

## 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.

**25** Myth: **Mirror writing is a symptom of dyslexia.**

**Fact:** Backwards writing and reversals of letters and words are common in the early stages of writing development among dyslexic and non-dyslexic children alike. Dyslexic children have problems in naming letters (i.e., remembering and quickly accessing the letter names), but not necessarily in copying them. Because many people erroneously believe that letter reversals define dyslexia, the children who do not make letter reversals often go undiagnosed.

**26** Myth: **Intelligence and ability to read are related, so if someone doesn't read well, they can't be very smart.**

**Fact:** There is absolutely no relation between dyslexia and IQ. Dyslexics can have high, middle, or low IQ's.

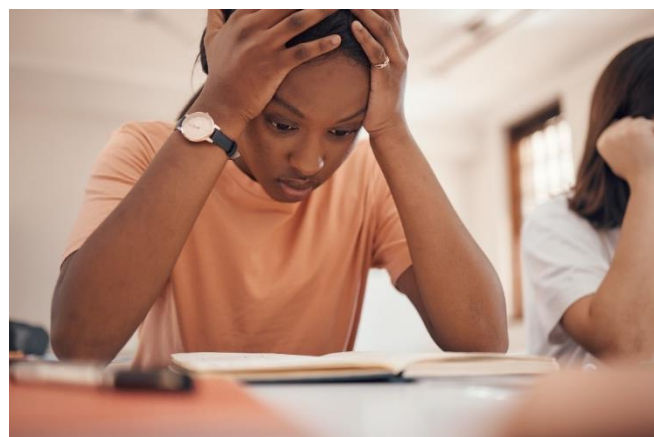
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### 27 Myth: Children with dyslexia are just lazy. They should try harder.

**Fact:** Research has shown, with the technology of functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) that those with dyslexia use a different part of their brain when reading and working with language. Dyslexic people show an abnormal pattern of brain function when reading: underactivity in some regions, overactivity in another which, according to researches, accounts for the difficulty they have in extracting meaning from the printed word. The findings provide evidence that people with dyslexia are not poorly taught, lazy, or stupid but have an inborn brain abnormality that has nothing to do with intelligence. Lack of awareness about this disorder among the teachers and parents, has often resulted in the child being branded as 'lazy.' If students with dyslexia do not receive the right type of intervention and/or classroom accommodations, they often struggle in school -- despite being bright, motivated, and spending hours on homework assignments both academically and emotionally.

### 28 Myth: Gifted children cannot be dyslexic or have a learning disability.

**Fact:** Many dyslexics have very high IQs and have gone on to accomplish outstanding things in their lives. Many famous authors, researchers, actors and actresses, politicians, athletes, and others from all different professions are dyslexic.



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