

What is Vision Assistive Technology?

Assistive Technology for Vision helps people see better or comprehend what they cannot see. Vision AT includes devices and software to magnify printed materials, provide auditory support, and support braille reading.

Where and When do individuals need to use Vision AT?

Vision AT can be used in various settings depending on the person's needs. Individuals may use multiple tools depending on the situation and what tasks they need to complete. For example, a person with low vision may use a desktop electronic video magnifier to read in the school library or at their workplace. At home or work, they might use a handheld magnifier. A student who reads braille may use an electronic braille notetaker to complete assignments in class and an audiobook player to listen to books at home.



Who needs Vision AT?

Individuals who are blind, have low vision, or have conditions that limit their ability to comprehend visual stimuli may benefit from vision AT. Individuals with reading disabilities may also benefit from tools designed for the blind and visually impaired, such as accessible text readers.

Why aren't glasses/corrective lenses enough?

Glasses, and even surgical interventions, may not fully correct certain eye conditions. Assistive technology helps people with visual impairment to maximize the use of any remaining vision and access their environment using other senses, such as hearing and touch. Some eye conditions are degenerative or unstable, meaning the person could eventually lose more of their sight or even become blind. Learning braille, tactile, and navigation skills become critical for individuals in these situations. Current and future needs should always be considered when addressing the needs of an individual with visual impairment.

Technology has many advantages, but careful consideration is needed to meet an individual's unmet needs in the community, educational, and employment settings. To learn more about navigating the world of Vision AT, visit [Vision – Explore AT from AT3 Center](#). The assistive technology solutions provided on this site are intended as examples to give an idea of the types of Vision AT currently available in today's market. Also, remember to [contact your AT Act Program](#) to learn more and explore services available to help make an informed purchasing decision and obtain the AT needed.

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