

How to make easy news for people with a learning disability



Report

By William Kremer

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About this report



My name is William Kremer.
I am a BBC **journalist**.

A **journalist** is someone who makes the news.



There are more than 1 million adults with learning disabilities in the UK.

I wanted to find out how they get news.



So I looked at reports from the BBC and universities.

And I asked people with learning disabilities about news.



This report tells you what I found out.

The problem with the news



Many people with a learning disability are interested in the news.



But the news is often hard to understand.



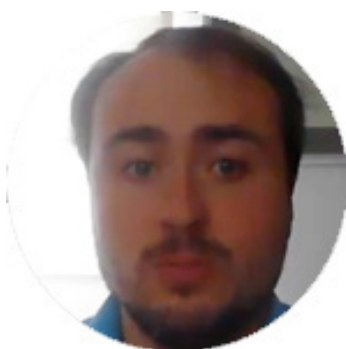
They said:

- The news is too fast.
- Some words are too hard.
- The news does not explain things enough.
- The news can be upsetting.



**Lucy said**

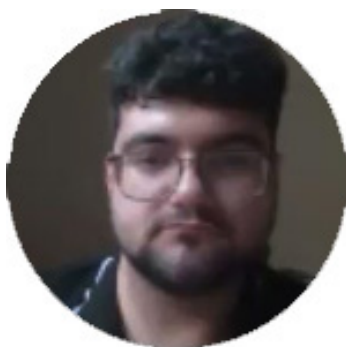
I do like watching the news.
I find it quite interesting –
the whole of the world and the
country, Donald Trump and the
Prime Minister.

**Harry said**

It was too quick to understand.
Sometimes I wish the reporters
could speak slowly, so there is
time to understand what is
happening.

**Andrew said**

Some parts I did not understand
what they were talking about.
They used some words that I did
not understand.

**Mo said**

A lot of news seems like it is
made to make people scared.
It is not fair for some people.
Especially for people with
a learning disability.

Why this matters



The news is important because it gives people information that can help their lives.



For example:

- It helps people decide who to vote for in elections.



- It helps people work together to make things better.



- It stops people getting wrong ideas, like from social media.
This is sometimes called fake news.

The BBC



The BBC makes TV, radio, and online news.



The BBC's job is to make news for everyone.



In the UK, people with a learning disability help pay for the BBC.

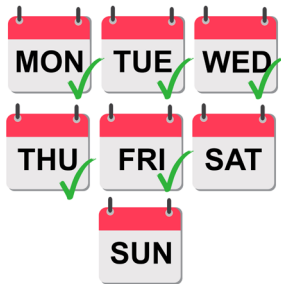


But people with a learning disability cannot always understand BBC News.

This is not fair.

Easier news around the world

In Germany and Austria



- In Germany and Austria, easier news is on TV on Monday to Friday.



- The easier news looks like normal news but it is slower and uses easy words.



- Disabled people in Austria get training to help make the news.



Thomas is a trainee. He said

I just think it is very important and fair that we work here.

We make the message more inclusive.

In Norway



- A TV channel in Norway called TV Bra has reporters with learning disabilities or autism.



- Their reports look different and are more fun than normal news.



- They interview **politicians** and ask questions for their viewers.

A **politician** is someone who helps decide important things for the country.



Emily is a reporter at TV Bra.
She said

I love being a reporter! I have to be very professional.

I have to follow the script and not talk about personal stuff.

In the UK



- In the UK, people with learning disabilities make a **podcast** at People First.

Podcasts are recordings that you can listen to online.



- People with learning disabilities choose what to talk about.
- They interview people.



- And they record the podcast themselves.



**Luke works on the podcast.
He said**

I love everything that we do, not just the podcast. And we always have new people to interview. It really makes us grow and grow.

