

# What is Dyslexia?

AN OVERVIEW FOR EDUCATORS



A type of learning disability characterized by difficulties establishing relationships between printed & spoken language.

## Common characteristics

Difficulties in:

- learning letter-sound correspondences
- identifying unique sounds in a word
- blending individual sounds to read words
- following & remembering directions
- recalling names of people & places
- remembering sequences
- retrieving precise words
- rhyming words



TENNESSEE READING  
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## Common misconceptions



### MYTH

### FACT

**Individuals with dyslexia see words in reverse.**

**Individuals with dyslexia may have difficulty storing and retrieving the correct letter sequence for a given word.**

**Individuals with dyslexia can't learn to read.**

**Individuals with dyslexia can become skilled readers with instruction combining:**

- **Explicit, systematic phonics instruction featuring**
  - Opportunities to practice
  - Immediate, specific feedback from a skilled reader to support word reading proficiency
- **Targeted automaticity at word- & connected-text level**
- **Comprehension strategies**
- **Word knowledge**
- **World knowledge**

**Dyslexia is unique from disabilities served by special education and does not qualify a student for an individualized education program (IEP).**

**Due to inconsistent criteria associated with a dyslexia diagnosis, in some states dyslexia is served under a 504 plan or a plan ensuring the provision of accommodations rather than educational programming.**

## Learn more

**International Dyslexia Association**

**[Dyslexia in the Classroom: What Every Teacher Needs to Know](#)**

**National Center on Improving Literacy**

**[Schools and Districts](#)**

**Tennessee Center for the Study and Treatment of Dyslexia**

**[Infographics & Infosheets](#)**



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