

ADA Etiquette: Speaking Respectfully

When speaking about a person with a disability, always put the person first!

Acceptable Terms	Unacceptable Terms
Person with a disability	Cripple, handicapped
Deaf, hard of hearing, hearing impairment	Deaf and dumb
Has a disability, has Parkinson's, was born without legs	Defective, damaged, deformed, vegetable
Person who has a mental or developmental disability	Retarded, moron, imbecile, idiot
Person who had a spinal cord injury, polio, a stroke	Victim, afflicted with, suffers from
Uses a wheelchair, crutches, walks with crutches	Confined or restricted to a wheelchair
Able-bodied, able to walk, see, hear, people who are not disabled	Normal

Additional Resources:

<http://www.unitedspinal.org/disability-publications-resources/disability-publications/>

FREE publication for interacting with People with Disabilities