Confused by wrong instructions?
Lost in an airport through bad signs?
Cut your fingers on poor packaging?
Sun obscuring the cash machine screen?
Important items out of reach?
Do these situations sound familiar?

That’s because they are all about us and the way we interact with the world around us.
Ergonomics is all about us, it’s about...

and making things and places...

• easier to use
• more comfortable
• safer
• more efficient
As an ergonomist, you could help to...

keep people safe in dangerous jobs

For example, with

• well fitting helmets and face masks
• easy to use controls and clear displays
• clear ground communications
As an ergonomist, you could help to...

make products easier to use

For example, with
- clear labels
- good colour coding
- positive feedback from controls
As an ergonomist, you could help to...

**ensure medical treatment saves lives**

For example, with

- easy to use equipment
- effective training and information
- comfortable and quiet working environments
As an ergonomist, you could help to...

design better facilities for disabled people

For example
• on transport systems
• in their workplace
• at home
As an ergonomist, you could help to...

keep people comfortable in harsh environments

For example, with
• warm and quiet living quarters
• easy to use tools and equipment
• effective teamwork and communications
As an ergonomist, you could help to...

train people to look after their health

For example, by

- giving them clear advice and information
- showing them how to set up equipment
- teaching them about how their body works
As an ergonomist, you could help to...

**make complex systems intuitive**

For example, by

- designing simple controls
- assessing reach and vision
- carrying out user trials
Ergonomics is all around you. Consider...

• the **toothbrush** you used this morning
• the **transport** you took to get here
• the **shoes** you’re wearing
• the **chair** you sit on at school or work
• the **computer** you work on
• the **kettle** you boil in your kitchen
• the **mobile phone** you text on
Why not consider a career in ergonomics?

You won’t believe where it can take you!
Ergonomics in numbers...

- You could earn £20,000 a year as a recently graduated ergonomist, rising to £40,000 after 3 to 4 years.
- 70% of ergonomists are male, 30% are female.
- A BSc in ergonomics takes 3 years, or 4 years if you take a year in industry.
- The average number of students doing a BSc or MSc in ergonomics in any one year is 240.
- There are only an estimated 2500 ergonomists working in the UK.

Source: The Guardian, 6 February 2010, Career by numbers: Ergonomics
Where ergonomists work...

Airbus  Lockheed Martin
BAE Systems  RNIB
Kelloggs  Shell
Ford  Toyota
BP
Health & Safety Executive
Great Ormond St Hospital

BT  Michelin  EDF Energy  Network Rail  Jaguar Land Rover  Rolls Royce
Remember these people?

She’s an architect. You could advise her on access routes, signage and crowd control.

He writes software. You could work with him to ensure it’s easy and intuitive to use.

She commutes to work on the train. You could help design the carriages to make her journey more comfortable.

He’s a firefighter. You could research the best design of clothing and equipment to keep him safe.

She’s a careworker. You could design lifting equipment for moving her patients.

He’s responsible for health and safety in his office. You could train him to assess computer workstations.
ERGONOMICS: DESIGNING FOR PEOPLE

For more information about ergonomics or careers advice, visit

www.ergonomics.org.uk
www.ergonomics4schools.com