



Visualisor or Phonocator¹

Are you a visualisor or a phonocator? Read the following passage:

Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the lttteers in a wrod are, olny taht the frist and lsat ltteres are at the rghit pcleas. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey lteter by ilstef, but the wrod as a wlohe.

If you tried to sound this passage out – you are a phonocator. If you could read the passage, congratulations!! You are a visualisor.

Visualisors are people that acknowledge that dyslexic people learn different. Visualisors support and understand that the current methods of teaching reading do not work for dyslexics.

A visualisor's approach to learning incorporates a non-phonics, multi-sensory method. In other words, we understand that people learn differently and that to get different results we need a new solution.

Phonocators are people that acknowledge that dyslexic people learn differently, yet use the old solutions of phonics based programs. As Albert Einstein stated " Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

Phonocators themselves could be considered as having a learning disability because they fail to understand or comprehend that offering the same phonics based solution, with more bells and whistles, twists and turns, rules and exceptions, does not meet the learning style of dyslexics. This approach does not allow a dyslexic person, a visual learner, to learn differently.

Recently, the results of two studies conducted by the Universities of Victoria and Otago were published. The study stated, in part, the following:

"The phonics method of teaching children to read is not necessary past the initial stages of learning and continuing with it may disadvantage them in the long term..."²

A visualisor knows funding needs to be allocated and directed to research and support of approaches that work with the abilities and/or processing styles of the dyslexic learner. We understand that in doing something different we can expect different results.

Phonocators want funding to continue to be allocated to reading programs and research that support the old solution - phonics based programs. Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.

I visualise a new solution. I visualise new results.

Brenda Baird
Visualisor
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¹ A term used by Mem Fox

² <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/5229922/Phonics-teaching-method-downplayed>