

DISCLAIMER: No two people with dyslexia are exactly alike because dyslexia ranges from mild to moderate to severe to profound. Some people with dyslexia also have AD/HD. Therefore, someone with dyslexia may not have every single symptom listed below. But they will have many of them. Professional testers look for a "constellation" or cluster of symptoms in the different areas.

Common Signs of Dyslexia: K - 4th Grade Students

- May be slow to learn the connection between letters and sounds.
- Has difficulty spelling phonetically.
- Makes consistent reading and spelling errors such as;
 - Letter reversals - "d" for "b" as in: "dog" for "bog"
 - Word reversals - "tip" for "pit"
 - Inversions - "m" for "w," "u" for "n"
 - Transpositions - "felt" for "left"
 - Substitutions - "house" for "home"
- May have poor "fine motor" coordination.
- Has difficulty decoding single words (reading single words in isolation).
- May confuse small words - "at" for "to," "said" for "and," "does" for "goes."
- Relies on guessing and context.
- May have difficulty learning new vocabulary.
- May transpose number sequences and confuse arithmetic signs (+ - x / =).
- May have trouble remembering facts.
- May be slow to learn new skills; relies heavily on memorizing without understanding.
- Often uses an awkward pencil grip (fist, thumb hooked over fingers, etc.).
- May have difficulty planning, organizing and managing time, materials and tasks.

Common Signs of Dyslexia: 5th - 8th Grade Students

- Is usually reading below grade level.
- May have difficulty spelling; spells same word differently on the same page.
- May have trouble with word problems in math.
- May avoid writing.
- May have slow or poor recall of facts.
- May have trouble with non-literal language (idioms, jokes, proverbs, slang).
- May be slow to discern and to learn prefixes, suffixes, root words, and other reading and spelling strategies
- May reverse letter sequences - "soiled" for "solid," "left" for "felt."
- May avoid reading aloud.
- May write with difficulty with illegible handwriting; pencil grip is awkward, fist-like or tight.
- May have difficulty with written composition.
- May have difficulty with comprehension.
- May have difficulty with planning, organizing and managing time, materials and tasks.

Common Signs of Dyslexia: High School and College Students

- May read very slowly with many inaccuracies.
- May avoid reading and writing tasks.
- May have trouble answering open-ended questions on tests.
- May have poor memory skills.
- May pay too little attention to details or focus too much on them.
- May have an inadequate vocabulary.
- May have difficulty with planning, organizing and managing time, materials and tasks.
- Continues to spell incorrectly, frequently spells the same word differently in a single piece of writing.
- May have trouble summarizing and outlining.
- May have difficulty learning a foreign language.
- May work slowly.
- May misread information.
- May have an inadequate store of knowledge from previous reading.