

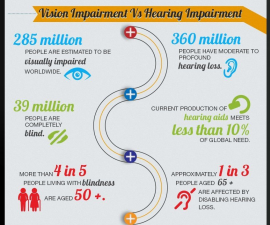
Best Mobile Apps for Sensory Impairment

What is Sensory Impairment?

Sensory impairment or disability, is when one of your senses (sight, hearing, smell, touch or taste) is no longer functioning normally.

A person does not have to have full loss of a sense to be sensory impaired.

95% of the information about the world around us comes from our vision and our hearing.



Mobile Apps for Vision Impairment

App: Tap Tap See

What It Does: Uses the camera and VoiceOver function to photograph objects and clearly describe them out loud for the user.

Features:

- Double tapping the screen enables the user to photograph any 2D object at any angle and define the object within seconds.
- The device's VoiceOver function audibly identifies the object to the user.
- Includes the ability to repeat the last image identification and to save the image to the camera roll with the attached tag.
- Allows the upload of identified images from the camera roll and uses them for identification via Twitter, Facebook, text or email.

Platforms: iOS and Android

Cost:

- Free, with an in-app purchase for 100 HD pictures to start.
- A subscription plan available starting from \$4.99.

App: Be My Eyes

What It Does:

- A connects blind people with volunteer helpers globally via the video chat.
- A blind person requests assistance via the app.
- The volunteer receives a notification by text and a video connection is established.

Features:

- Utilizes the iPhone's FaceTime technology which enables synthetic speech and a touch-based interface.
- At the end of each session there is a 'rate it' or 'thank you' option back for the helper and the user.

Platforms: iOS and an Android version is in production.

Cost: Free, but a subscription may be used to place items September 2015.

App: Color ID

What It Does: The camera on iPhone or iPad touch speaks the names of colours in real time.

Features:

- 'Augmented Reality' technology app to discover the names of colours around you.
- A toggle button at the top left corner enables the user to zoom from simple colours to basic colours.

Platforms: iOS.

Cost: Free.

Best of the Best

1. Aural GPS
2. Voice Dial
3. Talking Calculator

Mobile Apps for Hearing Impairment

App: ASL Dictionary

What It Does:

- Video introduction of over 3,000+ words signed by American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters.
- It offers deaf and hard of hearing people a portable and convenient way of learning and using sign language in their daily lives.

Features:

- A searchable dictionary divided into 7 categories such as US, UK, and UK Sign Language terms.
- An on-screen keyboard allows users to search words and translate.
- A video camera with touch video demonstrating a word (American Sign Language).
- Teaches users how to translate common English phrases into ASL.
- Includes 700+ multiple meaning words, 473 idioms and the ASL contextual system to represent names, time, dates and years.

Platforms: iOS, Android, Amazon Kindle, DRM Hook and Windows Mobile.

Cost: Ranging from \$4.99 to \$7.99, platform dependent.

App: Tap Tap

What It Does: Helps deaf and hearing impaired people interact in their social environment.

Features:

- When it detects noise, the app will vibrate and flash to alert the user.
- Adjusts sensitivity for noisier environments.

Platforms: iOS.

Cost: \$2.99 to download.

App: Netflix

What It Does:

- IOS, all the movies and TV shows it offers have closed caption subtitles for those deaf or hard of hearing.
- Closed captions and films mean that the subtitles appear over the dialogue and the sound, for example to alert the viewer that a siren is blaring or a door is shutting.

Platforms: iOS, Android and Windows.

Cost:

- The app is free once signed up to a paid monthly subscription service from \$6.99.
- Has a 1 month free trial option.

Best of the Best

1. LoudTV
2. Play It Down
3. Dragon Dictation

References

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