

# The seven principles of Universal Design

The 7 principles are a good starting point for thinking about design from an inclusive perspective. They can apply to any building, open space, service, product, phone app, website or document. Briefly they are:

1. Equitable use
2. Flexibility in use
3. Simple and intuitive to use
4. Perceptible information
5. Tolerance for error
6. Low physical effort
7. Size and space for approach and use



Access to the built environment was a relatively new idea in the 1990s. It was soon realised that access for wheelchair users was good for everyone. It is a universal good. Hence the term “Universal Design”.

Adapted from: <https://universaldesignaustralia.net.au/7-principles-of-universal-design/>

- 1 Match the principles to the appropriate examples. The first one has already been done for you:**  
 1. equitable use – c. adaptable seating in sports arenas or theatres.

PRINCIPLES		EXAMPLES
1. equitable use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	a. tactile, visual, audible instruction on a thermostat
2. flexibility in use	<input type="checkbox"/>	b. an 'undo' feature in computer software that allows users to correct mistakes
3. simple and intuitive to use	<input type="checkbox"/>	c. adaptable seating in sports arenas or theatres
4. perceptible information	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. lever handles on doors and faucets
5. tolerance for error	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. wide gates at underground stations that accommodate all users
6. low physical effort	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. scissors designed for right/left handed users
7. size and space for approach and use	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. an instruction given with drawings and no text