



# Universal Design: Product Evaluation Countdown

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Have you ever regretted buying a product because it turned out to be difficult to use? Maybe the package was hard for you to open, the instructions were hard to understand, or the controls were hard to operate.

Each of us is unique in our abilities to think, see, hear, handle things, and move around. Products that are easy to use for one person may not be easy for another, whether because of the user's personal abilities or their environment. Everyone has different personal preferences, too.

Each of us must consider our own abilities and preferences, and sometimes also the abilities and preferences of other people in our household, when we select products.

*Universal design is an approach to making products and environments as usable as possible for people of all ages and abilities.*

The checklist on the following pages is based on the seven Principles of Universal Design. This list can help you think about your own needs and those of other potential users when selecting products.

When you use this checklist to count down your evaluation of a product, you will agree with some statements more than others. The more statements you agree with, the more likely it is that the product will be easy to use, for you and the other people who might use it – and the less likely you will regret buying it.

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## PRINCIPLE 7. Size and Space for Approach and Use

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7A. It's easy for me to see all the important elements of this product from any position (such as standing or seated).

Comments:

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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7B. It's easy for me to reach all the important elements of this product from any position (such as standing or seated).

Comments:

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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7C. This product fits my hand size.

Comments:

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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7D. There is enough space for me to use this product with the devices or assistance that I need.

Comments:

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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## PRINCIPLE 6. Low Physical Effort

6A. I can use this product comfortably – without awkward movements or uncomfortable postures.

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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*Comments:*

6B. I can use this product without over-exerting myself.

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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*Comments:*

6C. I can use this product without having to repeat any motion enough to cause fatigue or pain.

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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*Comments:*

6D. I don't have to rest after using this product.

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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*Comments:*

## PRINCIPLE 5. Tolerance for Error

5A. The product features I use most are the easiest to reach.

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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*Comments:*

5B. This product protects me from potential hazards.

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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*Comments:*

5C. If I make a mistake, it won't cause damage or hurt me.

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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*Comments:*

5D. This product forces me to pay attention during critical tasks.

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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*Comments:*

## PRINCIPLE 4. Perceptible Information

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4A. I can use this product without hearing.

*Comments:*

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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4B. I can use this product without vision.

*Comments:*

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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4C. I can easily identify the features of this product in order to use instruction manuals or telephone help lines.

*Comments:*

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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4D. I can use this product with the aids, devices, or techniques that I use.

*Comments:*

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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## PRINCIPLE 3. Simple and Intuitive Use

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3A. This product is as simple and straightforward as it can be.

*Comments:*

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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3B. This product works just like I expect it to work.

*Comments:*

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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3C. I understand the language used in this product.

*Comments:*

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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3D. The most important features of this product are the most obvious.

*Comments:*

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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3E. This product lets me know that I'm using it the right way.

*Comments:*

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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## PRINCIPLE 2. Flexibility in Use

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2A. I can use this product in whatever way is effective for me.

Comments:

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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2B. I can use this product with either my right or left side (hand or foot) alone.

Comments:

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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2C. I can use this product precisely and accurately.

Comments:

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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2D. I can use this product at whatever pace I want (quickly or slowly).

Comments:

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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## PRINCIPLE 1. Equitable Use

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1A. This product is as usable for me as it is for anyone else.

Comments:

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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1B. Using this product doesn't make me feel segregated or stigmatized.

Comments:

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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1C. This product give me needed privacy, security, and safety.

Comments:

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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1D. The design of this product appeals to me.

Comments:

Not Important	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
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