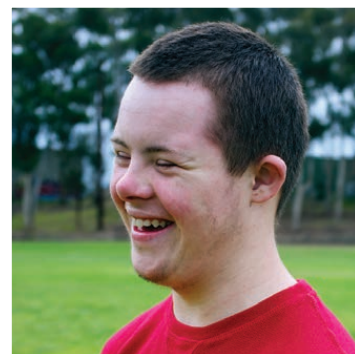
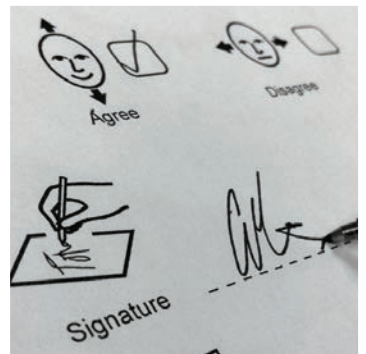
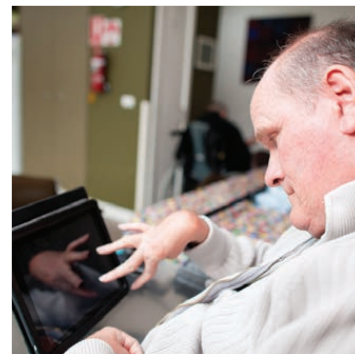
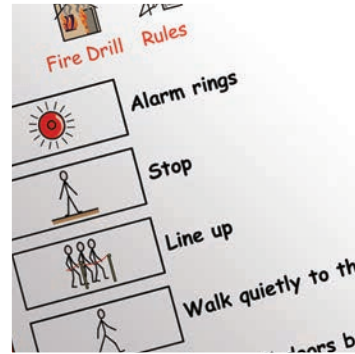
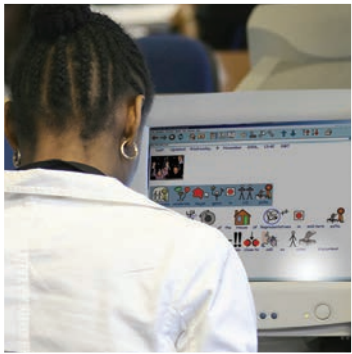




Widgit

What we do



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8. www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/Everydaylifeandaccess/VisitingPlacesOfInterest



Tel: 01926 333680
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Website: www.widgit.com

What it's all about

Widgit aids understanding and communication for people who find reading text difficult. Underpinned by a 'Structured Language Framework', Widgit Symbols add visual support to the printed word, giving easier access to information and separating it from the challenge of reading. Symbols open up the world of information to those otherwise excluded from it.



Lots of people find it difficult to read and write, probably more than you think and for many reasons. We live in a text-based society and if you cannot read well or indeed at all, the world can literally be a closed book.

Widgit creates solutions to make the world a fairer, more inclusive place for those children, young people and adults. Text with symbol support helps people with a range of abilities to communicate, access information and be more independent.

If you use text in any setting to communicate, it is difficult to estimate how many people understand your message fully and the people who most need to understand may not be able to do so.

We are all symbol users. Symbols engage people. They are a simple, quick, visual way of communicating information and can be used in all aspects of daily life. Widgit has taken this idea further and developed a symbol set covering over 55,000 words which enables people to 'translate' written text by combining it with symbols.

By using symbols alongside text, you are able to get your message across more effectively to more people.



Who uses symbols

Children and adults with a learning impairment, for example Autism, Down Syndrome or Dyslexia

Some people with severe learning difficulties will never be able to read and write; others find decoding text very difficult. There are around 1.5 million people in the UK alone with a learning disability (1). 10% of the population have dyslexia, 4% of them severely so (2). Nearly 15% of all school pupils in England have been identified with special educational needs (3).



People for whom English is an additional language

Over 200 languages are currently spoken in UK homes and in 2019, 17% of children in maintained primary schools did not have English as their first language (4). Symbols enable non-native speakers to communicate and understand English text.



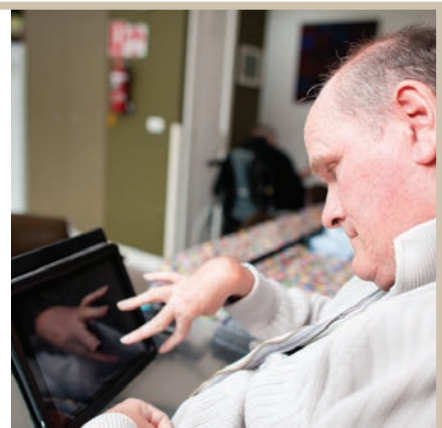
Children learning to read

Symbols can help children to access text when they are beginning to read by reinforcing the meaning of the written word. This can enable progress in many aspects of the curriculum and improve reading ability. Use of symbols also significantly improves behaviour, motivation and learning.



Children and adults with severe physical difficulties

Where people's physical abilities are restricted or they cannot speak, symbols can be used to help them to communicate their needs, enabling them to make choices. Symbols empower them to be able to share their thoughts and ideas in ways that others can more easily understand.



Who uses symbols

People in emergency situations

If someone has had an accident and is unable to speak, because of their injury or because they cannot speak the local language, symbols can be used as two-way communication to explain and understand the situation.



Disadvantaged people

Many people fall out of the education system before they have achieved functional literacy levels, making it difficult for them to understand the text used in everyday living. 1 in 6 (16.4% / 7.1 million people) adults in England have very poor literacy skills (5). Symbols can reinforce the meaning of text and increase their confidence.



Visitors to foreign countries

Symbols are used as a means of communication to help tourists and other visitors to navigate their way around a country and its attractions.



People learning a foreign language

Symbols can aid in the learning of a foreign language by offering additional support for the understanding of vocabulary and grammar.



