

# Dyslexia Awareness

## Beyond Words

# Dyslexia

**Dyslexia is very common. It effects 1 in 10 people. You probably know someone with it.**

**But it's very misunderstood.**

# Myths about Dyslexia. True or false?

1. **People grow out of dyslexia**
2. **Dyslexic people aren't clever**
3. **Dyslexia only affects someone's reading and spelling**
4. **Dyslexia brings gifts as well difficulties**
5. **Dyslexic people are successful!**

# People grow out of dyslexia...



**FALSE**

- It is a life long condition – the difficulties can be managed but it can't be cured
- People are born with dyslexia
- It is genetic, scientists have begun to identify 'dyslexic genes' and it often 'runs in the family'
- Biological/Neurological: brain is 'wired' differently
- Dyslexic people use their brains in a different way.. Which can be good!

# Dyslexic people aren't clever



**FALSE**

- Dyslexic people are often bright and intelligent
- Einstein, Thomas Edison and were dyslexic
- Sadly many dyslexic people have been told they are stupid because they struggle with tasks others find simple

# Dyslexia Only Affects Spelling and Writing



## FALSE

- Dyslexia is a neurodiversity which means that the brain processes information differently to others
- Dyslexia does effect reading and spelling
  - It can make letters swim or jump around
  - Make people confuse similar looking letters like p/d
  - It can make it difficult to remember common letter patterns in spelling



# Dyslexia Can Also Affect

- Mental Arithmetic
  - Struggle with doing sums in head
  - But often good at higher level maths
- Time keeping
  - Difficulty with concept of time (e.g. how long 5 mins actually is)
  - Misjudges how long something will take
  - Reading analogue clocks

# Dyslexia Can Also Affect

- Organisational skills
  - Difficulty remembering correct equipment/documents
  - Struggles to keep things tidy
- Following directions
  - Struggles with left and right
  - Finds holding list of instructions in memory difficult
  - Difficulty reading or finding themselves on a map



# Dyslexia Can Also Affect

- Rapid naming
  - When trying to quickly name an object or person comes out with the wrong word.
  - Takes longer to find the right word from memory
- Following instructions
  - Working memory difficulties means can't hold onto lots of instructions given at once
  - Over 2-3 instructions and 4th or more falls of working memory “shelf”

# Dyslexia brings gifts as well as difficulties

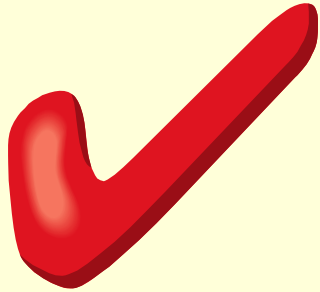


**TRUE**

**Dyslexic people's brains are wired differently meaning they approach things differently this can give different gifts such as:**

- Inventive thinking
- Solving problems/entrepreneurial
- Creativity
- Good communicators
- Vivid imaginations
- Curiosity

# Dyslexic people are successful



**TRUE**

- Dyslexia provides many gifts and with reasonable adjustments and help shouldn't be a barrier to success.
- Many places actively recruit dyslexic people because of their unique skills:
  - GCHQ say many of their top code-breakers crack complex problems because of their dyslexia

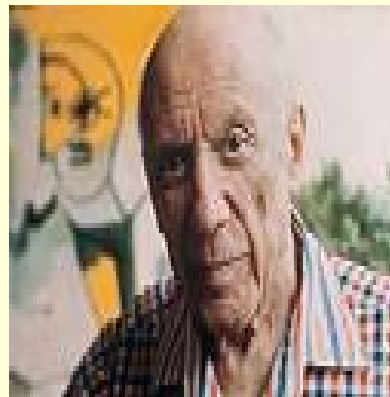
# Dyslexic people are successful

- Problem solving and entrepreneurial skills make dyslexic people very good business men and women.
- Sir Alan Sugar and Richard Branson are dyslexic



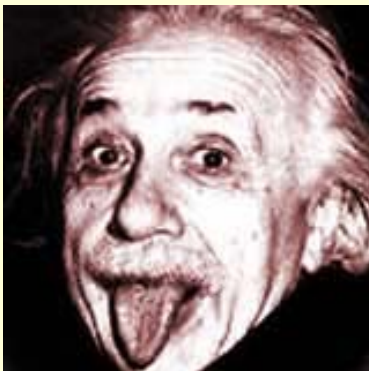
# Dyslexic people are successful

- A different way of thinking can bring wonderful creative and artistic abilities
- Keira Knightly, Picasso, John Lennon and Lord Rogers (a renowned architect) are dyslexic



# Dyslexic people are successful

- Imagination and curiosity have helped many dyslexic people become inventors and scientists
- Henry Ford, Einstein and Thomas Edison were dyslexic



- Charities such as the British Dyslexia Association work hard with the government, schools and families to help people with dyslexia
- There is a lot of information on dyslexia on our website [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk)
- For advice you can call their National Dyslexia Helpline: 0845 251 9002