# Unit 1: Module 1, Activity 3 Screen readers with braille display

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## What is a braille display?

Most people are familiar with the system of reading using raised dots invented by Louis Braille. Braille which is produced on paper is called “hard-copy braille”. “Refreshable braille” is produced on an electronic braille display which typically sits in front of the users' keyboard. Using a screen reader, the text on the screen can be read on the braille display.

## Lynn’s story

This video introduces you to Lynn who uses a screen reader which gives her both braille and audio output from her computer. Why does Lynn use a braille display as well as audio output?

Watch the video before continuing:

* [Activity 3: Screen reader with braille display video in MP4 format](http://dl.groovygecko.net/anon.groovy/clients/rnib/activity_3_screen_reader_braille_display.mp4)
* [Activity 3: Screen reader with braille display video in WMV format](http://ms.groovygecko.net/groovyg/clients/rnib/activity3-screen-reader-with-braille.wmv)

Lynn is a web programmer and needs a braille display to check for details such as spelling and spacing. As she explains, braille covers the things she can't hear in speech.

## Other ways of reading

There are a variety of ways of reading that don't involve a computer. For example:

* people who have some useful sight may be able to use large print (16 point or greater) or they may be able to read print with some form of magnifying device
* listening, via electronic speech or an audio recording (sometimes referred to as spoken word audio). A range of technology can be used which includes tape on a cassette player, CD as an audio file, or DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) which is a structured digital audio file
* using your hands to read hard copy braille or a tactile diagram.

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