Examples of symbol users

A young child from Latvia

Maija arrived at a nursery aged 4 from Latvia. She didn't understand any English, and coming from a different culture, she was completely lost as to what to do and what was expected of her. The nursery started by making flash cards for common words with the symbols for her and adding the English and Latvian text for her parents. Using these cards, Maija now understands what to do and is starting to become part of the group. These vocabulary cards helped the whole family, not just the child in the nursery.



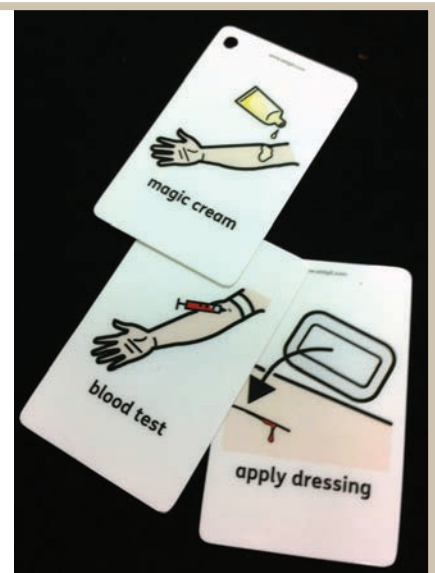
A non-verbal adult

Sacha is non-verbal and needs to use symbols to communicate with friends and family. His mother writes: "We use the program to produce and update a letter board and his communication book with pages for questions, conversation and communicating needs. Sacha also has a day board in his room, where we use symbols to show him his timetable for the day. This includes 'when' 'what', 'who', 'where', the date and weather. The symbols and software are invaluable to my son."



A patient with communication difficulties

Matthew needs to go to hospital from time to time. He finds it a very stressful experience because he can't communicate with the nursing staff and his behaviour can reflect this. Staff recently started to use symbol cards to explain what was going to happen. Seeing symbols for each of the different parts of the process made a tremendous difference. He became calm and, for example, will now voluntarily hold out his arm for the 'magic cream' before a blood test.



What's it like to be a non-reader?

To see how symbols can help people understand, you can put yourself in the position of a non-reader with this test.

The vocabulary on the grid describes the exhibits at a Swedish museum. See how many words you recognise and how many you think you can work out. Turn the page to see the grid with symbols.

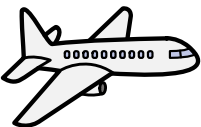
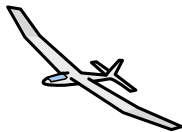
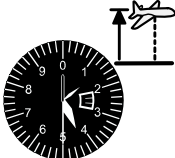
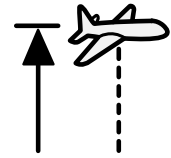


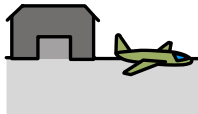


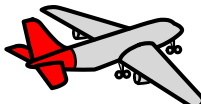
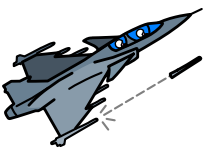
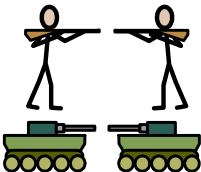




Flyvapenmuseum				
flygplan	segelflygplan	mätare	högt	radar
luftballong	bränsle	landningsbana	flygfält	verktyg
vinge	cockpit	kropp	stjärt	aerodynamik
vapen	attack	krig	spaning	skolflygplan
hjälm	fallskärm	väder	moln	luft

Turn over to see the Swedish vocabulary grid in symbols



What's it like to be a non-reader?

How many more words can you understand with symbols?

