



Become a Pioneer

Help start a volunteer
Read Easy group in your area

Read Easy provides free, confidential, one-to-one reading coaching for adults, from trained volunteers, through locally-run, volunteer-led groups.

More than 7%* of adults in England never learnt to read at school. As a result, they are unable to do many everyday things that most of us take for granted. Yet many people with reading difficulties are too embarrassed to seek help if it means joining a class.

Read Easy's gentle one-to-one approach allows people to learn in privacy, at their own pace, and with the understanding support of their own dedicated reading coach.

**Skills for Life Survey, 2011 (Dept. BIS)*



“

Before I learnt to read I could never have done the things I can do now, like joining the library, reading newspapers, going on public transport and going to coffee shops and the supermarket. I stayed home before.

”

Steve
Graduate Reader

New Readers meet with their volunteer Reading Coaches for just half an hour, twice a week, at approved local venues. Together they work through a phonics-based reading programme. Typically, people take between 12 to 18 months to complete the course. Day-to-day support for Reading Coaches and Readers is provided by the local group's Coordinator, who is also a volunteer.

Learning to read transforms people's lives. They improve their employment opportunities, can progress to other learning if they wish, and are able to support their children's or grandchildren's reading. Above all, people grow enormously in confidence, self-esteem and independence.



“

It just broke my heart when I couldn't read to my twin daughters – now I can help them with their homework.

”

Sarah
Graduate Reader

Each Read Easy group is set up by a local volunteer 'Pioneer', who networks and mobilises others in their community to join them in setting up a team of volunteers to run the proposed group. Pioneers are guided through the process by their Regional Adviser who is always available to provide plenty of support and access to all the resources needed.

Once established, each new group is legally and financially independent, but affiliated to Read Easy UK as part of a wider network of groups.

All groups are supported centrally by Read Easy UK and are provided with resources, guidance, training materials and publicity to help ensure the ongoing success of the group.



“

Being a Pioneer for Read Easy was an inspiring and amazing journey and gave me a long-searched for sense of fulfilment. It felt as if the skills I had gained throughout my working life came together like the pieces of a jigsaw.

”

Mandy Woodard
Pioneer, Read Easy Torbay

What's involved in being a Pioneer?

Working with the support of your Regional Adviser, you would:

- network with other organisations to establish interest and support
- publicise the project
- find other volunteers to form a team

Pioneers can, if they wish, share the role with another volunteer.

Click to view the [Pioneer role description](#)

What's in it for you?

Becoming a Pioneer will give you the chance to:

- offer life-changing opportunities to local people
- create a new community of like-minded volunteers
- use or develop skills to benefit others
- experience the benefits of initiating and seeing through a rewarding project



“

I enjoy being flexible with my time. I can fit Read Easy work around my other interests and commitments, but mainly I believe what I am doing is very worthwhile and gives me the same sort of purpose in my life as when I was working.

”

Debbie Penny

Pioneer, Read Easy Wythenshawe

We're looking for volunteers to pioneer new groups in their communities who are:

- energetic and enthusiastic
- keen to make a difference in their communities
- familiar with their local area
- self-motivated and organised
- good at networking and communicating
- able to inspire and engage others
- available for part of the working week

Is this you?

As a Read Easy 'Pioneer' you would be given all the support you need by your Regional Adviser to make setting up a group as simple and effective as possible.

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Read Easy Pioneer, please email **info@readeasy.org.uk**. To watch and read some wonderful stories from our Readers and Volunteers, please visit: **readeasy.org.uk**.



“

The organisational support available is excellent, and the fact that Read Easy has an established track record gives me the confidence that we will be able to make a difference in our community.

”

Andrew Pickin
Pioneer, Read Easy Nottingham

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