Read&Write 9 GOLD and Dyslexia

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Agenda

- About Texthelp
- The Aims of Read&Write GOLD
- How it helps with dyslexia

Introduction – About Texthelp

- Established 1996
- Based in Antrim, Northern Ireland
- ISO 9001:2008 certification
- Microsoft Gold certified partner
- 80 employees

The Aims of our Software

- Assist computer users of all ages to improve their reading & writing skills
- Allow users to progress independently at their own pace
- Enable users to work/study in an inclusive environment
- Make all electronic information and paper documents accessible

Read&Write helps with dyslexia:

- Phonological Processing
- Reading Speed
- Comprehension
- Visual difficulties
- Organising

NB Read&Write GOLD is recommended by The Dyslexia Research Trust:http://www.dyslexic.org.uk/aboutdyslexia9.htm

Phonological Processing

The Problem

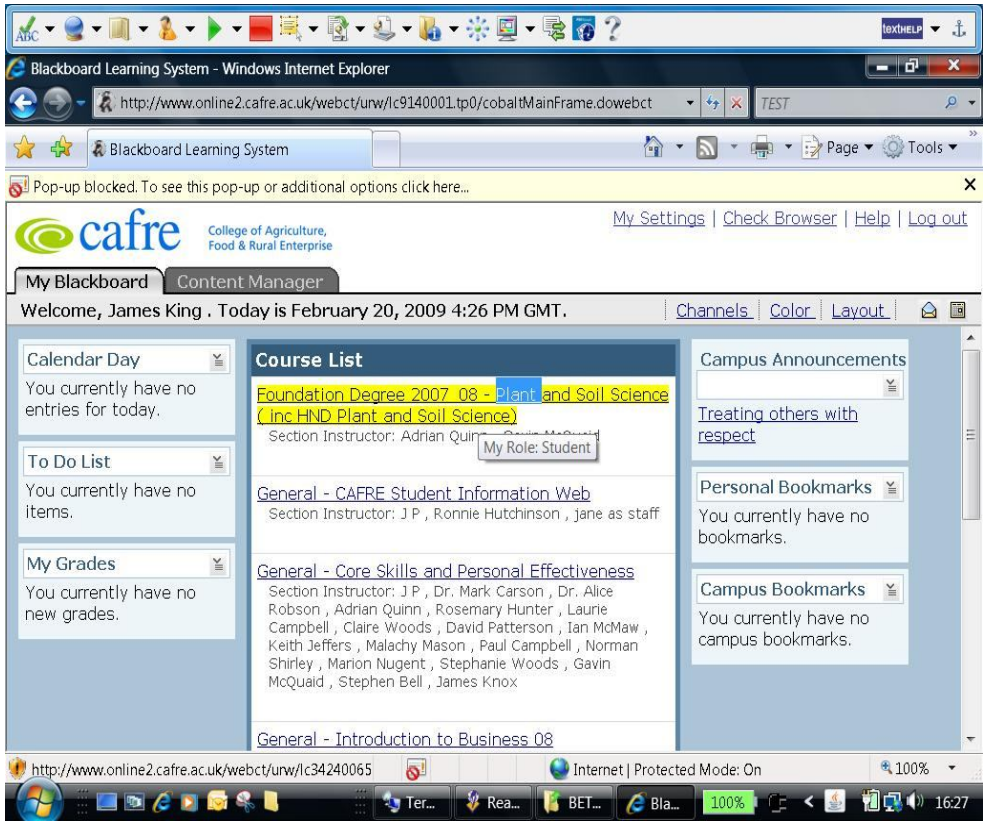
- Those with reading and writing difficulties may have problems relating letter sounds to letter shapes (Phonological Processing) **e.g.**
  - S= s, z
  - Qu = Kw
  - Ph = f
- **Phonological Processing** is the first step to synthesising letters into syllables, then words, and attaching meaning to them i.e. reading.

“Reading Depends on Hearing” (Dyslexia Research Trust.)