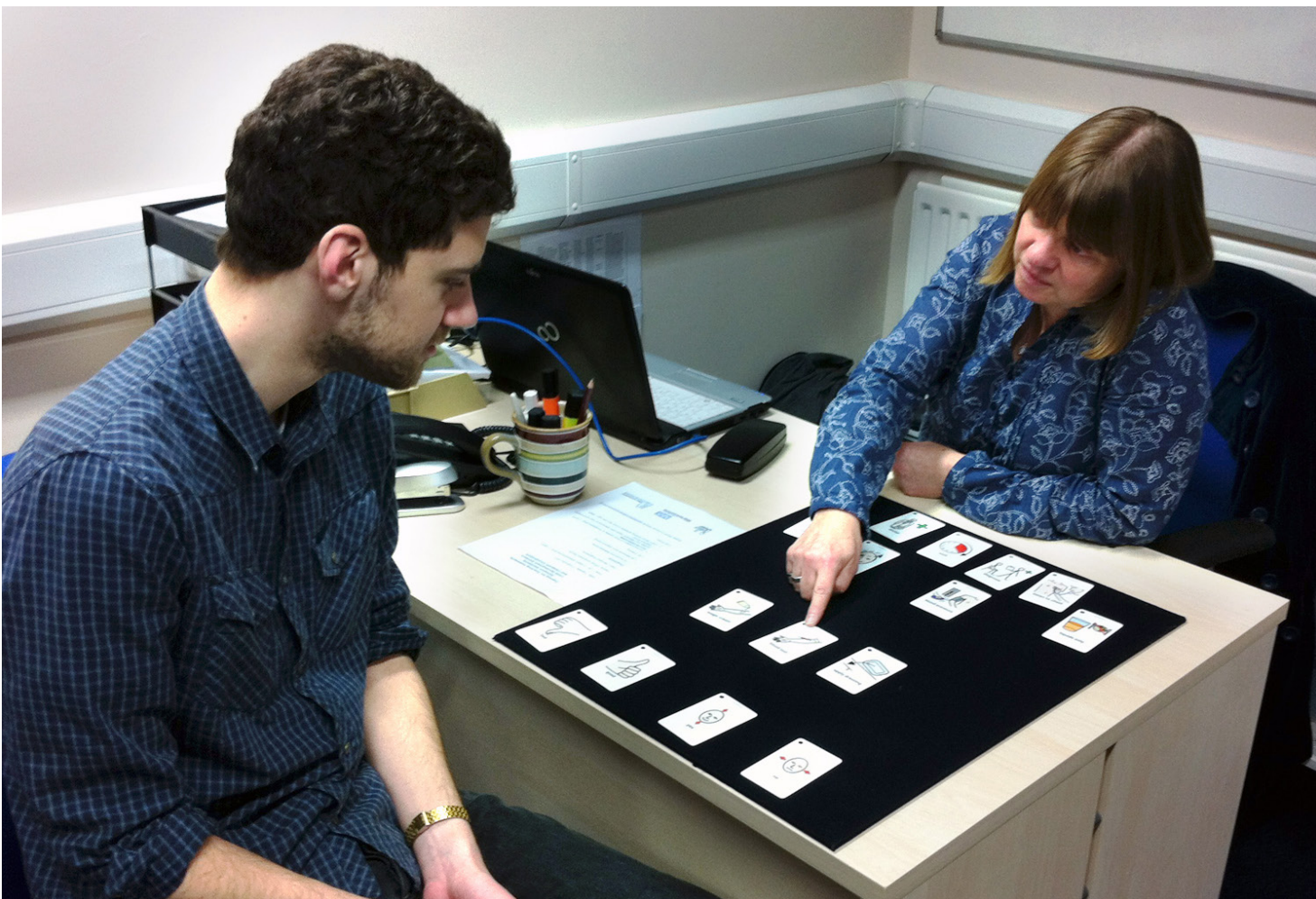
Flyvapenmuseum				
				
flygplan	segelflygplan	mätare	högt	radar
				
luftballong	bränsle	landningsbana	flygfält	verktyg
				
vinge	cockpit	kropp	stjört	aerodynamik
				
vapen	attack	krig	spaning	skolflygplan
				
hjälm	fallskärm	väder	moln	luft

Where symbols are used

Everyone has the right to be able to access information. It is our responsibility as an inclusive society to make sure that all members of the community can get the information they need. Symbols are a very effective tool for extending accessibility to those who have difficulty interacting with the world using text. **Symbols can be used in any setting.**

It can be difficult to imagine the different applications of symbols in an organisation if you have not come across them before. The use of braille and hearing loops for blind and deaf people is now well established and is recognised by all as a way of enabling access.

Using symbols in a particular setting has been proved to help communicate ideas and information to other groups of people to whom it would otherwise be denied.



Examples of where symbols are used

Mainstream Education

Symbols can be used to produce learning materials for students progressing towards reading text and also support positive behaviour and attentiveness. This is of particular importance as the government's inclusion initiatives mean that many children who would have previously been placed in special schools now access education in a mainstream setting.

In mainstream primary schools, it has been found that as many as 60% of the children have chosen to use symbol supported materials instead of unsupported text because they provide additional visual stimulation and motivation to learn.

In schools where a high proportion of the pupils have English as an Additional Language, symbols can provide a way to introduce students to a new language or new words.

Teacher, Clapham Terrace Primary: *"The symbols provided clear motivation and helped with understanding the vocabulary and meanings of terms."*

Class teacher: *"All the symbol support for the pre-learning of key concepts on the solar system has helped Yan to access the curriculum. This has increased his self-esteem and confidence."*



Early Years Settings

As children learn to play and explore in Early Years environments, symbols can be used to support their developing vocabulary through the use of symbol cards, labelling and Widgit software. Having the symbols generally around means that individuals who have not understood a particular instruction or opportunity can still see what is expected.

Staff working in Early Years settings in Warwickshire use symbols to label the environment, for example indicating where children may have a drink, look at a book or do an activity. Staff make booklets to model the right choices such as playing together, sharing toys and being kind, while discouraging antisocial behaviour such as being angry, kicking and hitting. These are very helpful to all children, not just children with a language difficulty.



Examples of where symbols are used

Special Education

Widgit's ground-breaking work on symbol development began in the 1980s with a teacher in a school for pupils with severe learning difficulties. She wanted to find a way for the children to be able to express something about themselves, to be able to tell their stories. The excitement and pride the children felt was the spur to continue the work and extend it to others with profound and multiple learning difficulties, physical and neurological impairments, speech and language difficulties, moderate learning difficulties and other special needs.

Widgit Symbols are now used in most special schools and colleges around the country and in many primary schools. Widgit has a range of educational software available which uses symbols, speech output and switches to support communication and learning activities..

College lecturer: *"Imagine how fantastic it is when a student can look at a piece of symbol-supported text and make sense of what they are seeing!"* College staff reinforce symbol recognition by making a huge variety of resources that support all curriculum areas. Importantly, understanding is achieved by using symbols in context in practical activities.



In the Home

Carers, parents and other family members can use Widgit Symbols to enhance the learning and communication of children and adults whom they support. They can work alongside schools and other settings to develop consistent strategies for coping in the wider world.

Mother: *"My son became ill with a virus that destroyed the area of his brain that holds language; consequently he developed a problem with language comprehension. Providing a pictorial representation of the words was found to be [most] helpful, as Andrew's visual memory was not only unaffected but above normal. Although he has language difficulties, he is very able. The symbols develop his skills and encourage participation in social activities which he finds difficult to engage in."*



Examples of where symbols are used

Local Authorities

Local Authorities (LAs) are the local layer of government and administer a very wide range of local services. These include education, social care, planning, environmental services and the fire service. LAs have a duty and a responsibility to deliver their services to all in the community. Symbols used in documentation of all kinds ensures an inclusive service.

Class teacher: *“The symbolised materials really help children to be independent. Thanks to the Symbols Inclusion Project, about 75% of Warwickshire schools, and 200 pre-school settings are using symbols in some way to support children with their understanding and learning. The LA is now supporting symbol use throughout the region.”*

www.widgit.com/warwickshire



Housing and employment services

Housing and employment services can both generate an enormous amount of paperwork, some of which can include complex legal information. The content of application forms, contracts, agreements and questionnaires needs to be understood, especially where a signature is required. Symbols can be used alongside text as support for written information to signpost the content of a sentence, paragraph, statement or question. They have enabled both service users and providers to feel more confident in their dealings with each other.

