

## **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.

### **1. Listening**

You may struggle to process incoming auditory information efficiently in your first language.

- Try to use a recorder to record new vocabulary, stories, instruction so you can listen to it as many times as necessary.
- Using visuals and pictures along with the listening task will aid your understanding.
- The following exercises might be useful if you have difficulties differentiating between certain sounds, for example e-i, a-e...etc.

#### **Sorting – learn to differentiate always one type of sounds you mix**

- You will need a range of cards showing pictures of objects with the problem sounds, and two boxes.
- You can create words with voice from these words using a text-to-speech system, like <http://robobrainle.org>.
- First, the computer names the object, and you pick the correct card.
- Second, you repeat the word, and place in the right box that is labeled for the sound.

### **2. Speaking**

In foreign/second language acquisition understanding, reading and writing usually precedes speaking, therefore we have to be very patient with speaking. Never force yourself to speak, always wait until you feel safe.

- Reply to questions when the answer is easy and short.
- Learn songs. You will have a lot everyday expressions.

### 3. Reading

Reading in English must be a pleasant experience regardless of the age and ability.

- Always read with a purpose or from interest.
- Clarify the vocabulary of the text *before* reading, as this will aid prediction and understanding.
- You can benefit from cloze exercises as they are useful to develop predictive skills.

### 4. Writing

You may have the most difficulties with learning to spell English words.

- Pointing out the difference between the letter-sound correspondence of your first language, and English can often be a very helpful start. In Hungarian each letter has its corresponding sound, whereas in English there are 26 letters referring to 44 sounds.
- Build a structured, systematic, spelling program focusing on one rule at a time.
- Vocalize the words as you write them.
- Learn the irregular words on a whole word basis. These words are frequently used and you need a great deal of exposure to them.
- Learn the words in context as well.
- When writing to communicate, learn to different planning techniques, such as mind mapping, and break up the process into small, manageable steps.

*Always set a realistic goal and commend your effort and improvement no matter how small.*