Devon in Sight Managing at Home Fact Sheet 13

RNIB Talking Books

Introduction

RNIB Talking Books are part of the largest library for people with sight loss in the UK. Their Talking Books are available in several formats, including CD, USB stick or digital download (via RNIB Reading Services online library). This factsheet explains how the service works and what you can borrow.

The service is FREE and is easy to access.

RNIB Reading Services online library (downloads)

What they offer:

- Thousands of titles to download and listen to on your computer, smartphone or tablet.
- The Talking Books available from the RNIB Reading Services are the same as the Talking Books that you can get on CD or USB stick.
- You can access the service and search for your next title at **readingservices.rnib.org.uk**
- Once a title is downloaded, you don't need an internet connection to play it, so you can listen at your leisure.
- Manage your own "read later" list online.
- There is a specialist team on hand to help should you need any assistance - contact **readingservices@rnib.org.uk**

How to join RNIB Reading Services online library

You can register for RNIB Reading Services online library by selecting 'Register' on the home page at **readingservices.rnib.org.uk**. You will be asked for an email address which acts as your username and will be

used to activate your account. If you are under 18 you will need to provide contact details for a parent or guardian.

How to listen to your digital download

Instructions on listening to your digital downloads on computers, tablets and smartphones and links to reading software are available by selecting Help & Advice and Getting Started from the home page.

Choosing books on RNIB Reading Services online library

You can search for books by title, author or category using the search box at the top of each page. You can also specify other search criteria by selecting ‘Show Advanced Search’ on the ‘Title Search’ page.

https://www.rniblibrary.com/

RNIB Talking Books: CD and USB stick

What they offer:

- Over 30,000 unabridged audio books (fiction and non-fiction) for adults and children – and our collection is growing all the time.
- Their Talking Books are produced in a unique way so most titles fit on one CD unlike commercially produced audio books.
- If you choose to receive books on USB sticks, you’ll generally receive three books on each stick.
- The majority of their books are recorded by professional actors and narrators and are very high quality.
- Speedy on-demand service – no waiting for popular titles, and books are delivered free to your door.
- Borrow up to six books at a time and as many as you want during the year.
- Access to a variety of ways to choose your books.

How to play our books

Their CDs can be played on MP3 players or a specialist DAISY player. Our USB sticks can be played on USB stick players or on your computer using Media software.

You’ll need to buy a USB player or you may have equipment at home that can play MP3 CDs or USB sticks.

Choosing books

- They can choose books for you based on your preferences or you can select your own titles to make sure you get the books you enjoy.
- To help you choose books they have a number of features available at **www.rniblibrary.com**
    - including, book lists
    - suggested reads and
    - details of books recently added to the library
- They also offer help and advice from their Reader Services Team. If you're finding it difficult to decide what to read, then they can help with ideas and suggestions. They can also send themed lists of a selection of titles e.g. Romance or Crime or History.
- To access this service
    - Email **helpline@rnib.org.uk** or
    - Call **0303 123 9999**.

Requesting books

You can borrow up to six books at a time. When you join, you will automatically receive titles to keep you going until we receive your personal selection.

The Talking Book number (e.g. TB12345) is all you need to order any book; if you know the author and title, they can also use that to add books to your list.

You can send your list of titles by post, email or call them.

- Email **helpline@rnib.org.uk** or
- Call **0303 123 9999**.

You can also add books yourself via the online catalogue available through the library website **www.rniblibrary.com**.

Their Helpline or Reader Services Team can provide you with a PIN and password to get you started.

Book delivery

Talking Book CDs arrive through your door in a square cardboard wallet with your name and address printed on the CD. The cardboard wallets are reusable and should be used to return your books to us. Just feel for the raised ring around the centre hole on the CD which shows the recorded side and does not have your name and address printed on it. Place the CD inside the wallet with this recorded side showing through the open round window on the front.

USB sticks arrive in a small plastic wallet with a Velcro seal. Your address is printed on a card which is inserted into a plastic sleeve on the outside of the wallet. To return a USB stick, simply remove and dispose of this card and your USB stick will be returned to their address which is already printed on the wallet.

We recommend that you return a CD or USB stick as soon as you've finished it to ensure a constant supply of books to read. There are no set loan periods and no fines. Every time you return a book, another choice will be sent to you.

Who can join RNIB Talking Books (CD and USB stick by post)

If you live in the UK and are unable to comfortably read standard print with spectacles, then you are eligible to join. You don't need a doctor or other professional's verification.

To join our postal delivery service of Talking Books on CD or USB you can download a registration form at **www.rnib.org.uk/talking-books**, or phone RNIB Helpline on **0303 123 9999**. Online registration for our postal library service will be available later in the year.

What to do next?

For help joining the RNIB Talking Books Service, call our Helpline: 01392 876 666

Devon in Sight is a member of the **Helpline Partnership Community.**

Credit

We would like to thank the **RNIB** for their kind permission to reproduce this information.

Further Support Available from Devon in Sight

Devon in Sight offers a range of holistic services for anyone affected by sight loss, who either live in or work across Devon. We can provide support to people who are blind or partially sighted, their families, friends and carers.

Our Sight Loss Services focus on four key areas, **Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)**, **Independent Living**, **Health and Wellbeing**, and **Influencing Change** (Making the world a better place for people with sight loss).

Information Disclaimer

Devon in Sight is committed to producing Information, Advice & Guidance Resources that are clear, accurate, evidence-based, up-to-date and easy to use. We have a robust information production process based on best practice to ensure that information we produce meets the needs of people who are blind or partially sighted and their family and friends.

Devon in Sight is not a medical organisation; therefore we can only provide general information that is not intended to be a substitute for a proper medical assessment. Our information is not intended to be used for individual cases. If you have a specific question about your eye condition, we recommend that you consult an eye care professional.

Devon in Sight will not accept liability for any loss or damage or inconvenience arising as a consequence of any use of or the inability to use any information resources that it provides. People who use our Information Resources and rely on any information do so at their own risk. Devon in Sight does not represent or warrant that its Information Resources are accurate, complete or up to date.

Our Information, Advice & Guidance Resources were correct at the time of writing. However, due to research and medical advances, the content may not be completely up to date.

Devon in Sight Contact Information

Devon in Sight
Your local sight loss charity

Helpline 01392 876 666
www.devoninsight.org.uk
enquiries@devoninsight.org.uk

Devon in Sight is a Registered Charity No 1140978

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