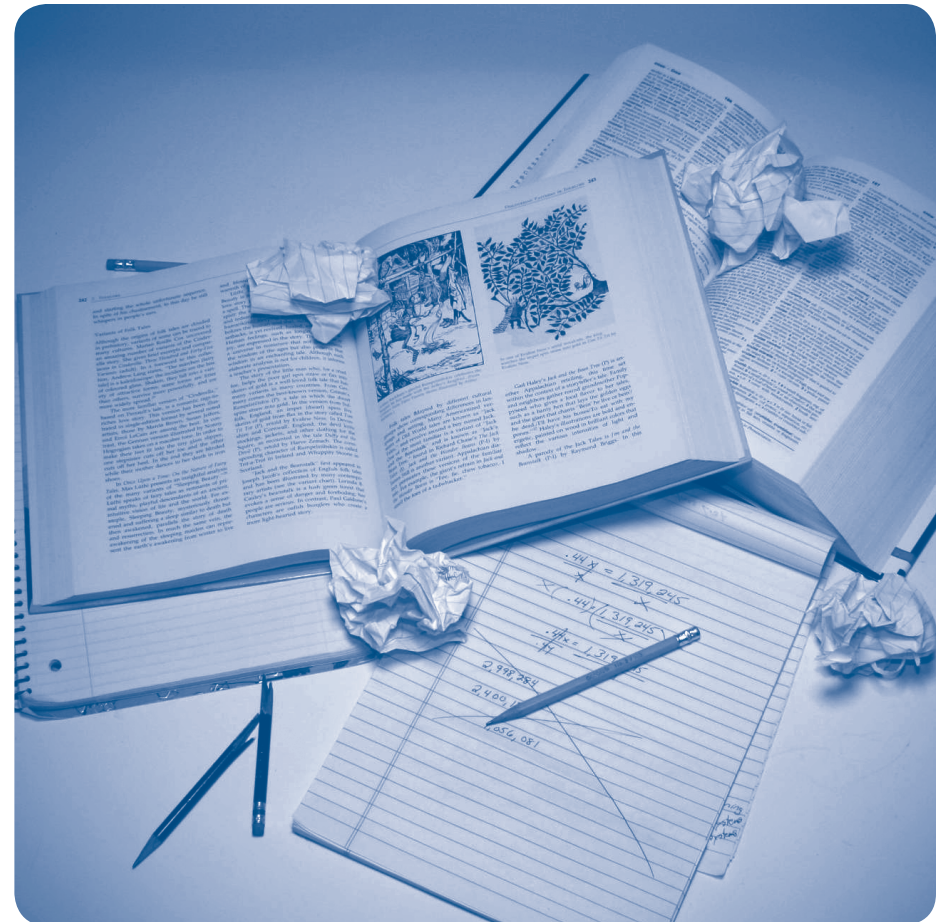


- ▶ When observed in adulthood, LD can extend beyond the classroom affecting jobs, relationships, and life in general.
- ▶ Various research findings indicate that 50% to 80% of adult education students with low literacy levels may have LD, which could explain why they were not successful while in public schools and often dropped out.
- ▶ Approximately 80% of students with learning disabilities have been described as reading disabled.
- ▶ Many adults (some of whom are unaware of their LD) have developed ways to cope with their difficulties and are able to lead successful, functioning lives.

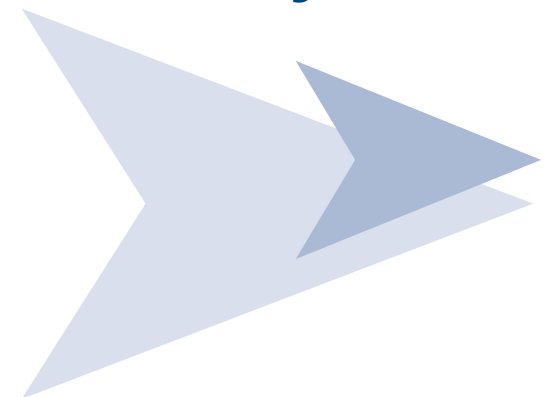
What Should I Do?

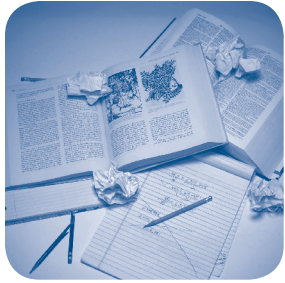
- ▶ The first step in solving any problem, including having a learning disability, is realizing there is a problem. It is never too late to get help for LD. Finding out about a learning disability can be a great relief to adults who can't explain the reason for their struggles in the past.
- ▶ If you are having problems with your basic skills and learning in school, at home, or at work, taking the initiative to go for help is an important step to overcoming them. Talk to your teacher or guidance counselor about learning disabilities. It can save you frustration and make successful living much easier.
- ▶ For more information about learning disabilities, go to <http://www.ldonline.org/ldbasics>.



Do You Have Problems Learning?

Basic Facts about Learning Disabilities





What is a Learning Disability?

Learning disability (LD) is a general term that describes specific kinds of learning problems. A learning disability can cause a student to have trouble learning and demonstrating certain skills.

Facts About LD...

- ▶ As many as one out of every 5 people in the United States has a learning disability.
- ▶ LD involves a gap between a learner's level of expected achievement and what the learner will actually achieve.
- ▶ Learning disabilities are not the same thing as mental retardation or developmental disabilities. Being learning disabled means adults have average or above intelligence but process information differently—different from the way they were taught in school. They can learn, but can't learn in the way teachers usually teach.
- ▶ Students with LD can have trouble or be slower in processing information; however, they are not lazy or dumb.
- ▶ LD becomes apparent in different ways with different people. No two learners have the same problems.
- ▶ Learning disabilities can affect a student's ability in the areas of
 1. listening,
 2. speaking,
 3. reading,
 4. writing,
 5. mathematics, and with
 6. social/emotional skills and behavior.

Students with LD can have more specific problems; for example, with:

sloppy writing	spelling
pronunciation	reading
reversing, omitting, and/or adding letters, words or numbers	low achievement in some areas—but high in others
math	distractibility
short attention span	being forgetful
following instructions	impulsivity
clumsiness	poor logic
making or keeping friends	judging time, telling time
competition	copying
low frustration level	poor self-esteem
overreacting	holding eyes on a moving target
aggressive behavior	good days—then bad days
being disorganized	sensitivity to criticism
being easily discouraged	hyperactivity

- ▶ LD continues throughout a student's life. You do not "grow out" of it; but, with appropriate guidance, identification, instruction, and accommodations, you can learn ways to overcome the difficulties that result.
- ▶ LD may be caused by hereditary factors; by using alcohol and cocaine; for medical reasons (e.g., premature birth, diabetes, meningitis), and by environmental factors (e.g., toxins like lead poisoning, malnutrition, poor healthcare, etc.).
- ▶ LD runs in families and is inheritable. Family history is one of the most important risk factors, with as many as 65% of children reported to have parents with the same disorder.