

SUPER  
QUICK  
SKILLS

# Be a Brilliant Dyslexic Student

Sarah J.  
Myhill

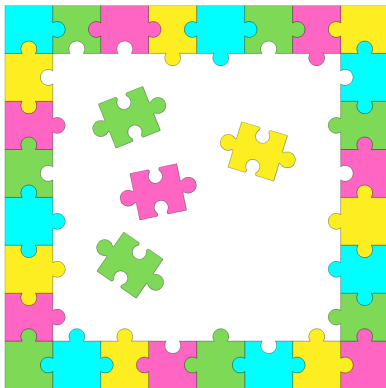


Los Angeles | London | New Delhi  
Singapore | Washington DC | Melbourne

## Read a book like a jigsaw

---

- In the analogy with a jigsaw puzzle, you would first look at the picture on the box lid to get a preview of the puzzle. It would be hard to complete without doing this.
- Likewise get a 'preview' of your book or article – skim through it from cover to cover. Getting a preview of any reading material will help you to read it more quickly.
- With the puzzle you would then look for the corner pieces and the straight edges and start to fill-in the rest.
- You can read a book like this – this section will tell you more.



**Figure 4.1** Read a book like a jigsaw

1. **Preview** – get the 'big picture', like the jigsaw box lid. Flick through the book, article, or lecture slides just getting the boundaries of the information.
2. **Read the introduction** and go straight to the **conclusion** or summary.

3. **Look at the diagrams, graphs, contents, chapter headings, and index.** If you can highlight in one colour all the chapter headings and sub-headings (it helps to break up the text) and read them aloud, this is like putting the corner pieces of your jigsaw in place.
4. Then **highlight the first sentence of every paragraph** in another colour which should tell you the topic/subject of that paragraph (don't read any more than that for now) and read them aloud. You are putting the straight edges of your jigsaw in place.
5. Then **look for more detail** where/if/when you need it, like filling in the jigsaw!
6. So, **you have gone through the book/article/lecture slides four times without reading in detail yet but you have a very good idea about the contents**, layout, and where you need to focus your reading. It will therefore be easier to pick out the core messages and slot in the details.

**Big picture** Getting the big picture is to briefly look at the whole of the information in front of you, e.g., book, article, lecture slides, and see the extent of it to the boundaries. It helps you to identify the main points and to slot-in the detail more easily to the whole.

**Preview** Similar to getting the big picture; skim and scan something quickly before looking at it more closely. You can identify how the parts fit together then and what you need to concentrate on.

## Five minute jotter

---

- Spend five minutes jotting down everything you know about the subject before starting reading.
- This establishes your mindset which makes tasks easier.
- New knowledge hooks onto old knowledge much more easily than starting fresh.