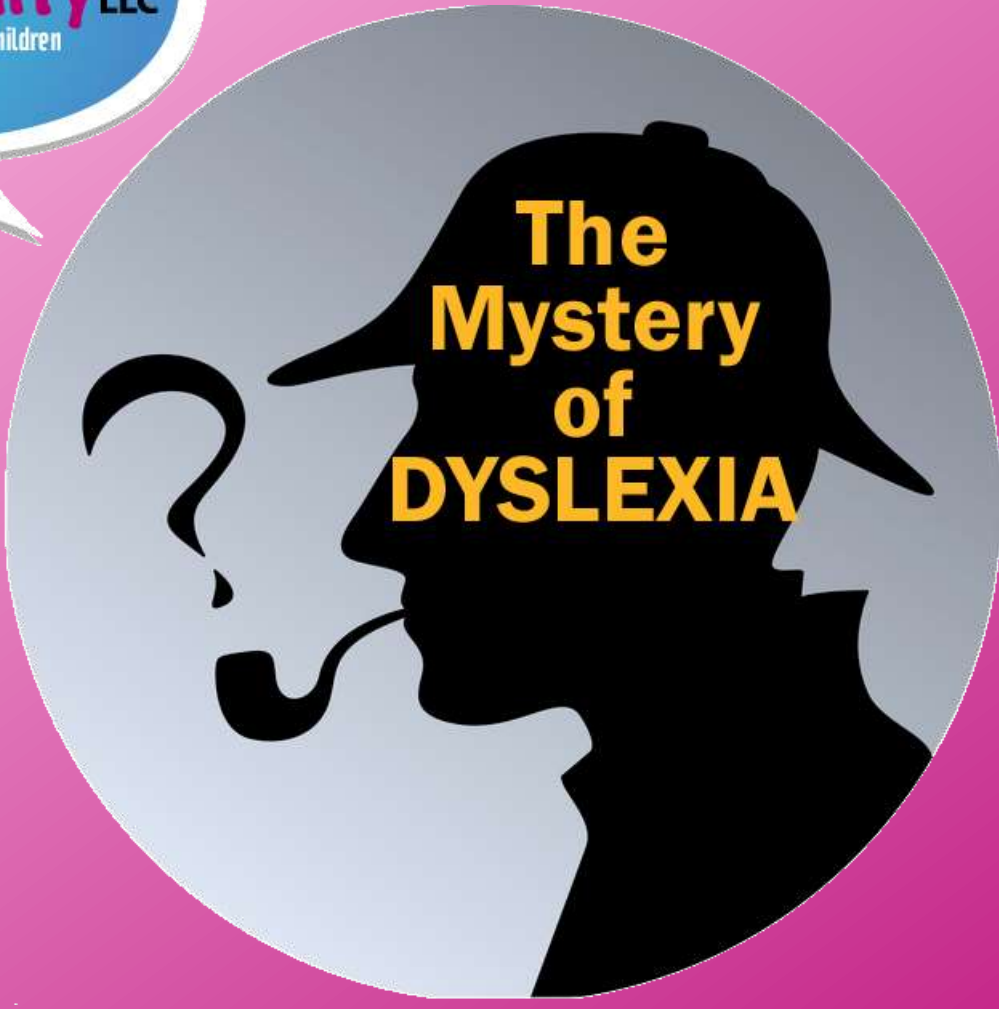


**Speech Ability** LLC  
Speech Language Therapy for Children



**The  
Mystery  
of  
DYSLEXIA**

Allison Winters, M.Ed., CCC-SLP  
SpeechAbility, LLC

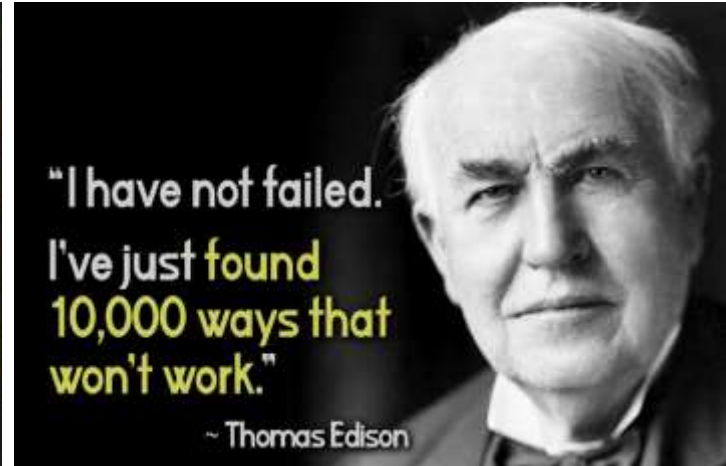
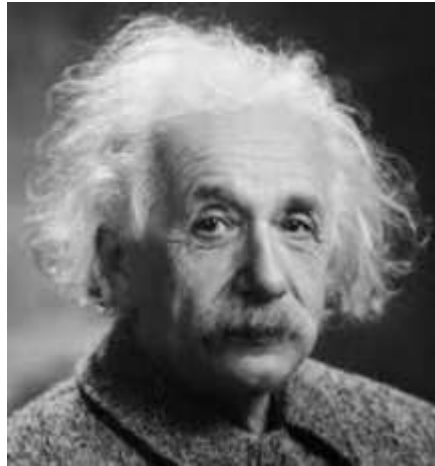
Dyslexia  
is not a disease  
or an  
identifiable  
physical  
condition, but a  
learning style.  
-Bette Fetter, author.



