

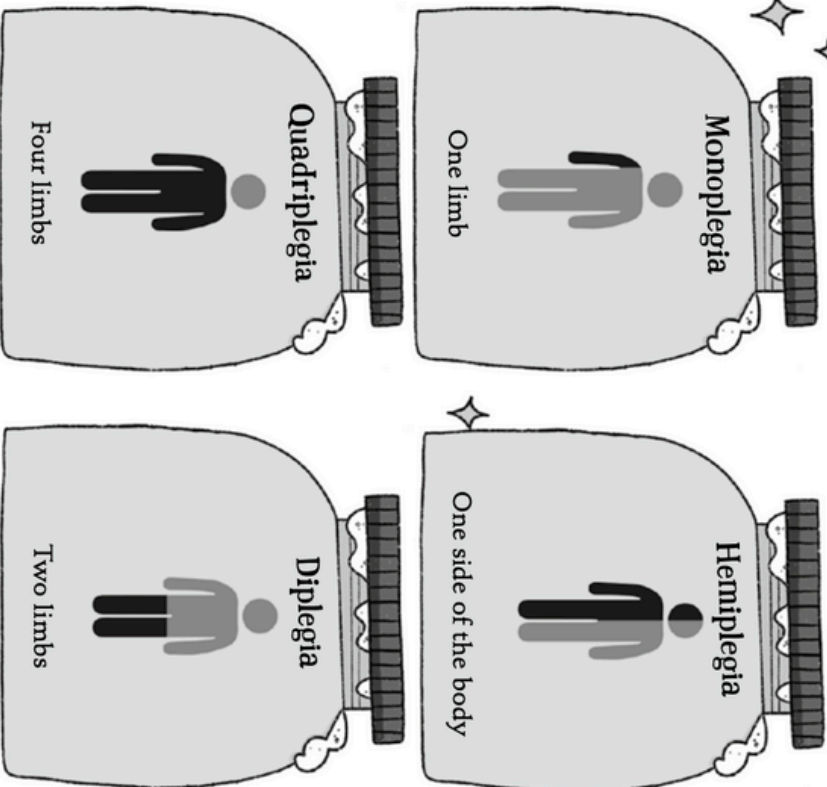
# What is cerebral palsy?

The hero of this book, Scooter McLay, has cerebral palsy. This is a condition that affects his movement and muscle control. The messages between his brain and his body can get a little jumbled or lost.

**Cerebral** → brain

**Palsy** → difficulty with controlling muscles, and therefore movement, in the body

Cerebral palsy can affect different parts of the body.



For Scooter, it means that the muscles on the left side of his body are a little stiff and he wears a splint on his left leg to give him extra support to allow him to stand and walk more easily. However, cerebral palsy affects every person differently.

These are the main types of cerebral palsy:

- Spastic cerebral palsy**  
This is the most common type. Spasticity makes the muscles tight and stiff, reducing movement.
- Dyskinetic (athetoid) cerebral palsy**  
Dyskinetic cerebral palsy causes uncontrolled body movements and can affect speech or language.
- Ataxic cerebral palsy**  
Ataxia makes balance and co-ordination difficult, leading to shaky movements. This can affect speech and language.

Cerebral palsy affects around 1 in 400 children born in the UK



**PEOPLE WITH CP HAVE IT ALL THEIR LIVES**

Cerebral palsy can cause problems with movement, breathing, balance, sleeping, eating, posture, hearing, sight and communication