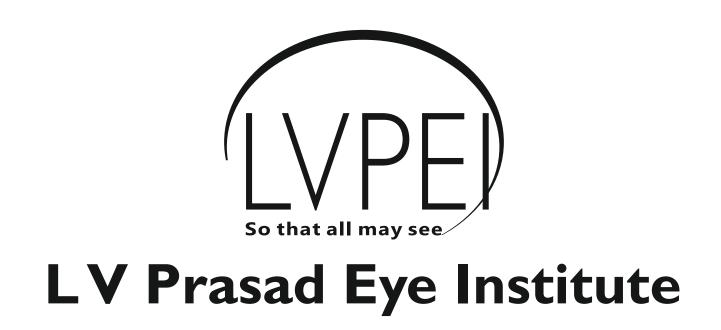
Ways to be gracious with people who are visually impaired



ASK

Offer assistance but let the person decide if your help is needed. By asking, you give the person a chance to say yes or no.



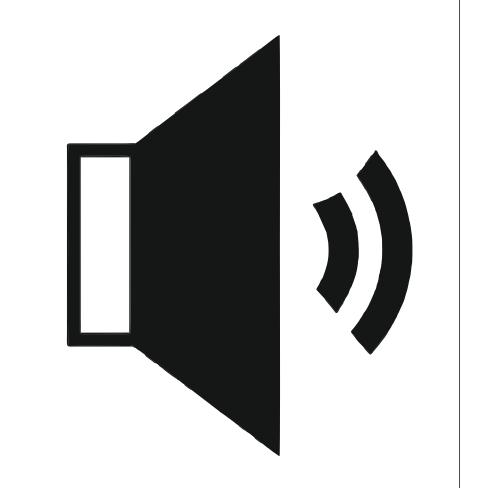
SPECIFY

Use words such as "straight ahead", "turn left", "on your right". Do not point and say "go that way" or "look here".



TONE DOWN

Do not shout or change your tone. Speak naturally and directly to the person. Persons with vision impairment can have normal hearing.



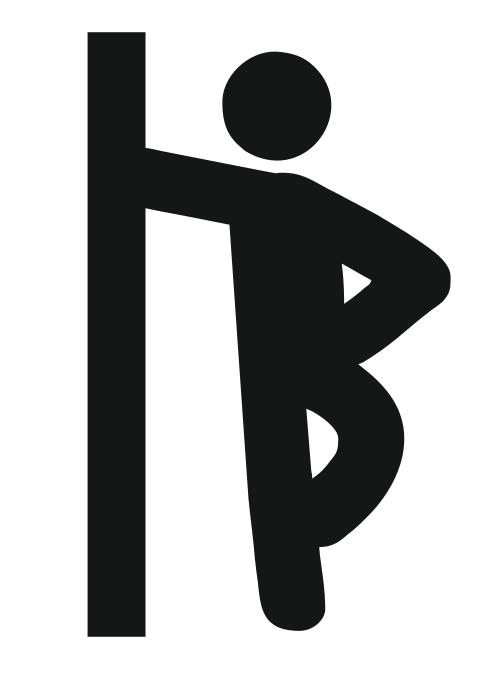
THE RIGHT WAY TO HELP

If they need your help, allow them to grasp your arm just above the elbow and walk ahead of them. Be gentle and do not push them forward.



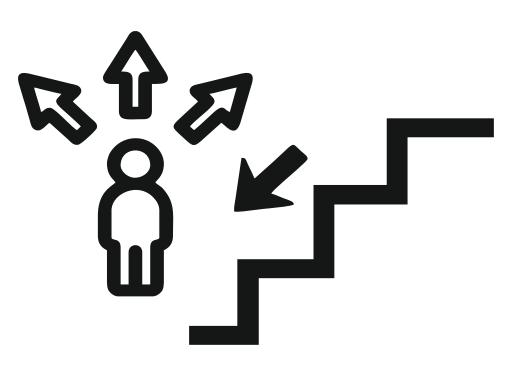
BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Never leave the person in an "open space". If you have to be separated for any amount of time, be sure the person is in contact with a wall, railing or any stable object until you return.



ALERT

Alert the person of oncoming stairs, doorways, turns, narrow passages etc.



USE NAMES

Identify yourself when approaching. The person may not recognize your voice even if you have met before. In a group setting, address the person by name so they know when you are talking to them.



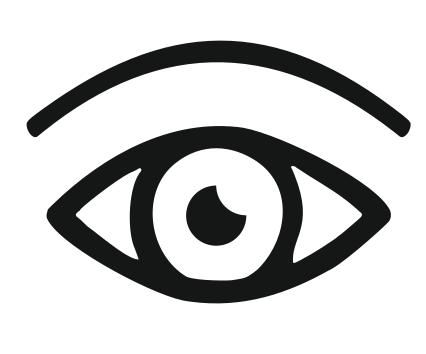
INFORM

Inform the person when you arrive or before you leave. Failing to do this may cause embarrassment if the person continues to talk to someone who has left.



YOU LATER?

It is okay to use vision related words such as look, see, watch etc. conversationally. The words 'blind' and 'vision impaired' are also acceptable in conversation.



PEOPLE FIRST

A person's disability is not their identity. It is kinder, and more accurate, to say "a person who is blind" rather than "a blind person".

