

Lesson one: Introduction

- Magnifiers help people see things up close
- Telescopes help people see things in the distance
- Some people with low vision can benefit from magnifiers and/or telescopes
- People with low vision should always see an eye care professional before using a magnifier or telescope. This is because their vision may be improved with other treatment.
- Magnifiers and telescopes can have different magnification strengths. Those included in TAP range from 2x (object appears two times larger) to 6x (object appears six times larger). If a person needs a stronger product they should be referred to an eye care professional.
- There are different types of magnifiers and telescopes to suit the needs of different people. Some are fixed, others are portable. Some allow the hands to be free, others are handheld.
- Some people will need more than one type of magnifier and/or telescope.

Lesson two: Step one - select

- To identify if a person may benefit from a magnifier or telescope first complete the TAP simple vision screen. A person may benefit from a magnifier or telescope if they:
 - Cannot see the medium or large E during distance vision test AND
 - Cannot see the small Es during near vision test.
- If the TAP vision screen indicates a person may benefit from a magnifier or telescope, complete an assessment using the magnifier and telescope assessment form only if they have already seen an eye care professional.
- Based on assessment findings, refer the person to eye care professional; and/or select a magnifier or telescope with them. Consider:
 - Telescopes are not suitable for people with central or peripheral visual field loss.
 - Stand magnifiers, dome magnifiers, around the neck magnifiers, and sheet magnifiers with adjustable stands are useful for people who cannot use their hands, or need their hands to be free. Handheld telescopes and magnifiers are not.
 - If the person uses glasses (either reading or prescription glasses) they should wear these when using their magnifier or telescope.
- Trial different magnification strengths, starting with the lowest, until the correct level is found.

Lesson three: Step two – fit

- Sheet magnifiers with adjustable stands, and around the neck magnifiers are adjustable. Other magnifiers and telescopes are not, and so do not require special fitting.
- To fit an around the neck or sheet magnifier with an adjustable stand, ask the person to:
 - Place the magnifier over the object
 - Slowly lift the magnifier away from the object towards their eyes
 - Keep going until the image is clearest
 - Fix the magnifier at this level.

Lesson four: Step three – use

- When teaching a person how to use a magnifier, tell them to:
 - Use the magnifier in good light
 - Find the point of best magnification by holding the magnifier over the object, then slowly lift the magnifier towards their eyes until the image is clearest.
 - If using a handheld magnifier, hold the magnifier steady at this height. If using a sheet magnifier with an adjustable stand or an around the neck magnifier, fix it at this height.
 - If using a stand magnifier, place the magnifier over the object then move the head as close to the magnifier as needed to get a clear image.
- When teaching a person how to use a handheld telescope, teach:
 - How to focus on an object by turning the focussing ring.
 - How to find and track different objects by scanning the environment with the telescope
 - They should never use the telescope while moving around.
- Clean the lens of magnifiers and telescopes with a soft cloth, and store in a protective case when not in use.

Lesson five: Step four – follow up

- During follow up check:
 - Is the magnifier or telescope still meeting the person's needs?
 - Does the person have any problems using their magnifier or telescope?
 - Does the person have any questions about their magnifier or telescope?
 - Look at how the person is using their magnifier or telescope.
 - Check the condition of the magnifier or telescope.
- Follow up actions can include:
 - Providing further training on how to use the magnifier or telescope.
 - Trialling a different product or level of magnification.
 - Replacing the magnifier or telescope.
 - Referring the person to an eye care professional or another service.