Transport for London: *“The symbolised document is absolutely great. The students who have used it, found it an easy document to follow and it clearly shows what is expected of them, and of us. The Remploy Job Coach and Barnet College Tutor who support the programme were really impressed by it, so good feedback all round!”*

www.widgit.com/transport-for-london



Examples of where symbols are used

Charities

Widgit has worked with a wide variety of charities on providing symbol support for their documents and websites. Many charities work on behalf of children or disadvantaged people, where the presentation of accessible information is a necessity.

CEO at Childnet International: *“Learning to use the internet safely and responsibly is a fundamental part of children’s education. Childnet have been delighted to partner with Widgit, in making the SMART rules available in Widgit symbols, to help make these important messages accessible to all children. Childnet firmly believe that this will make a real difference in helping all children to stay safe and get the most out of the amazing opportunities that new technology offers”.*



Know IT All
for parents



Helping to keep your children safe online

Hospitals and other health services

The combination of stress, injury and the need to act swiftly can reduce the effectiveness of communication via the written or spoken word for many people. If English is not your first language then all these problems are magnified. Widgit has produced a number of symbol supported medical booklets which aid description of symptoms, medical procedures, and diagnosis. They have been used in Accident and Emergency Departments and by the Ambulance Service. Symbols in this context enable patients to have their own voice rather than needing someone else to speak on their behalf.

Hospital Procedures, developed in association with Sheffield Children’s NHS Foundation Trust. A series of resources designed to help patients with learning difficulties understand the procedures, sequence of events and people associated with a visit to hospital.

www.widgit.com/hospital-procedures



Sheffield Children’s **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

Examples of where symbols are used

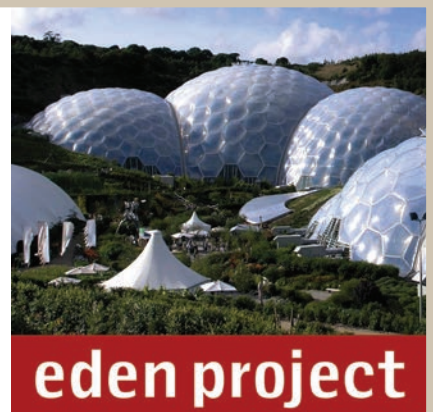
Tourist Attractions and Museums

Tourist attractions welcome a wide range of visitors including foreign tourists and school groups, in addition to people who have difficulty in accessing text. Symbols which encapsulate the main idea of an exhibit can cater for all these groups and convey information quickly and effectively.

Many institutions have an education department and provide packs for groups and individuals to use during their visit. Symbol-supported materials in these packs widen the appeal of the attraction by making it accessible to a larger number of people. As with any unfamiliar area, signage will help visitors to navigate their way around the site.

Widgit has been working with the Sensory Trust to create more accessible signage and exhibits at the Eden Project. Symbols on signage and displays throughout the site help create a more inclusive environment for its visitors.

www.widgit.com/edenproject



Public Spaces

Leisure centres, libraries, parks, shopping centres and sporting venues, to name but a few; already use limited symbols in signage to direct and inform. Greater use of Widgit's universally recognised set of symbols reduces the need for lengthy notices and explanations in these areas by providing an alternative to words.

Head of Access for All, National Trust: *"We hope that this project, which is unique in its scope for a garden, will make a real difference to visitors with a wide range of disabilities and can become a template for other National Trust gardens."*

www.widgit.com/nationaltrust



How symbols are used

Wherever information is conveyed in text form, it can be made more accessible through the use of symbols. It would be impossible to list all the applications, but as an example a restaurant might add symbols to its menus to describe dishes as vegetarian or warn that they contain nuts. There might be symbols on the pricelist, toilet doors and emergency exits. Symbols do not discriminate: symbols are used by everyone, in all walks of life, regardless of reading ability.

We regularly advise people on how they can use symbols in their working environments and would be happy to visit you to make an assessment of how your workplace could become more inclusive and accessible through the use of symbols.



Examples of how symbols are used

Learning Support

Symbols have a huge number of applications in schools and other educational settings.

Education materials with symbols can help students of all ages and abilities. Symbols make reading text less of a barrier to learning, making education fairer and more equal for all. We have a huge range of free, ready-made materials for use in all areas of the curriculum in schools, or teachers can use our software to create their own.



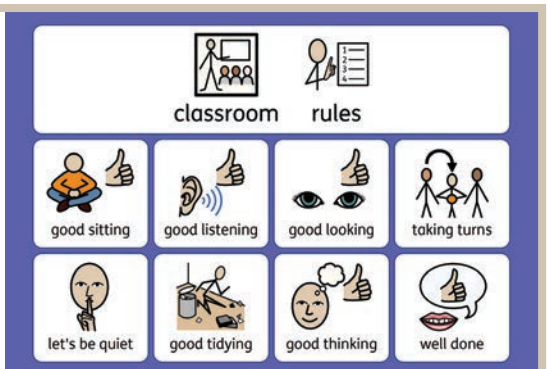
Flashcards with symbols help students learn new vocabulary and familiarise them with symbol use.



Games and worksheets with symbols enable increased interaction and provide additional visual stimulation and motivation to learn. Behaviour and discipline are improved for many students as they can be more easily engaged in curriculum topics through symbol-supported instructions and worksheets.



Behaviour symbols and rules can either be displayed in the classroom or carried by the pupils themselves and can prove an invaluable support in enabling pupils to regulate their own behaviour.



Feelings, choice and opinion cards enable children to communicate their emotions and views when they are unable to articulate them verbally or in writing.



Visual timetables and 'now and next' cards enable children to understand routines throughout the school day, reducing anxiety and improving learning and behaviour.



