



IDA UPDATED DEFINITION OF DYSPLEXIA

Dyslexia is a specific learning disability characterized by difficulties in word reading and/or spelling that involve accuracy, speed, or both and vary depending on the orthography. These difficulties occur along a continuum of severity and persist even with instruction that is effective for the individual's peers. The causes of dyslexia are complex and involve combinations of genetic, neurobiological, and environmental influences that interact throughout development. Underlying difficulties with phonological and morphological processing are common but not universal, and early oral language weaknesses often foreshadow literacy challenges. Secondary consequences include reading comprehension problems and reduced reading and writing experience that can impede growth in language, knowledge, written expression, and overall academic achievement. Psychological well-being and employment opportunities also may be affected. Although identification and targeted instruction are important at any age, language and literacy support before and during the early years of education is particularly effective.

Adopted by the IDA Board of Directors on October 22, 2025

PARTNER TASK CARDS

STEP 1: MARK THE DEFINITION

Read the definition silently. Use the symbols below:

Circle words or phrases that explain what dyslexia is.

Underline words or phrases that describe what contributes to dyslexia.

★ Star words or phrases that show the impact of dyslexia.

STEP 2: PARTNER DISCUSSION

Share your annotations with your partner.

Prompt A: *What did you circle, and why does it matter for understanding dyslexia?*

Prompt B: *What did you underline that explains the causes or contributing factors?*

Prompt C: *What did you star that shows how dyslexia affects reading, writing, learning, or later outcomes?*

STEP 3: CONNECT TO PRACTICE

With your partner, answer this question:

Based on this definition, what is one important understanding that educators, families, or administrators should take away?

OPTIONAL SHARE OUT

Be ready to share one idea from your partner discussion.

