

Is Your Child Struggling With Dyslexia?



**Learn more about what
causes dyslexia and how
your child can overcome this
reading difficulty.**

What is dyslexia?

Scientific research suggests that many children have an unusually difficult time processing spoken and printed words as sounds because their brains haven't fully developed the neural pathways or circuitry that connects letters to sounds. **This difficulty is what we call dyslexia.**

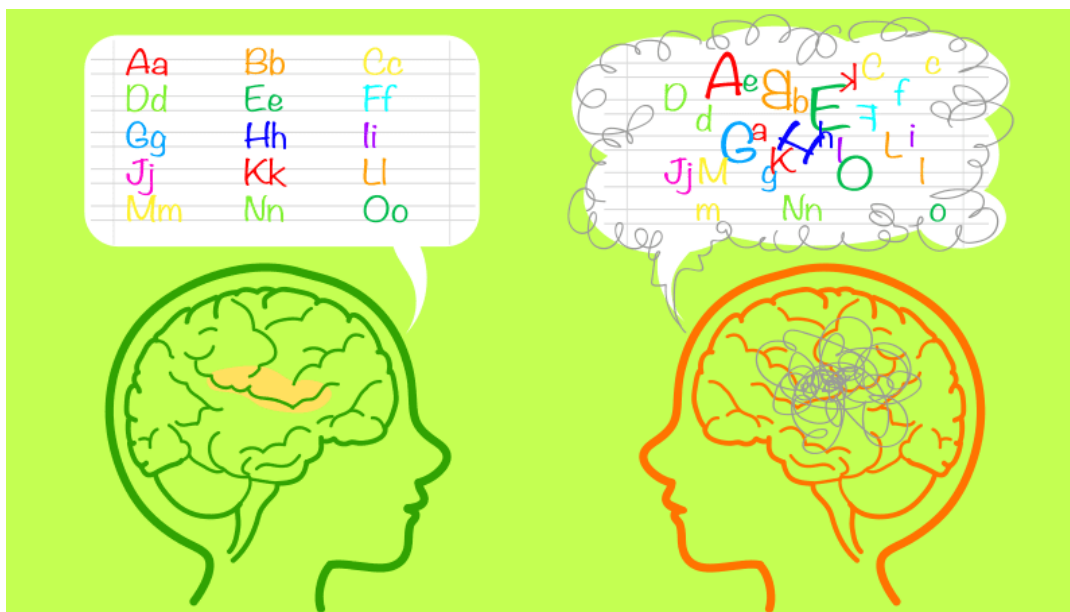
Does dyslexia mean that something is wrong with the student's intelligence?

No! Dyslexia has nothing to do with a child's intelligence. In fact, students with dyslexia often display amazing analytical abilities. The only thing "wrong" is that the student's brain needs to complete the wiring between its sound system and its visual and meaning systems. In this way, he or she can quickly and effortlessly learn to read by matching or mapping sounds to letters and translating letters back into the sounds they represent.



What causes dyslexia?

Scientific research suggests that dyslexia is caused by a “glitch” in the area of the brain responsible for processing language. To understand this “glitch” or processing problem, we must first learn a little about how the brain processes language.



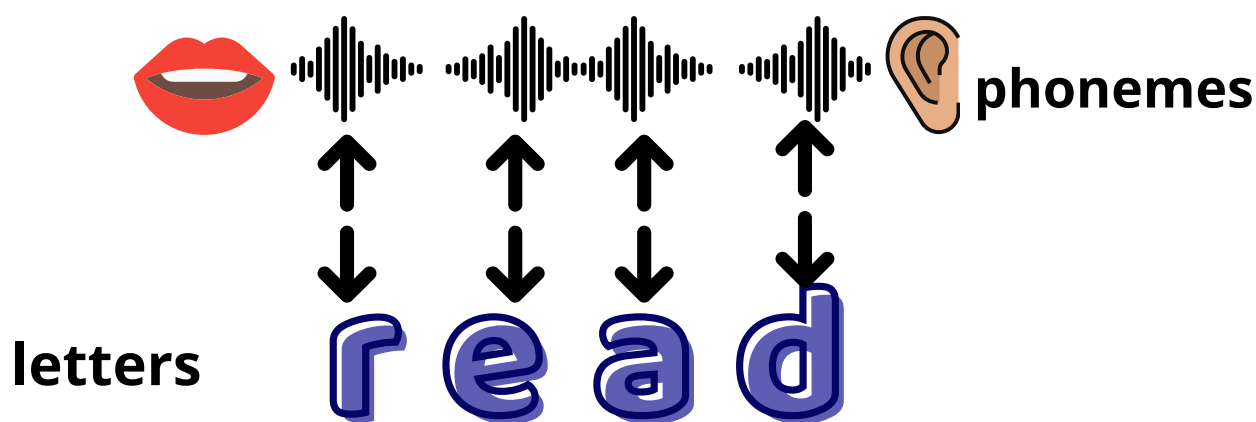
How does the brain's language processing system work?