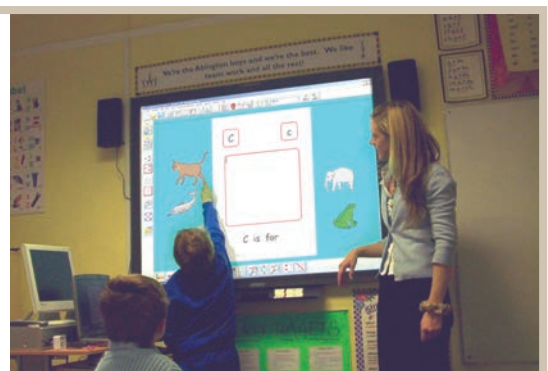
Labelling areas helps children to organise themselves. Labelling cupboards and drawers makes it easier for children to find what they need, improving independence.



Displays are a visual representation of a topic to support learning. The visual impact of the display along with the symbol reminders encourages struggling learners and increases motivation and self-esteem.



Computer activities can be a valuable tool for supporting any topic or task, either as a whole class activity or for individual work.



Examples of how symbols are used

Surveys

Symbols in surveys help achieve more accurate responses.

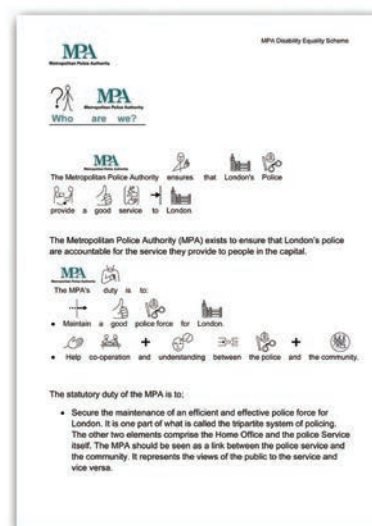
If you are carrying out a survey to learn what your employees or customers think, using symbols will ensure that those who cannot access text are able to express their views and opinions as accurately as any other service user.



Formal Documents

Symbols for official documents and agreements.

Formal documents such as tenancy agreements, contracts and application forms can be made more understandable with the use of symbols. The main points of each paragraph can be summarised in symbol form, or single symbols can be used to signpost what each part of the document contains.



Procedures and routines

Symbols can help explain procedures and routines in any environment.

Hospital routines and procedures in symbol form can both inform and reassure patients about what their hospital experience will be like, for example the steps needed to prepare for an operation or what their hospital stay will include.

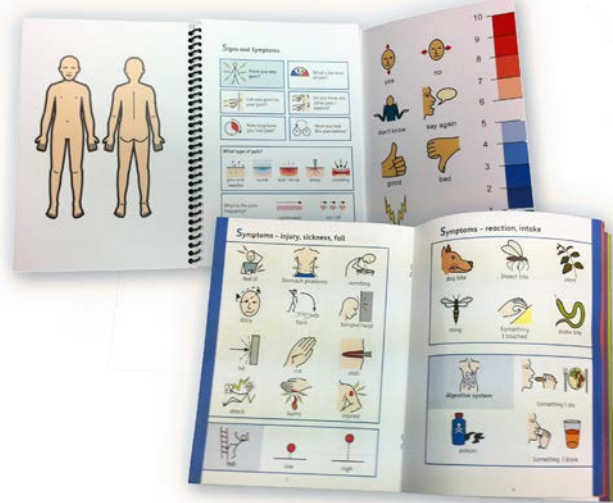


Examples of how symbols are used

To aid diagnosis

Symbols can aid diagnosis of illness or disease.

Booklets, laminated cards or disposable resources can be used to aid the diagnosis of an illness or identification of pain. These are especially useful where a person has no speech or does not understand the language of the country in which they are taken ill.



Signage for wayfinding

Symbols can assist people in navigating around the environment.

Symbols are already frequently used to assist people in finding their way around public places. Common examples include navigating foreign airports, finding the nearest lavatory or fire exit. Increasing the use of images in signs and using a widely recognised set can help anybody find their way around easily.



Information signs and leaflets

Symbols can support any publicly displayed information.

Signs, posters and leaflets used in public places should be accessible to any member of the public. For people who find text challenging, symbols may be the only way they can access information. For more adept readers, it can be a quick way to access a summary of the key points of a sign or leaflet.



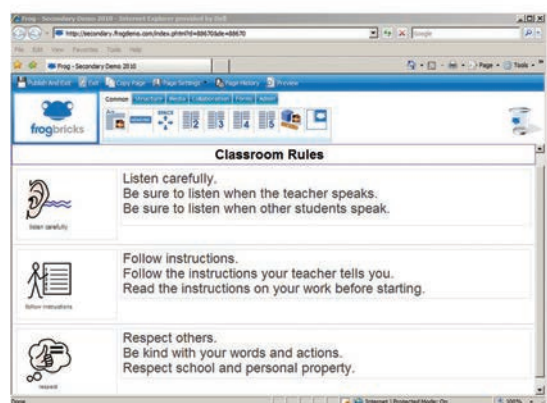
Examples of how symbols are used

Websites

Symbols can help make any website more accessible to its audience.

There is an increased need to make information on websites more accessible. Good progress has been made in supporting people with physical and sensory impairments, but the content itself can often fall short of being accessible.

The addition of visual support means that visitors to a website do not have to rely entirely on the written word. This can be helpful for people who have English as an additional language. Symbols can be especially effective within Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) for schools or public information websites.



Communication Aids

Supporting people who are not able to speak, read or write to communicate their needs, choices and ideas.

Symbols can enable this group of people to communicate in two ways:

High tech computer device where a finger, switch or head pointer can be used to identify a symbol which is then converted into speech output.

Low tech solution pointing to symbols on paper.

Where people are unable to speak but may be able to access text, ideas can be communicated much more quickly to others using symbols rather than pointing to individual letters to form words.



