

# An interactive website specially designed for adults with literacy difficulties: [www.a-b-c.nu](http://www.a-b-c.nu)

## WHO ARE WE?

The ABC foundation was created by people with low literate skills. The foundation has three main activities:

- Sensitizing public opinion to the theme of illiteracy by providing testimony of the experience of adults with literacy difficulties,
- Encouraging adults to take part in reading and writing courses,
  - Organizing meetings where literacy learners and trainers work together.

## DESCRIPTION

### A TECHNOLOGY THAT GIVES YOU WINGS!

No doubt the new communication technologies have worked a revolution in our relationship models. For adults with literacy difficulties, this could have been an additional source of exclusion from life in society.

But ABC decided to make it a mean to broaden communication and to increase the visibility of the learners-ambassadors' commitment– these learners undertake to testify about what literacy training has done to change their lives. With their tutors, they organize actions to encourage people with literacy difficulties to take training. The website of the ABC foundation uses the "Text-to-speech (TTS)" technology.

This technique reproduces all texts in a synthetic voice close to a natural voice.

To obtain access to the information on the site, you simply must point the mouse on the text. Everything is in oral form, including the functions of the buttons and the various columns on the site.

This technology abolishes the difficulty associated with reading, and at the same time makes it possible to continue to learn. In fact, the user can practice reading along with the natural voice.

## WHAT CAN A WEBSITE LIKE WWW.A-B-C.NU CONTRIBUTE?

The site is organized in 8 tabs:

1. **START:** begins the visit of the website. Here you find the objectives of the ABC Foundation, what an ambassador of the ABC Foundation is, and the action plan up to 2015.
2. **FILMS:** gives access to video documents. Here you can see people who explain their itinerary, who are interviewed by journalists... The objective of these videos is to stimulate learning of reading and writing for adults with literacy difficulties. You can also see a public event organized by ABC to publicize the struggle and sensitize politicians to the need to take account of persons who have low literacy skills.
3. **NEWS:** keeps visitors informed about what is happening in the various ABC groups in Holland. You can read what is said in international encounters like Eur-Alpha for example.
4. **AGENDA:** lists the dates of events or encounters scheduled in various sites where the ABC Foundation is active.
5. **CHAT:** allows instant discussions that can involve two or several people. By putting the mouse on the sound icon, you have access to a spoken reproduction of whatever is written. To communicate, of course, you must write, but this gives people impetus to learn and to dare take part. Records of the conversations are kept for a very short time only.
6. **FORUM:** is accessible to everyone. The ambassadors can exchange thoughts on their activities, say how everything went, trade view points and ask each other questions. The forum records are archived.
7. **LINKS:** helps find links to events that pertain to illiteracy, with a list of organisations that propose literacy courses and articles published in the press on the theme of literacy.
8. **CONTACTS:** gives the data needed to contact the ABC Foundation. You can write a message and leave your name, address and telephone number.

## WWW.A-B-C.NU A WEBSITE THAT LETS LEARNERS TAKE PART IN MEETINGS AND THE LIFE OF THE ABC FOUNDATION

There is a special button with a password at the bottom of each page of the website. This gives special access for ABC Foundation members to official documents, which can also be read by the text-to-speech software. This feature gives everyone the possibility to take an active part in meetings and life of the foundation.

www.a-b-c.nu is a real tool for the ABC Foundation learners-ambassadors.

Not only does it enable them to communicate with each other or to manage information that concerns them, but they can also use it to train and to use Internet, a tool that is an integral part of citizenship today.

This website also adds visibility to the work of the ambassadors, and consequently the illiteracy issue is publicized and literacy learning is presented in a positive way.

## WHAT ARE THE PERSPECTIVES FOR THE ABC FOUNDATION AND ITS WEBSITE WWW.A-B-C.NU?

Text-to-speech (TTS) software is accessible in various languages (English, French, German, Spanish, etc.) ABC could help other European countries develop a website like its own.

STICHTING  
BELANGENBE-  
HARTIGING  
ALFABETISERING

NETHERLANDS

## CONTACT

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