First, let's look at how our brains process spoken words.

The brain's language processor works by turning (or disassembling) spoken words into individual speech sounds called phonemes. This is the only way the brain knows how to make sense of the words we hear.

Now, let's look at how our brains process written words.

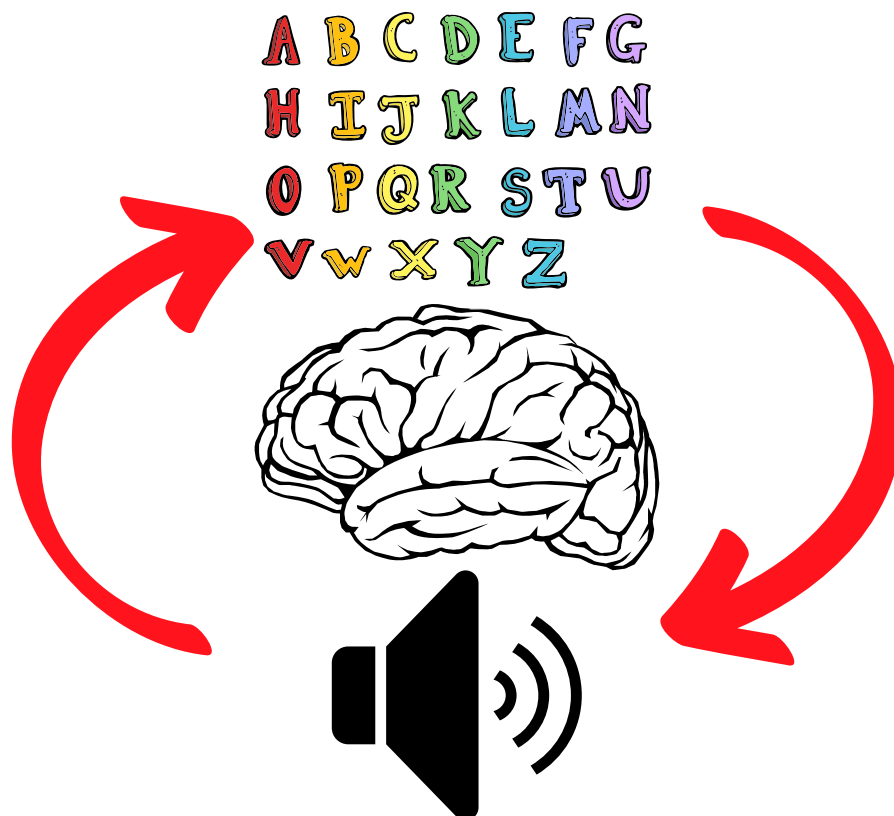
Our brain processes printed or written words the same way in which it processes spoken words: it converts printed letters and words into individual speech sounds called phonemes. Again, the brain's language processing mechanism can only make sense of words by turning them into individual speech sounds called phonemes. The brain reads the same way it hears-- it turns language into sounds.



Why does the brain treat letters like sounds?

Our brains treat letters like sounds because the letters in our alphabet were created to stand for sounds: letters are symbols for sounds. Our writing system is a code--it consists of letters that stand for sounds so that we can write sounds down by matching them to the letters they represent.

Writing is recording sounds by turning them into the letters that stand for those sounds. Reading is turning printed letters and words back into the sounds they were meant to represent. The brain matches letters in printed words to sounds in the same sequence as the sounds in spoken words.