Legal responsibilities

The UK's **Equality Act 2010** places an obligation on all organisations to ensure that any services they provide for members of the public are extended equally to people with disabilities, including those who have difficulty in reading or understanding the meaning of words.

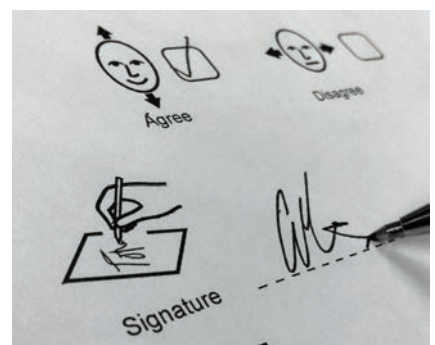
The key principles in this legislation include rights, independence, choice and inclusion. The emphasis is on what people can do, and not what they are unable to do. For educational institutions, it is unlawful to discriminate against people with learning disabilities, not only in providing education, but also in wider services such as admissions, welfare and careers advice. There is a legal obligation upon many businesses to make their services accessible to everyone.

It provides legal rights for disabled people in the areas of:

- employment
- education
- access to goods, services and facilities
- buying and renting land or property
- functions of public bodies, for example the issuing of licences (6)

Adjustments have to be made for people when accessing services where it is reasonable for the service provider to make these adjustments. This might include the provision of information in a format that is accessible to them. (7)

Information and signage in simple and alternative formats help people with severe learning disabilities. Most larger museums, galleries and buildings now have visual and tactile signs and easily understood symbols. Routes should be clearly marked with easy identification of what each room in the building is for - with clear ways in and out.(8)



How Widgit can help

Widgit software titles have been used in classrooms, healthcare settings and at home for more than 35 years to create a wide variety of symbol materials. Join thousands of teachers, parents and professionals and start creating your own symbol materials with one of our easy to use titles.

Software

InPrint 3

Design personalised symbol materials to print

With access to over 20,000 Widgit Symbols, 100's of editable templates and a range of powerful design features, InPrint 3 is the perfect tool to create visual supports and learning materials.

- **Customisable.** Powerful design features enable bespoke, customised material creation.
- **Inclusive.** Make personalised and truly representative materials.

www.widgit.com/inprint

Widgit Online

Create, print, share and translate symbol materials online

Create, print, share and translate symbol materials online. Create visual, communication and learning supports in your web browser using 250 easy-to-use templates.

- **Easy to use.**
Simply open a template, add your content and print.
- **Flexible cloud-based solution.**
Access from any location on a PC, Mac or iPad.
- **EAL and MFL ready.**
Dual language feature enables material translation into 80 different languages.

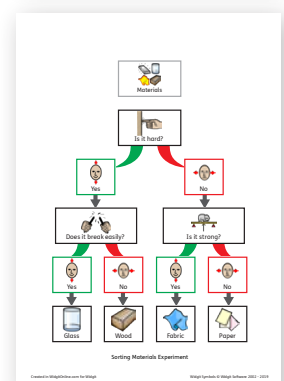
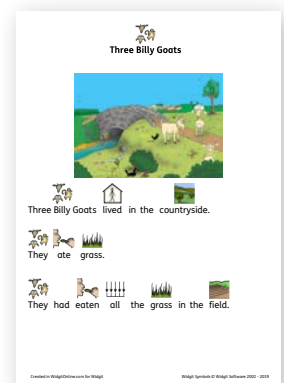
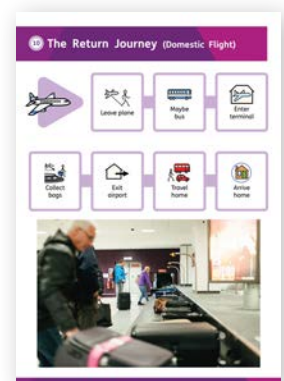
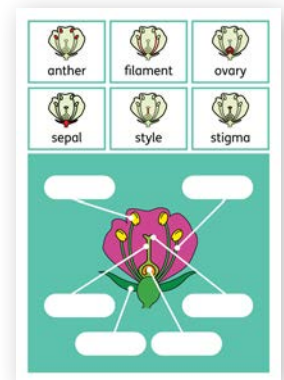
www.widgit.com/widgit-online

Point

Symbols on your website

Add symbol support to your website or Virtual Learning Environment quickly and easily. Using symbols to support text can greatly enhance the accessibility of your website.

www.widgit.com/point



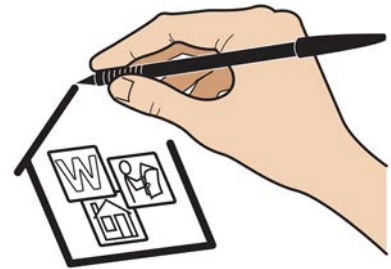
How Widgit can help

Our team is always happy to answer any questions you might have. You can call us on 01926 333680, email info@widgit.com or follow the links for more information.

Accessible information services

Our creative team works in partnership with organisations both at home and abroad to produce symbolised documents which cater for their individual requirements. We consult with the customer throughout the design process, creating new symbols where necessary, to ensure that the end result is fit for purpose and appropriate for different cultures and languages.

www.widgit.com/accessibleinformation



Symbol licensing

For organisations

Widgit licenses symbols to organisations so that documents and other materials can be published and distributed.