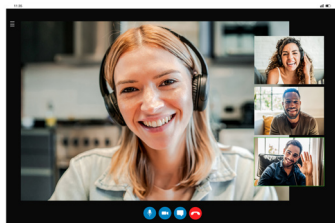
In the United States of America



- Journalists worked with people with a learning disability to do an **investigation**.



An **investigation** is when journalists look closely at a problem to understand what happened.



- The journalists had meetings with people with learning disabilities.



- And said what they found out in a way that was easy to understand.

What do these examples tell us?



We can make news for people with a learning disability.



3 things are all very important:

1. News should be easy to understand.

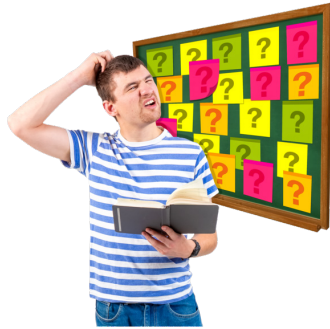


2. News should show more people with a learning disability.

It should be about things that are important to them.



3. People with a learning disability should help make and present the news.



But it is hard to do all 3 things
in the same programme.



So people with a learning
disability might need more than
one kind of news programme.



Josh said

Everyone should have their
own way of reading the news
and understanding the news.

What do people with a learning disability want?



Over 30 people with a learning disability answered questions for this report.



They had lots of things to say.
They did not agree about everything.



They said:

- They want daily news they can understand.



- They want people with learning disabilities to present the news.



- News should be friendly but sometimes serious.



- News should do more than just say what is happening. It should give people useful information.



- They still love TV and radio but some people also like social media and podcasts.



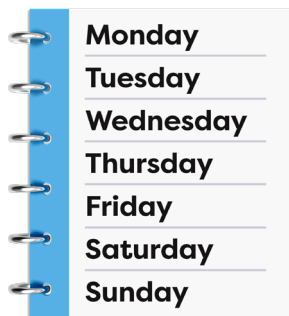
Eliph said

I would like to be able to understand and contribute to more conversations that are happening around me.

What should happen next?



The BBC should make news for people with a learning disability.



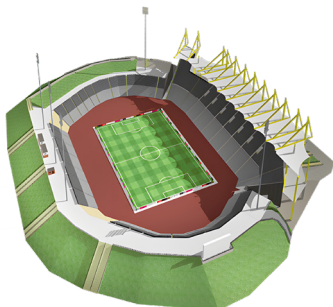
The best way to do this is to make:

1. easy news every day
2. a longer easy news TV show every week.



The weekly programme can give more information.

This can help people with a learning disability understand.



The weekly programme can also have sport and fun things.

This can make the news feel less upsetting.

What can the BBC do?



The BBC could also

- make easy news stories online.



- ask people with learning disabilities what works well.



- work with a charity to train people with a learning disability.



- start a news club for people with a learning disability.



Easy news looks and sounds different.

The BBC needs to be brave and try new ways of making news.

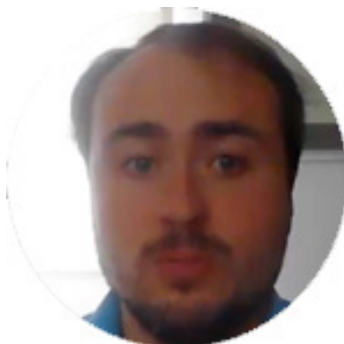


This can help people with a learning disability.



But this does not mean the BBC must stop doing good reporting.

It means the BBC is doing good reporting for more people.

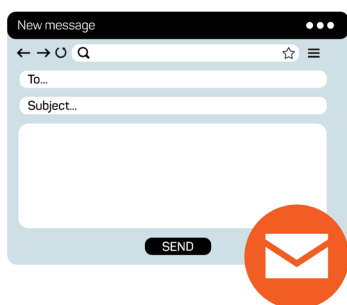


Harry said

It's very, very important that everyone can watch the news in a more accessible format.



Do you have any questions
about this report?



You can contact me by email:

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Thank you to the Easy News
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