

# Understanding Barriers to Accessibility

Barriers are obstacles. Barriers to accessibility are obstacles that make it difficult — sometimes impossible — for people with disabilities to do the things most of us take for granted — things like going shopping, working, or taking public transit.

When we think of barriers to accessibility, most of us think of physical barriers — like a person who uses a wheelchair not being able to enter a public building because there is no ramp.

The fact is there are many kinds of barriers. Some are visible. Many are invisible.

<b>Barriers to accessibility</b>	
<b>Type of barriers</b>	<b>Examples</b>
<b>Attitudinal</b> barriers are those that discriminate against people with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• thinking that people with disabilities are inferior</li><li>• assuming that a person who has a speech impairment can't understand you</li></ul>
<b>Information</b> or <b>communications</b> barriers happen when a person can't easily understand information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• print is too small to read</li><li>• websites that can't be accessed by people who are not able to use a mouse</li><li>• signs that are not clear or easily understood.</li></ul>
<b>Technology</b> barriers occur when a technology can't be modified to support various assistive devices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a website that doesn't support screen-reading software</li></ul>
<b>Organizational</b> barriers are an organization's policies, practices or procedures that discriminate against people with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a hiring process that is not open to people with disabilities</li></ul>
<b>Architectural</b> and <b>physical</b> barriers are features of buildings or spaces that cause problems for people with disabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• hallways and doorways that are too narrow for a person using a wheelchair, electric scooter or walker</li><li>• counters that are too high for</li></ul>

a person of short stature

- poor lighting for people with low vision
- doorknobs that are difficult for people with arthritis to grasp
- parking spaces that are too narrow for a driver who uses a wheelchair
- telephones that are not equipped with telecommunications devices for people who are Deaf, deafened or hard of hearing