

# How to help students dyslexicon? The Experience Of Japan

What do you think of when I say "dyslexia"? The minds of most people draw to mind the spelling errors, the mirror lyrics, just the illiteracy and learning disability. It is hard to imagine that someone with such misfortune can become a writer or even an English teacher, aren't you?

Now let me tell you something. I have dyslexia! Yes, this writer, who is currently glowing as a teacher of English, also a full dyslexicon. However, I do not suffer from any of these symptoms. The fact that dyslexia is much more than just these stereotypical statements. In my case I just read and wrote slower than the others. Unfortunately, often the treatment of mental illness, such as depression and anxiety disorders, understanding and managing dyslexia here in Japan, still backward compared to other developed countries. However, progress has been made. When I first came to Japan, my Japanese friend is a teacher with special needs, advised me to keep his condition a secret, especially since I was hoping to work in teaching sector. At that time, many in Japan did not recognize dyslexia. Students are often stigmatized as stupid or lazy if they showed signs of dyslexia. Fortunately, this has changed dramatically over the 11 years since I first moved here. A couple of years ago I was invited to a workshop for other teachers on how best to cope with dyslexically students in the class.

Because dyslexia has become one of the main themes in Japan only in recent years, research and statistics is still a little weak. However, most experts agree that about 25% of students in Japan may have some form of dyslexia. One of the interesting facts about this state is that for many dyslexics to write in Japanese is easier than English. For a long time it helped to spread the now widely refuted myth that the Japanese may not suffer from this disorder.

Japanese writing, with its use of hiragana, katakana and kanji is phonetic. English is not. Usually the disease affects media phonetically languages. For example, take the connection of "-ough". All written alike, but pronounced differently. In Japanese this kind of embarrassing distinction of the words is not found. So, for dyslexics Japanese a much easier language to read and write than English.

From the point of view of the teacher, however, this may complicate the identification of students with problems. I also faced the situation where our Japanese colleagues mistakenly rejected probable disorder as just a weakness in the ability to learn. As an English teacher, I see some signs that you can see. Remember that this is just the teacher's advice and dyslexia speaking from my own experience. I'm not qualified in this area, and I do not claim it.

## Here are a couple of the most obvious signs:

- 1) Disleksiya students speak more clearly than you write. Japanese students tend to be stronger writers than readers, when it comes to English. However, in the case of students-dyslexique this trend is likely to take a different turn. Such students will feel much more comfortable and confident expressing myself when speaking English than in reading and writing.
- 2) Dyslexically students sometimes become irritable. They may be disappointed in his seeming inability to work as effectively as their classmates.

## What can we do as teachers to help them?

Of course, your school is unlikely to react too well to the manifestations of Amateur psychiatry. Therefore, if you suspect that a student dyslexicon, it is best to first talk to your most trusted Japanese English teacher. In the class, too, can use some methods to help the student to work more effectively, not paying attention to his problem.

- 1) **Use colored paper.** For some dyslexics black on white difficult to read. However, print text on colored paper makes the words stand out on the page, so students becomes easier.
- 2) **adopt a multi-sensory approach.** For your classes, consider some of the ways by which you can present the same lessons to his disciples. For example, take the approach of Hollywood actor Tom cruise. As a dyslexic, he struggles to memorize lines of dialogue. So instead to use [custom essay for sale](#) only the script is written, it relies more on taped record of conversation that he listened, and then repeated to himself. Besides editing texts of the speech of the pupils, to make them more natural, I also made a digital voice recording of each student, which could then take home and listen to at your leisure. This not only helps you better remember the content of the lessons, but also allows them to learn at their own pace without affecting the overall flow.
- 3) **Always look wider.** While many dyslexics may struggle with the finer details of the task such as spelling, punctuation or presentation, one of the positive features is that in many cases students have a strong ability to see the big picture of the lesson.