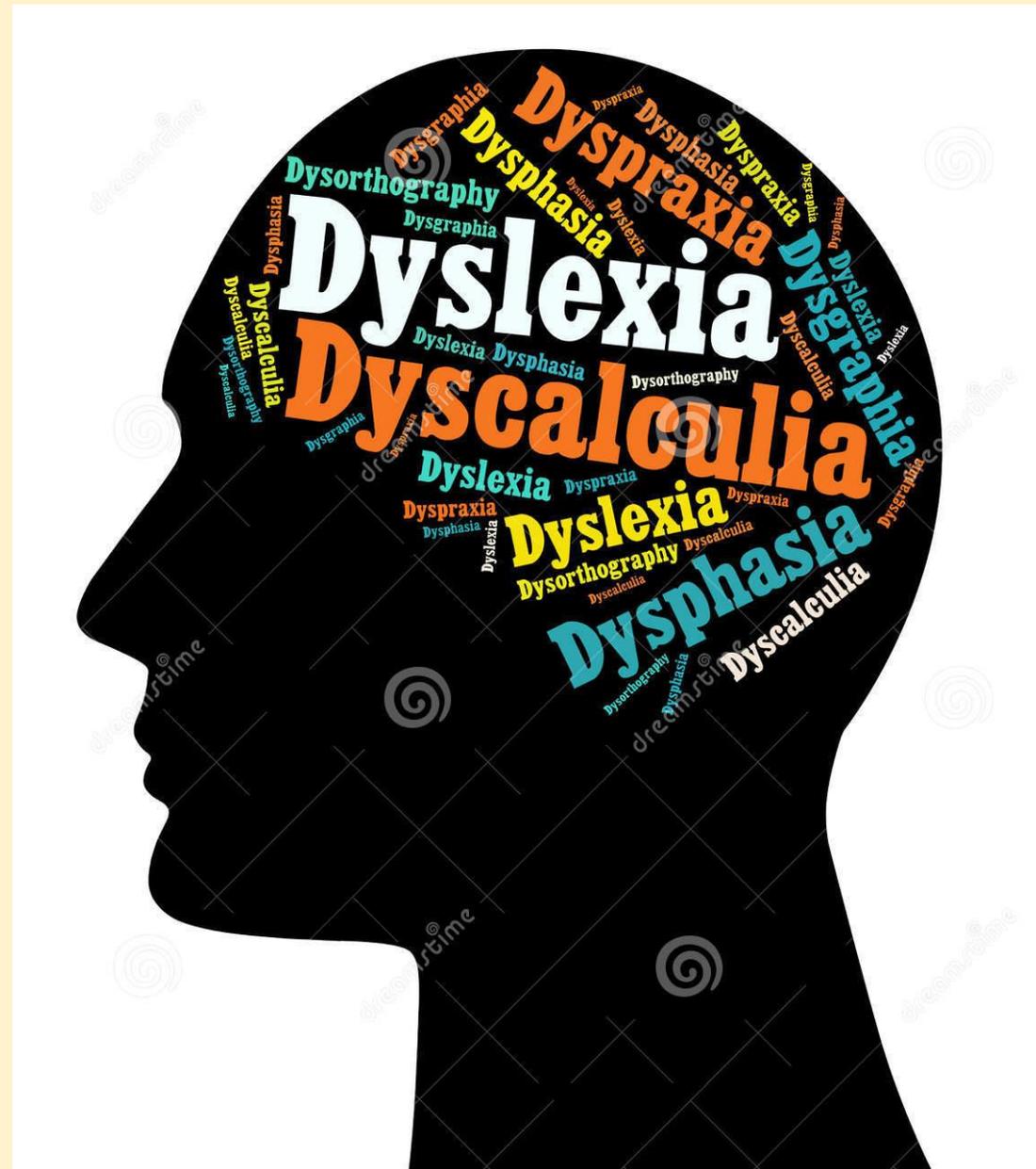


Learning Disabilities and the EAL classroom

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Common Learning Disabilities

Dyslexia = 'reading disability'

Dysgraphia = 'writing disability'

Dyscalculia = 'mathematics learning disability'

General Dyslexia Questionnaire

Dyslexia is rare.

- I agree
- I am not sure
- I do not agree

Dyslexics are compensated artistically.

- I agree
- I am not sure
- I do not agree

Mirror writing is a symptom of dyslexia.

- I agree
- I am not sure
- I do not agree

More boys than girls have dyslexia.

- I agree
- I am not sure
- I do not agree



15–20% of the population have some of the symptoms of dyslexia
(The International Dyslexia Association, 2017).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgbNeILobXI>

Cognitively, people with dyslexia tend to have:

- lower working memory capacity
- reduced phonological and morphological awareness
- experience difficulties processing language, especially under time pressure

Genetic causes: A team at the Yale School of Medicine found a gene, known as DCDC2, associated with dyslexia (Nordqvist, 2017).

Dyslexia can affect:

- Reading
 - Writing
 - Spelling
 - Speaking
 - Learning 2nd language
 - Short term memory
 - Number sense
 - Social cues
 - Self esteem
 - Organization
-

Small Group Discussion

Take a minute and think about some of your past students who may have had learning disability.

What are some of the things that set them apart?

Common Warning Signs of Dyslexia in Adults

Distinguishing between words that look or sound alike

Understanding non-literal language, like jokes and idioms

Memorizing

Applying skills learned in one situation to another

Summarizing the main ideas in a story, article, or book

Problems with time management

Finding group work stressful

Understanding instructions

Additional Language Learning



People with dyslexia have challenges with L2 literacy (Savage and Haigh, 2014). However, they do make progress with appropriate and timely intervention (Canadian Dyslexia Centre, 2005).

Round Table Discussions

Discuss how EAL teachers might
accommodate
students with learning disabilities

For example, when Lesson Planning:

- Build in ample practice time
 - Repeat methodology while changing genre
-

When Giving Instructions:

- Present a small amount of information at a given time
 - Show work samples
-

When Preparing Resources:

- Avoid crowded text
 - Give extra space on worksheets
-

Round Table Discussions

Discuss how EAL teachers might
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