



**Listening**books

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## What is Listening Books?

Listening Books provides a high-quality, affordable online and postal audiobook library service for anyone who struggles to read in the usual way due to an illness, disability or learning difficulty such as dyslexia.

By joining Listening Books, you will have access to thousands fantastic audiobooks and the best thing is, you can choose from 3 easily accessible formats. Our library boasts fiction and non-fiction titles covering many popular genres such as crime, romance, historical novels, travel and biographies. You can view our full catalogue by following this link: <http://www.listening-books.org.uk/library.aspx>.

## Benefits of the service

Our service not only provides a link to the wonderful world of books but is often a relief from pain, boredom and loneliness. For many of our members who cannot hold a book, our service is a lifeline, a friend and a comfort, lifting them out of what are often challenging circumstances.

**“Being told stories is a very basic pleasure from childhood onward and I should encourage anyone who loves to listen - to be informed, amused, entertained, exalted and elevated by the spoken word - to join Listening Books!”**

Polly, member of Listening Books

**“The audiobooks can provide me with hours of peaceful relaxation while some good readers can bring out the deeper, rewarding, thought-provoking ideas that stimulate the mind.”**

Stanley, member of Listening Books

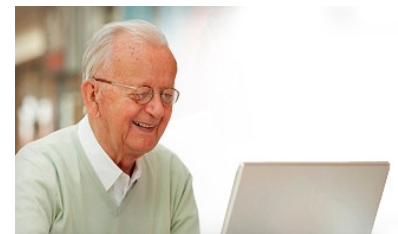
## Becoming a member

Membership fees start at just £20 per year and all of our members are entitled to **FREE** access to our download service, *Downloadable!*

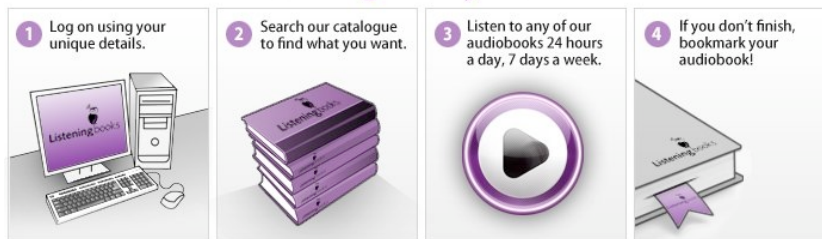
**Step 1:** Choose from one of the 3 options below:

### **Internet streaming service (£20 per year):**

Our streaming service is straightforward to use. All you need is internet access and a PC or laptop to listen to audiobooks straight from your computer at any time of the day or night. You can even pick up from where you left off by creating your own bookmarks. For just £20 per year, we'll issue you with a unique username and password to access our huge online catalogue.



## How our online streaming library works

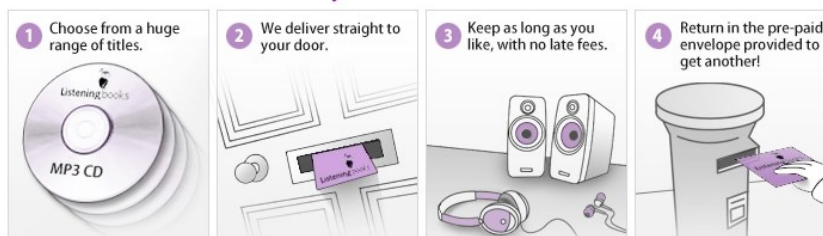


## MP3 CD service (£35 per year):

MP3 CDs look just like standard CDs and can play on modern CD players, computers and DVD players. For just £35 per year you will have access to our full library of MP3 CDs which will be delivered straight to your door. You will have an allocation of two audiobooks in circulation at any one time; we're constantly adding new titles to our library and you can borrow as many as you like throughout your membership. All postage and packaging is included in the cost and there are no late fees!



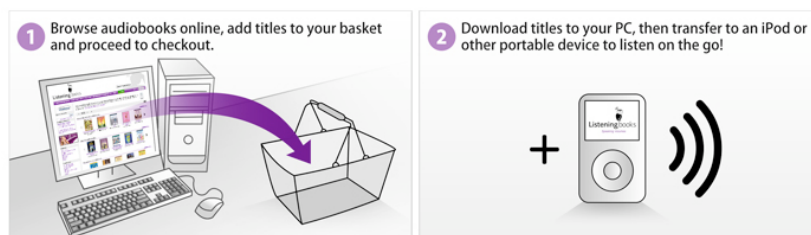
## How our MP3 CD library works



## MP3 CD and internet streaming service combined (£45 per year):

Not only will you be able to listen to your audiobooks online, you'll also be able to receive them through the post. This option is available to you for just £45 per year.

## How our Downloadable service works



## Downloadable:

Don't forget that all of these options include **FREE** access to our Downloadable titles. Choose from thousands of popular audiobooks and download them to a portable device such as an iPod or MP3 player, giving you the convenience to listen to them on-the-go!



## Step 2: Follow the link to join online: <https://www.listening-books.org.uk/join-us.aspx>

or telephone our friendly library team on 020 7234 0522. Paying for your membership couldn't be easier. You can choose to pay in full or spread the cost throughout the year. If you would find it difficult to pay the membership fee, please contact us as we have a limited number of free places available and may be able to help.

## Step 3: Start listening!

Once we receive your completed application form, we will send you your welcome pack which will include everything you need to start enjoying your audiobooks. We are open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm and our friendly library team are on hand should you need any help.

## Patricia's Story

Patricia turned to audiobooks when the late effects of polio made it increasingly difficult for her to read printed material.

“When illness cuts one off from life, Listening Books becomes a very bright beacon in one's life. For people who've always been great readers, coming up against a health challenge that makes actual reading a difficulty, is an enormous blow. I'd had polio as a child but led a very active life. It was only at age 50 when the late effects of polio (very like M.E.) kicked in, that concentration and the ability to focus on reading print started to disappear. Short bursts at articles are fine but the concentration to physically read and absorb a book has gone.

Once I became a member of Listening Books, it opened up new horizons on a big scale. Listening to books was a brand new discovery! One had the radio but missed good programmes if too poorly to listen at the time of broadcast.

Listening Books has opened up a whole other world – a personal library of fiction and non-fiction at any time, at the touch of a button. The vast library means that you can choose titles to suit different levels of concentration. I listen to speech radio much of the day, but because sleep is not always easily come by, I find that novels, stories and mysteries are the perfect companions for painful or sleepless nights.

For me, Listening Books was a serendipitous discovery. At the beginning of the illness, things were pretty tough and I felt isolated where I'd had to give up so much of the life I'd had. The audiobooks coming through the letterbox were real red letter days! Books – one of the best contacts with the outside world you could have! Listening Books was so important. It made all the difference from being shut out to entering into a whole new universe of audio listening. The streaming service is amazing too.

I've gained so much from Listening Books and want others to discover the wonderful constant and sheer expansion of another life that an association with Listening Books can bring.”



### Articles for the Blind

If you can read this text (size 12 font) but nothing smaller with your spectacles on, you qualify for the 'Articles for the Blind' postage service. Please tick the box on the application form if this applies to you.