

# Carry on reading



Do you have problems reading print? This guide will help you find the material you want to read – books, newspapers or magazines – in a format to suit you.

You've always enjoyed reading – and want to carry on. However, you're finding it difficult because the print is too small, the pages are getting difficult to turn or you have other problems reading print.

The organisations in this leaflet can help – our services are free or available for a modest fee.

## Using your local library

There is no need to stop using your local library just because your sight is failing.

- Most libraries stock large print books and spoken word audio tapes and CDs. They can also order titles for you through the national inter-library loan scheme.
- Some libraries now provide free access to eBooks as part of their service.
- Your local library may have access to the national online catalogue. This enables the library to check a book's availability in accessible formats from other sources.
- You can still take part in library reading groups and activities.
- Many libraries offer a range of other services including CCTVs and computers equipped with access technology such as speech and magnification software.

## Large print

**RNIB National Library Service** has giant print books and music scores for loan in 24 point type. Free postal service.  
Tel: 0303 123 9999 • [rnib.org.uk/library](http://rnib.org.uk/library)

**Big Print** is the only British weekly newspaper with TV and radio guide, published in large print (16 point type).  
Tel: 0303 123 9999 • [rnib.org.uk/bigprint](http://rnib.org.uk/bigprint)

**RNIB** also has a range of big print puzzle books.  
Tel: 0303 123 9999 • [rnib.org.uk/shop](http://rnib.org.uk/shop)

**Torch Trust** provides a free postal library service of Christian books, most in 24 point type.  
Tel: 01858 43 82 66 • [torchtrust.org](http://torchtrust.org)

You can also buy large print books from some high street book shops and via internet sites such as [largeprintbookshop.co.uk](http://largeprintbookshop.co.uk) and [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)

Example of 16 point

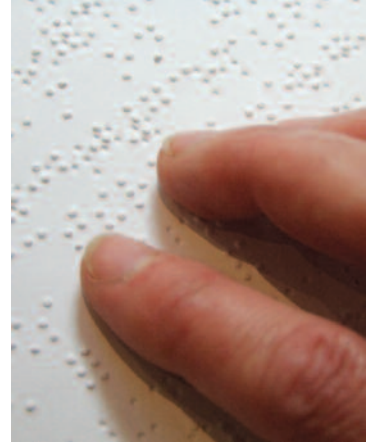
Example of 24 point



## Braille

### **RNIB National Library Service**

provides braille books and braille sheet music to borrow. Adults learning braille for the first time can borrow short stories and practice pieces in uncontracted and contracted braille. Free postal service. Tel: 0303 123 9999 • [rnib.org.uk/library](http://rnib.org.uk/library)



**RNIB** also sells braille books, magazines and tactile maps, and supplies many products to help braille learners.

Tel: 0303 123 9999 • [rnib.org.uk/shop](http://rnib.org.uk/shop)

**Torch Trust** provides a free postal library service of Christian books in braille.

Tel: 01858 43 82 66 • [torchtrust.org](http://torchtrust.org)

## Audio

You can enjoy audio books in a variety of ways and formats. The main national providers are listed here and can provide advice about audio equipment and suppliers.

**Calibre Audio Library** offers a subscription-free nationwide postal library of unabridged recorded books on MP3 CD and USB memory stick.

Tel: 01296 43 23 39 • [calibre.org.uk](http://calibre.org.uk)

**Listening Books** provides thousands of audio books to download and hundreds to stream via their website. Members can also choose to receive audio books through the post on MP3 CD. The charity stocks audio books for both adults and children and supports the National Curriculum from Key Stage 2 to A-Level.

Tel: 0207 407 9417 • [listening-books.org.uk](http://listening-books.org.uk)

### **National Talking Newspapers and Magazines (NTNM)**

Part of RNIB Group, NTNM offers more than 230 high street newspaper and magazine titles in audio. A wide range of titles are available on computer disk and by email as well as directly to your computer by streaming or downloading.

Tel: 01435 86 61 02 • [www.tnauk.org.uk](http://www.tnauk.org.uk)

**RNIB National Library Service** operates a postal library service offering unabridged talking books on digital CD (DAISY format).

Tel: 0303 123 9999 • [rnib.org.uk/talkingbooks](http://rnib.org.uk/talkingbooks)

**RNIB** also has a range of leisure magazines to subscribe to and an extensive range of audio DAISY books for sale.

Tel: 0303 123 9999 • [rnib.org.uk/shop](http://rnib.org.uk/shop)

You can also read audio books while online by subscribing to RNIB's BookStream Book Club at [rnib.org.uk/booksite](http://rnib.org.uk/booksite)

**Talking News Federation** – find out how to get hold of your local newspaper in audio.

Tel: 0871 226 5506 • [tnf.org.uk](http://tnf.org.uk)

**Torch Trust** provides a free postal library service of Christian books in DAISY as well as a USB memory stick service.

Tel: 01858 43 82 66 • [torchtrust.org](http://torchtrust.org)

You can buy audio books from some high street book shops and via internet sites such as [amazon.co.uk](http://amazon.co.uk)

You can also buy audio books to download from commercial suppliers such as Audible. Files can be played directly from your computer or transferred to other devices such as iPods, memory sticks and SD cards.

## eBooks and eBook readers

An eBook is a book in electronic format. Depending on what technology you use, eBooks can be read as audio (computer-generated speech), braille or large print, allowing you to choose the method that works for you. You can read eBooks using an eBook device such as the Amazon Kindle or on your computer or mobile phone.



## **Amazon**

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[amazon.co.uk/kindlestore](http://amazon.co.uk/kindlestore)

## **Apple**

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[apple.com/uk](http://apple.com/uk)

## **Google Books**

Google provides free eBooks in various formats:

[google.co.uk/books](http://google.co.uk/books)

## **Project Gutenberg**

Project Gutenberg provides many older books in popular eBook formats: [gutenberg.org](http://gutenberg.org)

## **Public libraries**

Many libraries now provide free access to eBooks as part of their service.

**RNIB** can provide information and advice about getting started with eBooks: [rnib.org.uk/eBooks](http://rnib.org.uk/eBooks) or telephone 0303 123 9999

For further copies of this leaflet in print, braille or on audio CD, call RNIB Helpline on 0303 123 9999.

This leaflet is sponsored by Share the Vision.

## Join a reading group

Sharing your love of reading in a group is a great way to make friends, exchange ideas and discover new books.

## Find a reading group near you

- Ask your local library. Many libraries run reading groups for people with sight loss – if they don't, ask them to start one.
- Visit [readinggroups.org.uk](http://readinggroups.org.uk) – this website lists hundreds of reading groups across the UK – search by county to find one near you.
- RNIB runs Telephone Book Clubs for people with sight loss. (RNIB Members participate for free).  
Tel: 0845 330 3723.
- Torch Trust also runs book groups.  
Tel: 01858 43 82 66 • [torchtrust.org](http://torchtrust.org)

## Need to get hold of a particular book?

The organisations in this leaflet can help you find the books you need to take part in a reading group.

**Don't miss out on the pleasure of a good book – carry on reading.**



supporting blind and  
partially sighted people

PR11046

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