen magnifier that allows a person with visual impairment to work on a computer with a Windows operating system with various magnification levels, colour contrasts and backgrounds and an optional voice synthesis that makes long readings more comfortable.

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