

What is Dyslexia?

How much do you know about what this term really entails? Mark the following with a T for true and a F for false:

1. _____ Dyslexia is a reading disability.

2. _____ The most telling sign of dyslexia is one's spelling.

3. _____ Screening for potential reading problems can be accurately identified before a child begins kindergarten.

4. _____ If a student can read at grade level, he cannot be dyslexic.

5. _____ Dyslexia affects 80% of those identified with learning disabilities.

6. _____ Dyslexia results from deficiencies in the visual-perceptual system (the student perceives letters and words backwards/ inaccurately.)

7. _____ A sound and intensive phonics program is sufficient to get one reading at his/her ability level.

9. _____ Over 85% of the English language is predictable/decodable if you know rules that govern the language.

The current definition of DYSLEXIA adopted in 2003 by the International Dyslexia Association in collaboration with the NICHD and NIH:

1. Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is a language based disorder characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities.
2. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction.
3. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.