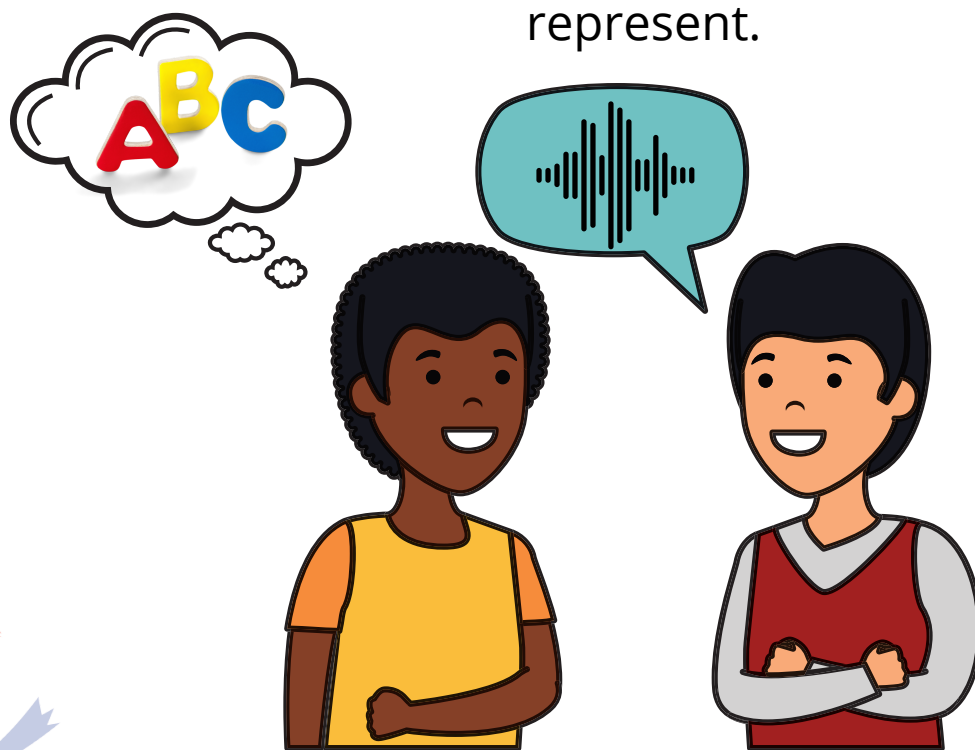


How does this work?

When our ears pick up speech sounds, the brain's language processor responds immediately by breaking those sounds into phonemes (or individual speech sounds) that make sense.

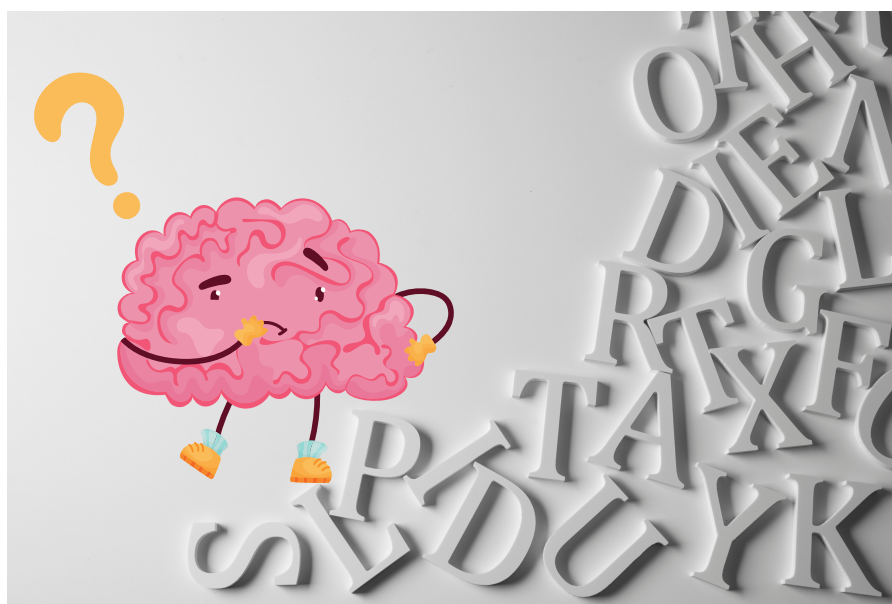
When our eyes see letters and words, the brain responds by matching those letters to individual phonemes or speech sounds. Printed letters and words only make sense when the brain turns these written symbols into the phonemes or speech sounds they represent.

Students with dyslexia have difficulty converting spoken words into their individual phonemes or speech sounds, and they have difficulty converting printed words back into the speech sounds or phonemes they represent.



Why do some students have such a difficult time disassembling spoken words into their individual speech sounds or phonemes and translating printed words back into the speech sounds they represent?

Scientific research suggests that many children have an unusually difficult time processing spoken and printed words as sounds because their brains haven't fully developed the neural pathways or circuitry that connects letters to sounds. Since our language processing system is phonological or sound-based, we call this a phonological deficit. In other words, there is a "glitch" or problem in the language processing mechanism.



What happens if dyslexia is left untreated?