Commercial products

We license symbols to other companies for use in their commercial products, for example their own software, online portals, VLEs and apps for a range of devices. Widgit has developed a very large and widely recognised symbol set which is used all over the world. This is value that can easily be added to your product in whatever format you require.

www.widgit.com/symbol-services/licensing

Signage

We offer licensing to companies such as architects and building contractors to help design their signage for public buildings and open spaces. We also can produce low-cost signage tiles.

www.widgit.com/signs



About symbols

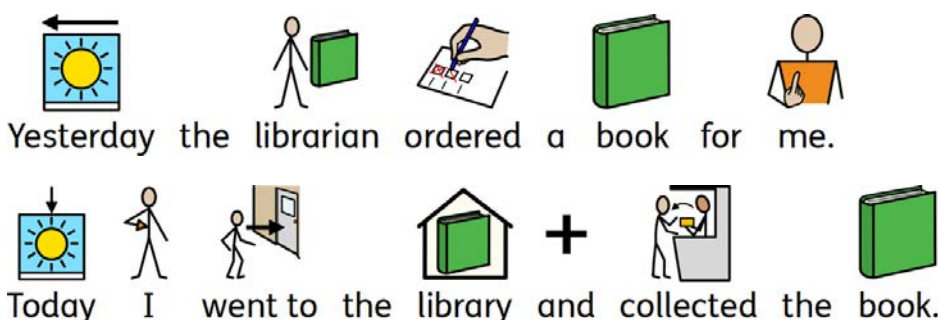
Symbols, icons and pictures

Symbols and icons are all around us, from instructions on an appliance to signs in foreign airports. They give us immediate information which may otherwise be too difficult or time-consuming to access. A road sign in text, for example, would be useless for someone who could not read the language and too time-consuming to be safe for someone who could.

Symbols are similar to icons but are able to convey a much broader and more varied level of meaning. Icons are a visual key used to access a single piece of information and work in isolation from one another. Symbols may have a design which can convey a layered meaning, for example a road sign within a red triangle is a warning and a red circle with a line through it is a prohibition, but they cannot be used to convey anything more than basic information.

Pictures have the opposite problem to icons in the sense that they can convey too much information which confuses the intended meaning. Pictures are, by their very nature, open to interpretation and although a symbol may look like a picture at first glance, there is a great difference. A symbol has a single, simple and defined meaning whereas the picture opposite could have multiple interpretations. For example, the lady could be happy to find her favourite book, enjoying working as a librarian, or reviewing opinions of people in the library.

Symbols are designed in large sets with a consistent visual structure covering a wide vocabulary. This means they can be used in combination to express a near infinite range of meaning. Symbols can convey basic information in the same way that icons do, but by combining them, much more complex information can be conveyed.



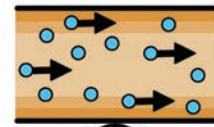
Pictures are useful to set a scene, and symbols give an accurate interpretation of the intended meaning, so they work well when used together.

About symbols

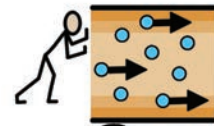
Visualising meaning

Symbols also support learning and communication by helping someone to visualise a meaning. This is especially useful when considering concepts that aren't visual, such as voltage and current.

It is much easier to understand and remember voltage and current by using symbols. A person can recall the meaning using visual memory as well as semantic (or knowledge) memory. Using this 'doubling-up' of recall makes learning concepts much easier for everyone.



current=electrical 'flow'



voltage=electrical 'push'

Symbol sets

Collections of symbols that cover a wide vocabulary are called a 'symbol set'. Most symbol sets are designed to follow a coherent set of design rules to provide consistency, which assists the decoding of meaning.

Symbol set design

Symbols are designed so that it is simple to decode their meaning. This is especially apparent with representational symbols such as 'mug' or 'drink' that are shown here.



mug



drink



house



cycle



apple

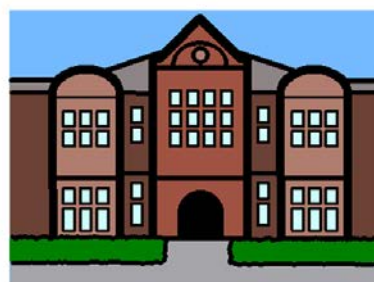


stir

When ideas are beyond common nouns or verbs, the underlying schema becomes incredibly important. For example, an office is represented by a stylised building containing a desk, so a building containing a book can be logically interpreted as a library. If the symbol for a library was a 'picture' of an actual library building, its meaning could be confusing for people who don't use that specific library.



library



library illustration



library symbol

Widgit Symbols

The ever-expanding Widgit Symbol Set has been developed over the past 35 years and now contains more than 20,000 symbols, which cover an English vocabulary of over 55,000 words. Widgit's simply-drawn, colourful symbols each illustrate a single concept in a clear and concise way and cover a range of topics (including many curricular areas) wide enough to make them suitable for symbol users of all ages and abilities.

Widgit Symbols are used all over the world, supporting 17 languages, increasing the accessibility of written text and giving readers of all literacy levels greater access to information. As the Widgit Symbol Set is designed specifically for written information, Widgit Symbol users can develop a real independence in their reading and writing.

Future developments and free updates

The development of the symbol set is an on-going process and additional schema are developed as the need arises. All symbol updates are available for free for Widgit products. Symbols are updated regularly in our software.

For more information please visit www.widgit.com/symbolupdates.

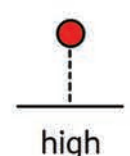
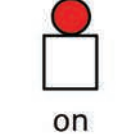
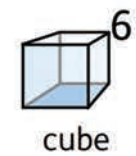
2021 Widgit Symbol Update

To support self-expression and vocabulary comprehension for our users, there has been a major update to the Widgit Symbols to better represent the culture and technology of the world we live in.

The 2021 Symbols Review and Development project was undertaken to review, improve or replace symbols that were felt to no longer be 'fit for purpose.' We have reviewed every single symbol in the set and redrawn it where necessary, ensuring that symbols are consistent, clear, concise, whilst maintaining a high and modern design standard.

