

Inclusive Education

From

Guide: [Universal Design for Learning](#)

Strategy: [Design multiple means of Representation](#)

Suggestion: [Design options for language and symbols](#)

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09 June 2026

Link

inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/universal-design-for-learning/design-options-for-language-and-symbols

Why this matters

Learners make sense of information in different ways.

If information is presented in only one way, barriers to access and understanding may be experienced by some learners ([CAST, 2024](#)).

[Design options for language and symbols](#) prompts us to consider learner variability at the outset and offer options to:

- [clarify vocabulary, symbols, and language structures](#)
- [support decoding of text, mathematical notation, and symbols](#)
- [cultivate understanding and respect across languages and dialects](#)
- [address biases in the use of language and symbols](#)
- [illustrate through multiple media](#).

This guideline also reminds us to consider:

- How will these options support learners in reaching their goals?
- Could any of these options create barriers or unnecessary challenges?
- Will all learners have fair and equal access to high-quality choices?
- How do these options reflect and respond to learner variability?

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