If there is no systematic attempt to treat dyslexia by teaching students how to focus on sounds, then children can suffer into adulthood with the “secret” pain of not being able to read fluently with confidence, excellence, and understanding. This lack of literacy can have profoundly negative effects on their self-esteem, academic careers, and socio-economic futures.



Can students overcome dyslexia and its effects?

Absolutely! Students can overcome dyslexia's effects through intensive, systematic, phonics-based instruction that helps them to master the code of letter-sound correspondences, which is the foundation of our reading and writing system.

Dyslexia occurs when the brain has a difficult time processing speech and print as phonemic sounds.

To remedy this situation, we need to train the student's brain to segment spoken words by listening for the individual speech sounds that form all spoken words in our language, and we need to train or rewire the student's brain to make stronger, lasting connections between sight and sound so that visual letters can be "heard" as spoken sounds.

Simply put, we need to train the student to hear phonemes in spoken words and to see and "hear" phonemes in printed words.

This is the same process that all students must learn in order to read effectively: all students must learn that spoken words consist of sounds and that the letters in our alphabet stand for sounds. Students with dyslexia do not need a different process for turning speech into the printed word and turning the printed word back into speech; they simply need a more intensive, relentless approach to understanding and applying the alphabetic principle of letter-sound correspondence.



Can attempts at treating dyslexia actually make the problem more severe?

Yes. Since the brain processes language by sound, remedial interventions that focus on teaching reading by sight actually aggravate the problems that students with dyslexia face. Interventions must focus on the scientifically established evidence about the way the brain learns to read.



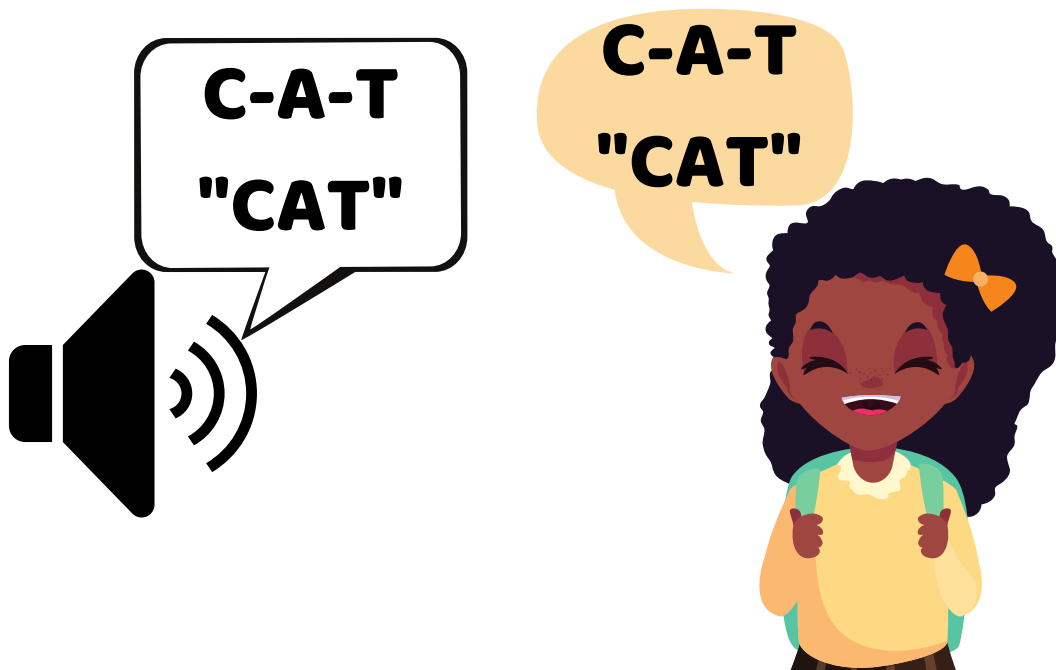
What is the best way to help children overcome dyslexia?

The most effective interventions will focus on teaching children how to focus on phonemic sounds so that they can analyze phonemes in spoken words and translate printed words back into phonemes.



Sound & Say Spelling™ is a scientifically and historically proven way to help all students (with or without dyslexia) to learn how to read and write because it focuses students on sounds instead of sight.

Teaching students how to spell from sound and to write the words down (or Sound and Say Spelling) is an extremely effective way to help students overcome dyslexia because spelling and writing require intensive focus on sounds and on matching sounds to their corresponding letters or letter-combinations. Spelling sounds and writing them down trains students to become phonemically aware and to use phonemic analysis in listening and reading.



**EVERY CHILD CAN
WIN WITH READING!**

**Is your child
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TALK TO WINWITHREADING!

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