

Accommodation—in search of a word

It seems that living with MS is all about **accommodation**. I just wish there were a zippier word for it. Not that there's anything wrong with the term. We all like to be thought of as accommodating people—pleasant, helpful, willing to listen.

But there's something about accommodations (reasonable or not) that sounds a bit like a well-broken-in sofa. It's not of a piece with a demanding life parenting pre-schoolers or competing in sports. Not to mention life at work. Alan Labonte (page 22) isn't the only person who thought "accommodation" might not fit well in the marketplace. His story of seeking redress for unfair termination might have been avoided if everyone had understood the term better. Carolyn Magura (page 25) could have helped.

In this issue, accommodation rocks. Lloyd von Sprecken (page 13) unleashed his bike ability with an accommodation called the tandem. As more people with MS take up sports, we might just drop the word and call it "Can DO" as our friends at the Heuga Center for MS do.

Ross Myles (page 44) keeps up with a fast-paced public relations position

by using everything his colleagues use: laptop, BlackBerry, recorder, voice mail. Technically they're accommodations for his unreliable memory. But we could just say it's **high tech**.

Accommodations are also needed by people who must retire because of their MS (page 37). To obtain disability benefits from Social Security, applicants need to know the rules. "Ask for help" may be the first accommodation. The Society is partnering now with Social Security to make the process mesh with the reality of MS. Let's call this accommodation **knot-busting**.



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