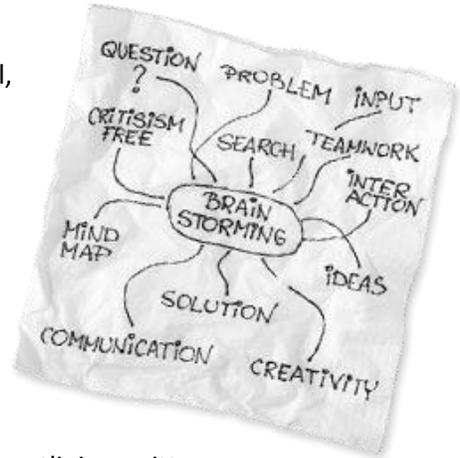


Why mind mapping is helpful for Dyslexia

MindView: mind mapping software

Although learners affected by Dyslexia can function at a high level, there are many common struggles students and working professionals must overcome in their daily activities. Dyslexia typically impacts reading, spelling and writing; however dyslexic learners also encounter problems with short term memory, concentration, sequencing and processing information.

Instructional advances have given way to some exciting learning strategies which can be extremely beneficial to students and working professionals living with Dyslexia. One strategy in particular is mind mapping, which is simply a diagram used to visually display information. Mind mapping is commonly used for outlining written documents, organizing thoughts, stimulating memory recall and decision making.



Sound familiar? Those are common struggles of Dyslexic learners. Although many learners embrace mind mapping using pen and paper, there are several software programs that can make the mind mapping process less cumbersome and more engaging.

Mind Mapping for Dyslexia

“The most useful advantage of mind mapping is the ability to divide topics into clear manageable chunks making problem solving, comprehension and analysis more accessible.”

*C. Sellers, Special Needs Tutor
Kent, TN*

Mind maps have a natural structure that radiates from the center and uses lines, symbols, words, colors and images. Mind mapping turns monotonous information into colorful, memorable and highly organized diagrams that work in line with your brain's natural way of thinking and working. Dyslexics find this method useful when solving problems, organizing their thoughts and making confident decisions.

The British Dyslexia Association states, “Dyslexics struggle with their spoken and/or written language, following instructions, poor concentration and carrying out analytical or logical tasks. Strategies such as mind mapping are recognized as valuable learning tools.”

Reference: The British Dyslexia Association, [“www.bdadyslexia.org.uk”](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk)

Dyslexic learners can benefit from mind mapping in that mind mapping is a visual approach to understanding information. Mind maps break down complicated information into chunks, which can be arranged into branches and sub branches making the information easier to comprehend. With limited distractions when creating new ideas, mind maps help Dyslexic learners to structure assignments and presentations visually.

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MindView Mind Mapping Software is Ideal for Learners with Dyslexia

MindView is the industry leading mind mapping software, and includes features specifically designed to assist users with Dyslexia.

- **Familiar interface** - MindView uses a similar interface to Microsoft Office packages making it feel familiar and the learners are less likely to be distracted by the interface.
- **Quick idea generation with limited distraction** – MindView allows users to generate and express their ideas visually on the computer using simple keyboard shortcuts or icons.
- **Personalizing the mind map** – MindView allows users to change map styles and layouts to suit their individual learning style. Furthermore images, colors, fonts and shapes can be applied to branches as well as different background colors for users with visual sensitivities. Users can even develop their own custom styles which can be saved and used for all future maps.
- **Structuring ideas** – The numbering scheme in MindView allows users to re-arrange ideas after the initial brainstorming session. With 5 interchangeable layouts, MindView offers a consistent structuring solution no matter which view is being used.
- **Outlining and reviewing mind maps** – MindView allows users to switch to an outline view to get a liner overview of their work. Learners can also review the document further by using the word count feature or have section of the mind map read back to them using the narrate feature.
- **Exporting to Microsoft Office** – MindView offers seamless integration with Microsoft Office. Users can turn their mind maps into Microsoft Word or PowerPoint documents with one click. In Microsoft Word the structure will be maintained with a table of contents and headings and sub-headings are created. In Microsoft PowerPoint each branch and sub-branch will become a slide.
- **Organization of lecture notes and research** – MindView allows learners to add unlimited content to maps in the form of text notes, hyperlinks, sound files and attachments. This allows users to visually organize lecture notes or research into one document with links to all the relevant information.
- **Visual action plans** - For learners struggling with time management, MindView allows them to add dates and times to the mind map. With one click this information can be converted into a timeline which can be further personalized by adapting styles and using different colors and icons.

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