

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://robobraille.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.