Phonological Processing

The Solution

- Read&Write performs the task of **phonological processing**, decoding the words and allowing the reader to concentrate on assimilating words and meaning.
  - Text-to-Speech
  - Highlights words as they are read



Reading Speed

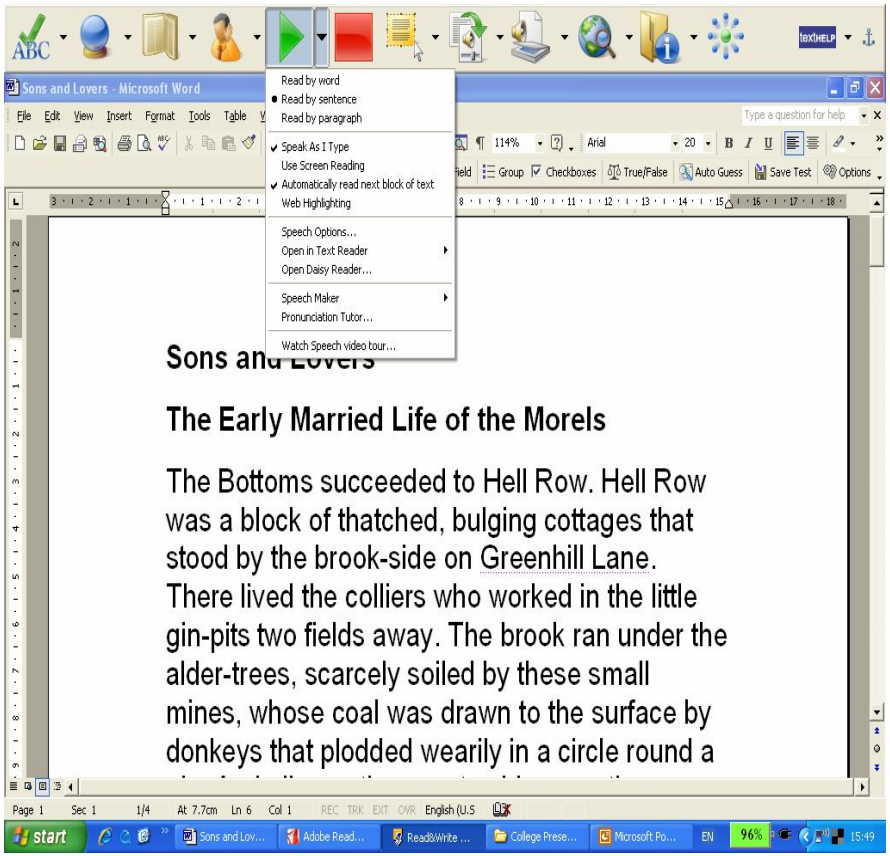
The problem

- Those with dyslexia tend to read slowly, so they may have forgotten a sentence before it is decoded.
- Research shows that dyslexic readers improve reading comprehension if they are made to read faster than their own pace (Breznitz 1991)

Reading Speed

The solution

- Read&Write will read by word, sentence or paragraph.
- The reader can focus on the task with less danger of distraction.
- Read&Write appeals to multi-sensory learning. The user can hear and see the text as they follow it.



Comprehension

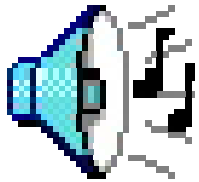
The problem

- Dyslexic students or employees may find it difficult to understand what they are reading.
- They may not have the time to read if deadlines are to be met.

Comprehension

The solution

- Audible dictionary definitions in Read&Write GOLD's dictionary which are reinforced with sample sentences.
- Homophones and like-sounding words can be identified by clicking on the Sounds Like icon.
- Listening: Read&Write's Speech-Maker allows the reader to listen to passages of text on the move. Text is converted to MP3, WMA or WAV.
  - Learning on the move can be helpful in sequencing text. The listener can visualise parts of the text when they are in a relaxed environment.
  - "There is nothing inferior about receiving information or a story aurally rather than reading the words on the page." (Cogan & Flecker)



Visual Difficulties

The problem:

- People with dyslexia experience visual difficulties.
  - These may cause subtle destabilisation of visual perception that interferes with ordering letters.
  - This may not be detected by a standard optician's assessment, which only assesses focussing.

Visual Difficulties

The solution:

- There is evidence that using yellow or blue coloured overlays or glasses or exercises designed to steady eye control can greatly help individuals with their reading (Dyslexia Research Trust.) Read&Write 9 GOLD offers screen tinting in any colour.
- Screen masking will assist those who experience:
  - light sensitivity (glare from the screen)
  - contrast problems (bold black text on a white background)
  - restricted field (losing focus and tracking of words).
  - The underlining features will help the User keep track of where they are on the page

Organising

The problem

- Employees/Students may find it difficult to organise their work.
- Research can be problematic for those with sequencing problems.

Organising

The Solution

- Read&Write GOLD's Fact Folder helps collate information.
- Ideas can be mapped through the Fact Mapper.

Sharma: *"Anything visualised goes straight into long-term memory"*

Thank you for your attention…

textHELP

Literacy ■ Language ■ Learning