

If you are dyslexic

It does not mean you have to give up on learning English. There are many ways how you can help yourself. Below are a series of practical tips focusing on the four language skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Understanding spoken foreign language

Due to weaknesses in sound discrimination, understanding spoken language can be poorer in a foreign language, as well. Therefore you need to be really prepared to be able to understand speech in a foreign language.

Solutions for the compensation:

1. You can record a lecture and then listen to it under more relaxed circumstances later.
2. You can favour email over the phone for communication.
3. When speaking to someone, you can politely ask clarification questions. If you feel the need, you can even tell them that you are not strong in processing speech sounds.

The most important is to practice continuously. The more practice you get, the more efficient you will become. Listen to music and watch movies. Learning can be fun.

Speaking in a foreign language

Speaking in a foreign language is a challenge even for people without dyslexia. This is especially so if they learned the language at school and try to speak correctly all the time. Speech is communication. What is important is for the partner to understand what you want to convey.

Once an English gentleman told his colleague who not speaking English well, had asked him to correct any mistakes: "If I understand what you say, why should I correct you? And if I don't understand what you say, how could I correct you?"

Be confident

Consider:

- Practice helps in speaking, as well. Practice includes listening to spoken language, as well, because the expressions are fixed in your

brain and can be mobilized more easily. It is therefore worth watching movies in the original and be engaged in as many multimedia situations as possible. YouTube is a mine of multimedia materials for practice.

- If you are unsure of pronunciation, most translation programs offer the option to pronounce words. [CHECK HOW AN ON-LINE TRANSLATOR CAN HELP YOU HERE.](#)
- You can also augment your vocabulary with the help of translation programs, because they also usually present synonyms. With the help of these, you can even always find the best suitable expression.
- If you want to hear a longer passage read out loud, then use RoboBraille. Even when preparing for a presentation, you can have your foreign language text read out to you to practice pronunciation. Machine voices are not always perfect, but they offer a secure basis for you to speak clearly and confidently.

Reading in a foreign language

This is often the least problematic for dyslexics, because in everyday life, you don't have to read out foreign language texts, that is, you do not need to produce, but only to comprehend the text.

- Longer texts are worth splitting up in the case of a foreign language, as well. Shorter chunks are easier to manage.

Writing in a foreign language

Writing is a challenge for dyslexics even in their native language. The most often problematic area even in adulthood is spelling. Fortunately, technical tools offer ample solutions. Even simple word processing programs have built-in spell-checking, and it is increasingly customary to provide such a support for email writing.

In a foreign language, the same solutions can be employed for correct spelling as in one's native language:

- Use a spell-checking program.
- If you don't know how to spell a word correctly, type it in translation software or look it up in a dictionary.
- Read out what you've written using some text-to-speech program. Errors can come to light this way.

- Always proofread what you've written. Spell-checking only targets words, while sentences may still be incomprehensible if you've swapped words or used an incorrect one.

Summary of instant text-to-speech and translation tools

You can copy texts into translation programs for translations, but be aware that these translations are far from perfect. A translation software is thus merely a help, but not a solution.

1. **Google translate** offers good solutions. A versatile program offering good translation is **Im Translator** which you can find in 2 slightly **different versions**.
2. A highly usable site is the **EuDict** software. Besides being also developed for mobiles, and having the option to be built in search programs, it has the advantage of suggesting words after typing in a few letters, which means you might only need to simply select the correct one.
3. **RoboBraille** is an email/Internet-based service, which, beside numerous other options, can convert written texts (such as doc, docx, pdf, html, rtf documents) to spoken text (into mp3 format).
4. You can download the Google **Camera Translator**, an instant mobile translator into your smart phone. It translates immediately the printed text you capture with the camera of your phone. It offers main European languages, it works offline and it is free.