Be a Brilliant Dyslexic Student

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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.

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**Five minute jitter**

- 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.