**1 IN 5 PEOPLE  
HAVE DYSLEXIA.  
THAT'S  
20% OF THE  
POPULATION!**



# Famous People with Dyslexia







# Things **Kids** With Dyslexia Wish Everyone Knew

"We need to work in a  
**different way,**  
not in a harder way.

Being dyslexic  
doesn't mean  
we aren't really  
**smart!"**

"Learning to  
read when you  
have dyslexia is like  
hitting a brick wall  
over and over. We  
need you to help us  
go around the wall  
not through it."

"I need you to speak  
**more slowly**  
when you give  
instructions."

**"We are not lazy.**  
Having dyslexia means you have to  
work hard and **never quit!**  
It just may take us longer and we  
will have lots of questions. But when  
we get it, we don't forget it."



# WHAT IT'S LIKE...





# Dyslexia Severity Levels

- Mild dyslexia may only affect spelling
- “Classic dyslexia” or moderate dyslexia presents with the standard difficulties of:
  - Processing letters
  - Sounding words out wrong
  - Difficulty writing thoughts on paper
  - Difficulty reading.
- Severe dyslexia:
  - many difficulties in reading, writing, and spelling.



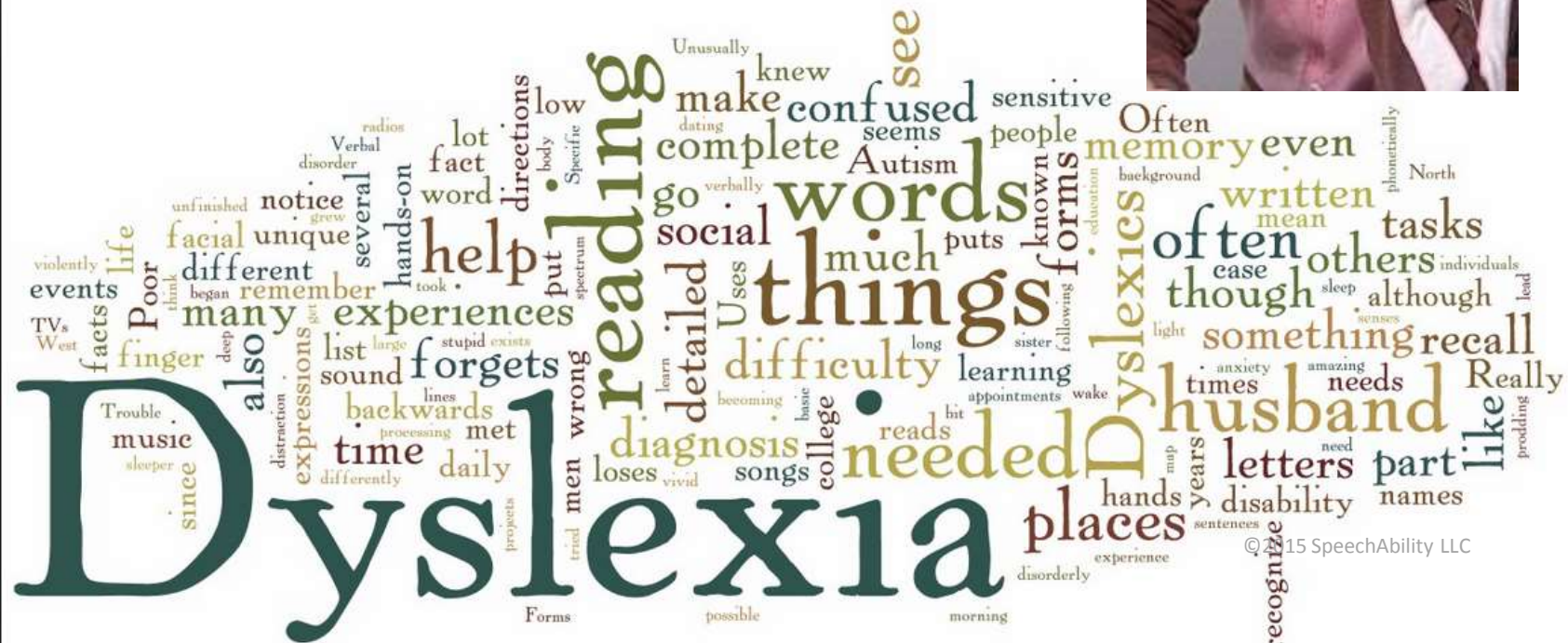


**People with dyslexia see things the same way as everyone else.**





People with dyslexia don't have trouble "seeing" language but with manipulating it.

