

Helping the Disabled

There are some devices that can make lives of the disabled easier and help them live like normal people. Let's learn more about them.

Speech-generating Devices



Speech-generating devices help people with speaking difficulties communicate with others. Stephen Hawking was a well-known user in his time. There was an infrared switch mounted on his glasses to trace movements of his cheek. He could input words by twitching his cheek at the correct letters on the computer. After receiving the messages, the device would produce electronic voice output.

Electric Cars

There is a type of electric car that allows wheelchair users to drive, giving them the freedom to go wherever they want without the help from others. The users can remain in their wheelchairs while driving so it is a lot more convenient for them. The car can only reach 45 km per hour so it is designed for going on short journeys.

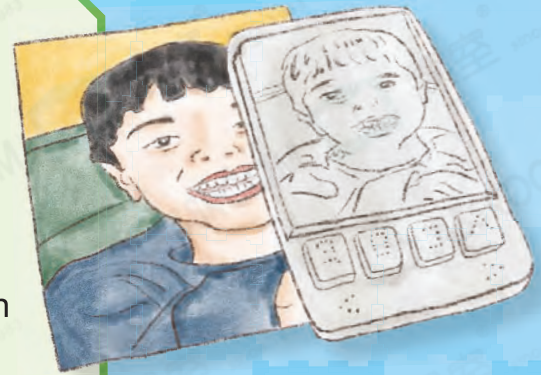


A Fill in each blank with ONE word from the text.

1. Stephen Hawking had an infrared switch on his _____.
2. The user with speaking difficulties may twitch his or her _____ to control the speech-generating device.
3. Some cars allow disabled drivers to _____ in their wheelchairs when driving.
4. There are _____ on the screen of a braille smartphone.
5. Braille smartphones can help _____ people share information.

Braille Smartphones

Braille number keys on traditional telephones are not new, but those on touchscreen smartphones are. The screen is made up of a grid of pins. When the user receives a text message, the pins move up and down to form braille characters. The pins can even form shapes to let the user 'touch' and 'feel' a photo. Blind people can now communicate better with these modern features of smartphones!



B Read the hints and circle the correct words from the text in the word search.

i	f	n	u	i	s	z	f	i	t
a	t	k	p	z	l	l	v	k	j
x	o	x	c	p	f	f	v	f	y
c	u	q	c	m	n	l	o	r	u
y	c	p	o	f	q	r	h	e	w
z	h	q	n	v	o	i	c	e	g
s	s	s	v	l	p	z	y	d	j
b	c	w	e	g	k	f	g	o	h
u	r	z	n	a	w	b	n	m	m
c	e	o	i	v	n	c	t	l	q
c	e	y	e	x	k	e	y	s	a
v	n	t	n	t	n	e	n	l	e
z	v	g	t	a	p	l	q	o	v

Hints:

- I have lost my _____ because of a serious sore throat.
- People in prison do not have the _____ to do what they want.
- I live in a _____ location where I can easily go to other districts by different modes of transport.
- Miss Cheung taught Elly how to press the _____ with both hands in her first piano lesson.
- There is a _____ TV in front of every seat so passengers will not feel bored on the flight.

STEAM Highlights

What is the maximum speed of the electric cars for wheelchair users? (Find the answer from the text and check it on P.72.)