# Unit 1: Module 1, Activity 4 Reading methods

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## Lynn, Val and Mark

As you watch this video identify the reading methods used by Lynn, Val and Mark when they are away from their desk.

Watch the video before continuing:

* [Activity 4: Reading methods video in MP4 format](http://dl.groovygecko.net/anon.groovy/clients/rnib/activity_4_reading_methods.mp4)
* [Activity 4: Reading methods video in WMV format](http://ms.groovygecko.net/groovyg/clients/rnib/activity4-reading-methods.wmv)

While Val uses large print, both Lynn and Mark refer to braille and electronic MP3-type machines onto which they download synthetic (not human) speech materials, or, in Mark's case, allows him to listen to books.

People who are blind or partially sighted tend to use a variety of reading methods and aids depending on:

* the amount of useful sight they have
* their personal preference
* the demands of the situation.

It's a bit like a fully sighted person having the choice of using an audio book when they are driving a car, reading a printed book for leisure, and using their computer to read the news.

## Key points

Blind and partially sighted people choose which reading aid to use depending on their needs, preferences and the situation.

People read and use computers in different ways.

## What does it mean for you?

This brief introduction to some reading aids shows why you need to think differently about the way in which you create documents. For example, we've seen how:

* fancy, curly, right aligned text, italics and changing the colour or font would make documents difficult for Val
* documents which aren't structured by using heading levels are difficult for Mark and Lynn.

Your starting point is to focus on your Word documents to make sure that any documents you create in MS Word can be read by everyone, regardless of how they access their computer.

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