

# **\* disability**

# **Quiz**

This quiz can be used before beginning the activities. It helps participants discover the concerns and assumptions they have about people with disabilities and prompts discussion. Explanations for the correct answers can be found on the next page.

1. Is a person with a disability usually sick?  
 Yes    No    Not Sure
2. Can a person who is blind go to the store?  
 Yes    No    Not Sure
3. If someone can't talk, does he or she have an intellectual disability?  
 Yes    No    Sometimes
4. Are people with disabilities born that way?  
 Yes    No    Sometimes
5. Should you feel sorry for someone who has a disability?  
 Yes    No    Not Sure
6. Can people who are blind hear the same as other people?  
 Yes    No    Not Sure
7. If a person has an intellectual disability, does it mean that he or she will never grow up?  
 Yes    No    Not Sure
8. Are all people who are deaf alike?  
 Yes    No    Not Sure
9. Can a person in a wheelchair be a teacher?  
 Yes    No    Not Sure
10. Do all children have a right to go to your school?  
 Yes    No    Not Sure

## Discussion

1. **No.** Disabilities are not illnesses. They cannot be cured. Children may understand the explanation that the disability is part of the person, just like blue eyes or athletic ability.
2. **Yes.** If there are no Braille numerals on elevator buttons, ramps into a store or buses that are accessible to people with mobility impairments, children often may not see people with disabilities in stores and other public places. People with disabilities adapt and adjust to their limitations; often their communities do not.
3. **Sometimes.** Some people who cannot talk may not be intellectually limited at all. They may have a disability like cerebral palsy, which may physically prevent them from speaking. They may have a hearing loss, which has kept them from modeling speech. Or they may have learning disabilities, which hinder their ability to translate what they want to say into spoken language.
4. **Sometimes.** Some children fear that they can "catch" a disability. This, of course, is not true. Many disabilities are evident at birth or soon after, although some are caused by accident or illness in later years.
5. **No.** Feeling sorry for a person with a disability, or thankful that you do not have one, often creates an extra burden for the person with a disability. Most people have come to see their disabilities as a part of themselves, a part which may make their lives different from other people's, but not necessarily tragic.
6. **Yes.** People who are blind or who have limited mobility are often talked to in loud voices, but a visual impairment by no means indicates a hearing impairment. As a matter of fact, people with disabilities are often thought to have superpowers in their non-disabled senses. A person may be both mobility-impaired and deaf, or a person who is visually impaired may have developed more acute hearing than most people. In any case, people with disabilities want to be accepted, but do not want people to expect other disabilities or extraordinary powers they do not have.
7. **No.** People who have intellectual disabilities learn more slowly than other people, but they deserve the dignity and the experience of learning skills and living in the community as adults.
8. **No.** People with even the same disability are as different from one another as are other people. Each person is unique. Some people who are deaf are married, some are single. Some enjoy skiing, some prefer reading. Degree of disability may be different, and the same disability can affect different people in different ways.
9. **Yes.** The biggest barrier people with disabilities face is other people's perceptions of them. Wheelchairs are simply devices, like glasses or bicycles, that help people with disabilities to better do what they want and need. Just because someone uses a device to help does not mean that he or she cannot be independent and productive.
10. **Yes.** Federal and state laws mandate that all children with disabilities be granted access to an education in mainstream public schools and in mainstream classrooms when possible. The Americans with Disabilities Act also prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, much like the laws that prohibit discrimination because of race, sex, religion or ethnic background.