

44 MYTHS ABOUT DYSLEXIA DEBUNKED

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It is important to be aware of some of the popular misconceptions and myths surrounding dyslexia and language-based learning disability. We have highlighted some of the more common myths and provided the alternative understanding.

5 Myth: Dyslexia can be outgrown.

Fact: Dyslexia is a lifelong issue; however yearly monitoring of phonological skills from first through twelfth grade shows that the disability persists into adulthood. Although many dyslexics learn to read accurately, they may continue to read slowly and not automatically.

6 Myth: Dyslexia is a "catch-all" term.

Fact: Research has shown that dyslexia is a specific neurological learning disability that is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition, and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. Other secondary problems in reading and vocabulary comprehension may also arise.

7 Myth: Dyslexia is innate, incurable, and permanent.

Fact: While dyslexia is a lifelong learning disability, early and effective intervention can help a student keep-up and retain his grade level in school, as well as minimize the negative effects dyslexia can have such as low self-esteem.

8 Myth: The prevalence of dyslexia is estimated to be between 4-8% of the total population in English speaking countries.

Fact: Statistics like these can never be certain, because each English-speaking country has its own identification criteria. All that can be known for certain is that in every English-speaking country, a significant percentage of the population has reading and spelling difficulties that range from mild to profound. For example, this percentage in the United States is between 15% and 20%. The most common of these learning disabilities is dyslexia.

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