

# Meaning of terms Personal Independence Payment: Activities and Descriptors

## 1. Introduction

1.1. This document is to be used in conjunction with our Personal Independence Payment factsheet. The purpose of this document is to define the terms that the Department for Work and Pensions use in the Personal Independence Payment daily living and mobility assessment.

Aided	Means with: a) the use of an aid or appliance; or b) supervision, prompting or assistance  ( <b>Aids</b> are devices that help a performance of a function, for example, walking sticks or spectacles. <b>Appliances</b> are devices that provide or replace a missing function, for example artificial limbs, collecting devices (stomas) and wheelchairs).
Assistance	Means physical intervention by another person and does not include speech. Assistance only needs to be required for part of the activity
Assistance dog	Means a dog trained to guide or assist a person with a sensory impairment
Basic verbal information	Means information in your native language conveyed verbally in a simple sentence
Basic written information	Means signs, symbols and dates written or printed standard size text in your native language
Bathe	Includes get into or out of an unadapted bath or shower
Communication support	Means support from a person trained or experienced in communicating with people with specific communication needs, including interpreting verbal information into a non-verbal form and vice versa
Complex budgeting decisions	Means decisions involving: a) calculating household and personal budgets b) managing and paying bills; and c) planning future purchases
Complex verbal information	Means information in your native language conveyed verbally in either more than one sentence or one complicated sentence
Complex written information	Means more than one sentence of written or printed standard size text in your native language
Cook	Means heat food at or above waist height
Dress and undress	Includes to put on and take off socks and shoes



Engage socially	Means– a) interact with others in a contextually and socially appropriate manner; b) understand body language; and c) establish relationships
Manage incontinence	Means manage involuntary evacuation of the bowel or bladder, including use a collecting device or self-catheterisation, and clean oneself afterwards
Manage medication or therapy	Means take medication or undertake therapy, where a failure to do so is likely to result in a deterioration in your health
Medication	Means medication to be taken at home which is prescribed or recommended by a registered – a) doctor; b) nurse; or c) pharmacist;
Monitor health	Means– a) detect significant changes in your health condition which are likely to lead to a deterioration in your health; and b) take action advised by a – i. registered doctor; ii. registered nurse; or iii. health professional who is regulated by the Health Professions Council, without which your health is likely to deteriorate
Orientation aid	Means a specialist aid designed to assist disabled people to follow a route safely
Prepare	In the context of food, means make food ready for cooking and eating
Prompting	Means reminding, encouraging or explaining by another person; This only needs to be required for part of the activity. It does not include physically helping the claimant achieve the activity.
Psychological distress	Means distress related to an enduring mental health condition or an intellectual or cognitive impairment
Read	Includes read signs, symbols and words but does not include read Braille
Simple budgeting decisions	Means decisions involving– a) calculating the cost of goods; and b) calculating change required after a purchase
Simple meal	Means a cooked one-course meal for one using fresh ingredients;
Social support	Means support from a person trained or experienced in assisting people to engage in social situations
Stand	Means stand upright with at least one biological foot on the ground. This means that if you have had both feet amputated, you are treated as unable to stand
Supervision	Means the continuous presence of another person for the purpose of ensuring your safety; the risk must be likely to occur in the absence of



	such supervision. To apply, supervision must be required for the full duration of the activity
Take nutrition	Means– a) cut food into pieces, convey food and drink to one’s mouth and chew and swallow food and drink; or b) take nutrition by using a therapeutic source;
Therapeutic source	Means parenteral or enteral tube feeding, using a rate-limiting device such as a delivery system or feed pump;
Therapy	Means therapy to be undertaken at home which is prescribed or recommended by a a) registered– i. doctor; ii. nurse; or iii. pharmacist; or b) health professional regulated by the Health Professions Council
Toilet needs	Means– a) getting on and off an unadapted toilet; b) evacuating the bladder and bowel; and c) cleaning oneself afterwards
Unaided	Means without– a) the use of an aid or appliance; or b) supervision, prompting or assistance