Find out more about the 2021 Symbol Update: www.widgit.com/symbols2021

Find out about the initial (2002) Symbols Development Project: www.widgit.com/widgit-symbols-project



Widgit Symbols Schema

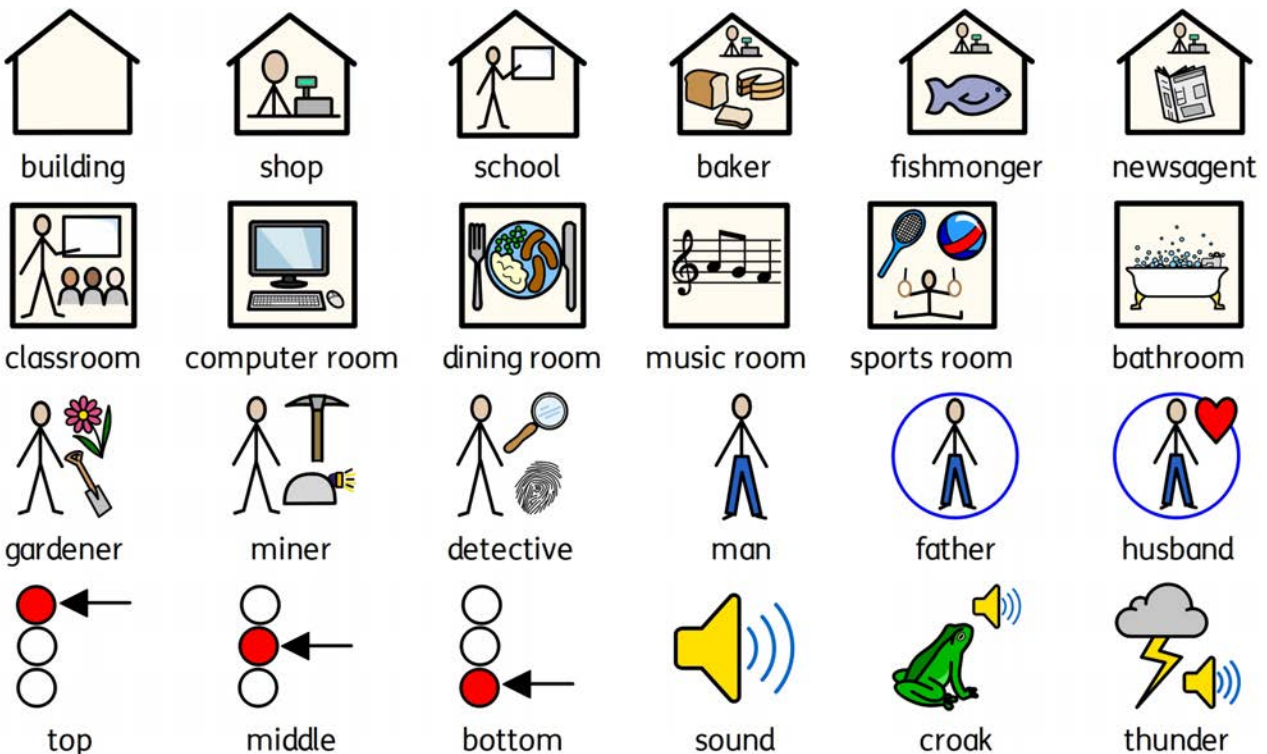
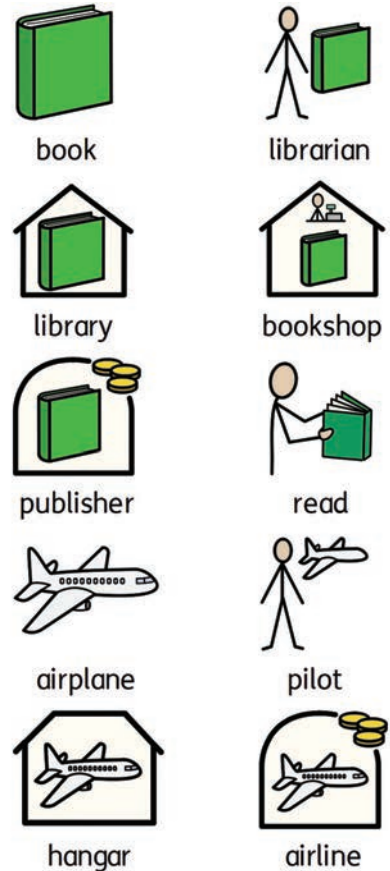
The Widgit Symbols follow a schematic structure, underpinned by a 'Structured Language Framework', meaning that there are 'rules' for the way in which they are formed. These 'rules' for symbol composition quickly become recognisable to new users, giving a level of independence in learning the conventions within the symbols.

A good example of this structure is the set of conventions followed by the symbols for buildings. A symbol that represents a building will feature a standard outline of a building, which contains another symbol that gives information about the type of building it is. The scale of the building is indicated by the shape of the roof: a flat roof represents a large building, such as a hospital, and a pointed roof represents a smaller building, such as a clinic.

The inclusion of other elements within a 'building' symbol can change the nature of the symbol again. For example, adding a cash register to the 'book in a building' symbol would indicate a bookshop rather than a library.

Once these rules have been learned, it is easy to recognise the concept being depicted by the symbol, even when the symbol features three or more elements.

For a full description of the design rules visit: www.widgit.com/schema



Useful Web Addresses

Widgit Accessible Information Services

www.widgit.com/accessibleinformation



Widgit Software's symbolisation and design service.

If you are producing written information, signage or a website, you could significantly improve your audience's understanding by supporting your text with Widgit Symbols.

Directgov

www.gov.uk/definition-of-disability-under-equality-act-2010

Government information on disability rights in the United Kingdom

SymbolWorld

www.symbolworld.org

A free symbolised website with news and stories for all ages

Symbols Inclusion Project

www.symbolsinclusionproject.org

A 10 year project with Warwickshire County Council exploring the use of symbols in mainstream schools.



The Sensory Trust

www.sensorytrust.org.uk

The Sensory Trust works to ensure that all people, regardless of age or ability, can actively participate in, learn from and enjoy outdoor environments. Contact us for information about our services.



Contact us:

Tel: 01926 333680

Web: www.widgit.com

Email: info@widgit.com

Get Social

Our social media channels have become a great place to share resources, start conversations and provide inspiration to each other.

Search for Widgit.

