

# DYSLEXIA: A PATTERN OF DIFFICULTIES

How can you tell if a person is dyslexic? This checklist is a quick reference to identify indicators for further in-depth assessment. Although not exclusive, the list seeks to set out common difficulties dyslexic students may have. Individuals who are dyslexic will usually show a pattern which includes a significant number of these difficulties.

## **A person may be dyslexic if he/she:**

- Shows significant discrepancy between oral and written performance.
- Experiences persistent or severe problems with spelling, even with “easy” or common words.
- Spells erratically – has “good days” and “bad days”.
- Has difficulty getting ideas into paper.
- Has persistent problems with sentence structure, punctuation, and/or organization of written work, not due to a lack of experience.
- Has problems ordering things sequentially.
- Consistently fails to express real understanding, ideas or vocabulary in written work.
- Frequently misreads or miscopies.
- Loses place often when reading, or in series (eg instructions).
- Has difficulty in “seeing” errors (eg proof-reading).
- Finds reading new words difficult or fails to recognize familiar ones.
- Has handwriting which is “messy” poorly constructed or immature.
- Experiences left/right confusions.
- Has trouble generalising, or acquiring and applying rules.
- Does not seem to learn by “ordinary” teaching methods.
- Has poor concept of time.
- Has poor short-term memory.
- Mispronounces multisyllabic words.
- Finds it difficult to organise him/her, work or time.
- May be described as a “quick forgetter” rather than a “slow learner”.
- Has difficulty paying attention, is easily distracted visually or auditorially.

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