

Study Strategies for Students with Dyslexia

by Lois MacCullagh

This resource was compiled from ideas provided by students with dyslexia and other students from Macquarie University in a research study conducted in 2013 and 2014.

The study was supported by the School of Education, ARC Centre for Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders and the Macquarie University Disability Service.

Please note that if you are printing copies of this resource, people with dyslexia are likely to find it easier to read when printed in colour.

"An idea shared is an idea multiplied"

terms to b



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Note taking strategies

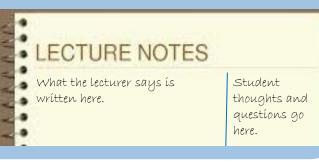
Take lecture slides with you to the lecture

Lots of students printed out their lecture slides and took them to the lecture to write notes on. Some also downloaded them to a laptop or tablet and added notes to them electronically. Of course, this is only possible if your lecturer makes the slides available online before lectures.



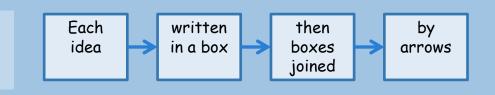
Divide note-taking pages into two sections

Some students like to divide their notebook pages into columns – one for what the lecturer says and one for their own thoughts and questions. Another variation of this technique is to rule off a section at the bottom of the page to write a summary.



Write in boxes

One student found it helps to write notes with each idea in a box and joining them with arrows.



Draw pictures, graphs and diagrams

Many students draw 3 pictures, graphs and What will What do 1111 diagrams in their notes. someone llove pay me to do? to do? Some drew the pictures during the lecture. Most re-write their notes What is in afterwards using pictures. my DNA? 2

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Note taking strategies (cont.)

Organise a note taker EARLY

You may be eligible for a note taker from the university disability service.

If you wish to use this service, it is important to make your booking EARLY (i.e. up to 6 weeks in advance) to allow enough time to make the arrangements.





OneNote and AudioNote

Microsoft OneNote (for Windows) and Luminant's AudioNote app (for iPad) can voice record lectures while you take notes. The audio recording will be time stamped to correspond with your notes so you can re-listen to specific sections that you may have missed or misunderstood.



Re-write or type lecture notes neatly

Many students re-write or type their lecture notes neatly after the lecture. This helps them revise what the lecturer said and means they have neat notes to revise from later.



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Theories of Second Language Development

Instructioners in the second process the C1 pergenties apply and the (2011)
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 Depending advantation measured in the second barguage learning portical
 basis of y you have to allow the language and you cannot be explicitly learning language

Information Processing
 Makaugins
 Makaugins
 developing automaticity through paying attention means you become more produced in speaking
 revenues confidency means it visualism to hold attention and hears a majority for other coupling

Implicit/Equilit/Countedge

 addression and theory
 addression and productor/shot you group and what you have to explane
 addression supply and then becomes implicit and internation.

Keep lecture notes organised

Find a way to organise your lecture notes that works for you. Examples include divided note books, plastic display folders, regular folders and on a computer.





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Reading and writing strategies

Fonts

Some students find certain fonts easier to read than others. You may wish to try a few and see what works best for you. 'Sans serif' fonts may be easier than 'serif' ones.

Verdana, Calibri, Comic Sans and other easy to read fonts come standard on most computers

Dyslexie and Open Dyslexie can be downloaded free here <u>http://opendyslexic.org/</u> or here <u>http://www.dyslexiefont.com/</u>

Reduce glare

Close blinds partly or fully Reduce computer screen brightness and glare Use coloured paper and backgrounds for printed and electronic documents and presentations.





BeeLine reader

Beeline reader colours the starts and ends of lines of text for easier scanning from one line to the next. It comes as an app or a web plugin, free from www.beelinereader.com



HOW IT WORKS

Ever wonder why stop lights use colors and not words? It's because the human brain processes color very quickly —much more quickly than it can process words. BeeLine Reader uses the same principle to make reading easier and faster. With BeeLine Reader, the color of the text guides your eye across and between lines, eliminating "line transition errors" (accidentally skipping or repeating lines) and making reading faster, easier and more efficient.

