

Dyslexia and Virtual Teaching and Learning

Delivery of Teaching

- Ensure learning materials meet the BDA's Style Guide, whenever possible record the session too: <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/news/bda-updates-the-dyslexia-friendly-style-guide>
- Reasonable adjustments and the usual study support must be in place while students are working from home. The first step is to ask the learner what additional support they think will help.
- Wherever possible send slides and notes ahead of sessions, this gives learners a chance to prepare for learning!
- Structure sessions with learning aims at the beginning, setting the scene for the virtual session, and then summarise at the end, this puts learning into context.
- Please try to use as many different information sources and learning strategies as possible: videos, links to texts, quizzes, mini-presentations, think creatively and make learning as engaging as you can!
- Ensure Virtual Teaching is as multisensory as possible, with at least something to look at, for example slides and a chance to listen to key information, with the opportunity to ask questions and discuss.

- During a virtual session, do not overload the chat box with information, if there is a lively discussion in the chat box, the trainer should endeavour to read out relevant comments and link those ideas to the session also.
- If a student's usual specialist software is temporarily unavailable, they may find a free temporary download for their software via the software company's website. This link has a free temporary download of Read and Write Gold so students can try it out: www.texthelp.com/en-gb/products/read-write/read-write-for-work/ This YouTube video has a good demonstration: www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxUwQMm_Lmw
- Microsoft has dictation and screen-reading features built-in (as do smartphones) assigning a trusted tutor/mentor for support with activating and using these tools is a quick way of providing help to individuals with dyslexia.
- This video demonstrates ways of adjusting the built-in screen tinting features without the need for specialist software: www.youtube.com/watch?v=hINILnaBWog&t=2s
- Whilst studying remotely, has the Tutor ensured that there are clear channels of communication if a student is struggling to cope and remain focused?
- Why not consider delivering some mini-bitesize sessions on Study-skills? Encourage virtual study groups too, these can be informal get togethers to back up learning.
- Screen-share enables the teacher's documents to be viewed by learners. The built-in whiteboard enables the teacher to write 'live' for the learners (good for spelling activities)

- Google Docs / Google Jam Board / Bit Paper enables the teacher and learner to type together or edit a document simultaneously
- ActiveInspire enables learners to type directly into the teacher's 'PowerPoint-style' materials.
- A 'document camera' enables the teacher to share whatever they have in front of them for example, wooden letters, play dough, or drawing / writing on a document. TurboScanner is useful for photographing documents to share with groups
- Quizlet is useful for Flashcard work such as for vocabulary work, spelling strategies and maths

Staying Organised for Virtual Learning

- Electronic calendars with reminders can have deadlines logged in (wall planners and paper timetables can also be used for visual methods of seeing the 'timeline').
- Where possible, have a designated study-zone at home, keep text books and learning resources stored in one area, so you have all you need to learning in one place.
- Ensure that breaks are taken away from the study-zone; this will help to maintain perspective, to reduce stress and to ensure there a chance to decompress.
- Need help and advice? Reach out to us here at the British Dyslexia Association: helpline@bdadyslexia.org.uk