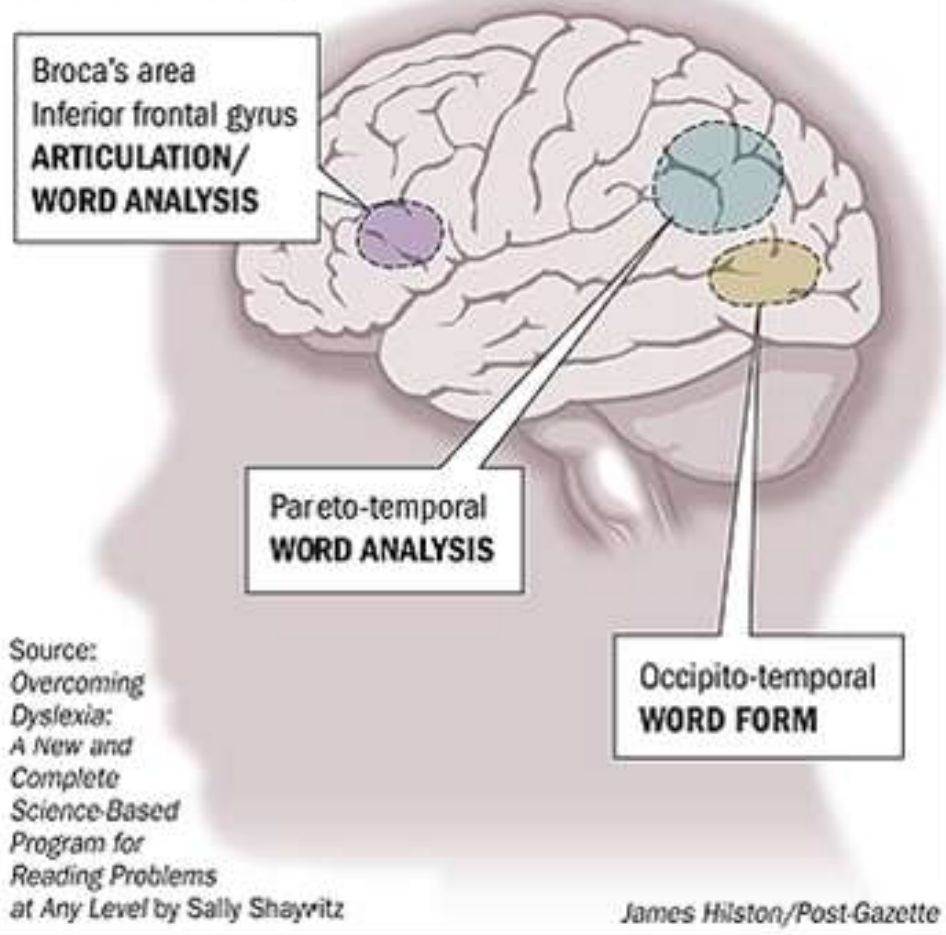




**Dyslexia is genetic &  
most definitely  
runs in families.**

## Brain systems for reading

Brain imaging has shown three areas are involved in reading. Broca's area is active when you vocalize words in your mind. The middle "temporal-parietal" area decodes the sounds of letters and words, and is much less active in people with dyslexia; the rearmost area contains the memories of whole words. The better someone reads, the more active it becomes.



fMRI studies and research in the past 15 years has shown how people with dyslexia read differently than people without dyslexia

### Typical Brain / Dyslexic Brain comparison

Typical



- Broca's area, Inferior frontal gyrus (articulation/word analysis)
- Parieto-temporal (word analysis)
- Occipito-temporal (word form)

Dyslexic



- Broca's area, Inferior frontal gyrus (articulation/word analysis)



# Warning Signs of Dyslexia



# The Good News...

**Through fMRI research,  
we now know that  
with appropriate instruction  
we can actually  
change brain patterns  
and allow for  
more accurate  
decoding abilities.**



# Help for Dyslexia

- Schools do not test for it.
- Only a qualified dyslexia specialist is able to diagnose it.



# Treatment Programs

- There are programs that can change brain patterns in those with dyslexia.
- The only programs that are proven effective must be:
  - 1. Language based
  - 2. Multi-sensory in nature
  - 3. Structured, sequential, and cumulative
  - 4. Cognitive
  - 5. Flexible



# Treatment Programs (continued)





# If anyone you know suspects they might be Dyslexic, please contact me. 913-777-4757

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[www.SpeechAbilityLLC.com](http://www.SpeechAbilityLLC.com)

## Earned the 2015 ASHA ACE Award

The ACE is a formal recognition of professionals who have demonstrated their commitment to lifelong learning by earning 7.0 ASHA CEUs (70 contact hours) within a 36-month period.

(Completed all coursework in 12 months.)