Bright
Dark
Blues
Gray

Highlight, annotate and post-it note readings

Use highlighters and postit notes to mark important points while reading so you can be easily refer back to them. This can be done both on paper or digitally.







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Reading and writing strategies (cont.)

Screen readers

A wide range of computer screen readers are available. Some are free, others can be purchased, or the disability service may provide them free.



Audio books

Some are available online or from libraries. The disability service will also record your text books into audio books - but you need to get in early to give them enough time.



Read out loud

Some students find it helps to speak the words out loud while reading.

It can also help to read your own written work out loud to check for errors.



Summarise readings

You may find it helpful to summarise readings in your own words while you read them or soon after.



with dyslexia · Pasiture, ableign fram led" Post Secondary Students: Examining High "Disability" Policy Using an Ableism Lens

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Reading and writing strategies (cont.)

Dictionaries with phonetic spellings

It may help to keep a dictionary or grammar book handy while reading or writing. Use phonetic spellings to sound out words, or an online version that speaks words aloud.



Format pages in columns

Research* has found that people with dyslexia often find it easier to read text formatted into columns rather than a single block of text spanning the whole width of the page.

What do you think? Did you find the box of text on the left easy to read? Or do you find this wider block of text easier to read? The key issue here is probably easier scanning from one line to the next. If you don't want to hand your assignments in with columns, just reformat them before submitting them. You may also find it easier to read articles or webpages on your mobile phone if they get reformatted into a narrow column.

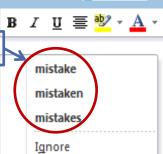
Spelling and grammar checkers

Make clever use of online and inbuilt spelling and grammar checkers. For example, did you know that you can right-click on misspelled words to see a list of suggestions?

This text contains a deliberate spelling mistak which has been underlined by the Microsoft V spell checker. Right clicking on the underline word gives a list of potential replacements.

ne A BAT

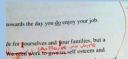
SUH



Grammarly

Editing

Ask a friend or family member to read and edit your work. This means you'll need to finish your assignments before the due date to allow time for editing.



ut so often we have a blinkered view of do and what we are capable of. The world is an be an exciting and fulfilling. We are ting them. We can learn new things rience to gain more, take initiative and find intribute to others and to our own self portunity to shine and to grow as well as 't just have to be a way to pay the bills



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t[.1]: Please check the source. This be incorrectly copied. "Every" may be

nt [.4]: Do you wish "vest"

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General learning strategies

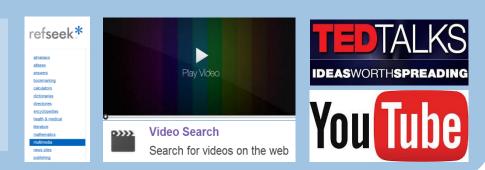
Websites and online resources

Search the internet for educational websites and other learning resources. A Google Scholar search can be a good start. Blogs and sample essays can also be useful.



Videos

Many students with dyslexia particularly like to learn by watching videos. Search online or in your university library for high quality educational videos.



Study skills workshops and PAL sessions

Many universities run face-to-face Study Skills Workshops and 'Peer Assisted Learning' group tutoring by students from the previous year.



Tutoring

From a friend, paid, or through the university disability service







Planning



into small steps, reward yourself after each step

Keep a diary, start assignments early, break big tasks

Reych Essay: InFind + prod orticles 2. Read + summarize 3. Write ortine 4. Write first draft 5. Add quoles + references 6. Redraft until happy

Create a blog in

Otoste a rangel



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General learning strategies (cont.)

Draw mind maps on a white board

Using a whiteboard to draw mind maps and other diagrams may help some people to understand and remember concepts better. You can make an inexpensive whiteboard by covering a piece of white or light coloured cardboard with clear contact.





Talk to...

lecturers, tutors Ask them questions after

class, by email and during their open door times

...friends, family

Explain concepts to them, "Did you know that...?" Ask them to quiz you ...and peers Discuss concepts with fellow students, set up an informal study group



Take breaks







Fat well

Exercise



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