



# **Suitability of Reading Texts in Sri Lankan Grade 6 and 7 General English Textbooks for Dyslexic Learners**

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# Overview

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# Background

- Dyslexia is a genetically based neurodevelopmental reading disorder characterized by reading, decoding and spelling problems. (Rello and Baeza-Yates, 2013; Høien and Lundberg, 2000).
- Dyslexic readers must put more effort in word recognition and focus more on the text compared to other readers, making them more sensitive to all visual aspects of the text (Zinkl et al., 2015)
- International guidelines (e.g., British Dyslexia Association, 2019) highlight text simplicity, spacing, and visual support as crucial.
- There are several students who have reading problems in schools.(Bingöl, 2003)

# Background

- According to Karatay & Ünal(2023), recommend to use OpenDyslexic font in school textbooks to support students with dyslexia.
- According to Zelinkova (2003), the reading performance of students with dyslexia is significantly affected by the graphic qualities of the text, such as font and size, line spacing or letter spacing.



# Research Question

To what extent Sri Lankan grade 06 and 07 general English reading textbooks uses a Dyslexic- friendly criteria in reading texts?



# Methodology



**Research Design:** Qualitative analysis of textbooks

**Sample:** 6 reading texts (3 from Grade 6 and 3 from Grade 7 Sri Lankan General English textbooks)

**Instrument:** A Checklist

## **Criteria Analyzed:**

- Font type & size
- Line & word spacing
- Background color
- Paragraph length & structure
- Use of visuals
- Page layout

•Scoring criteria = Out of selected three texts from each grade, how many texts show dyslexic friendly features.

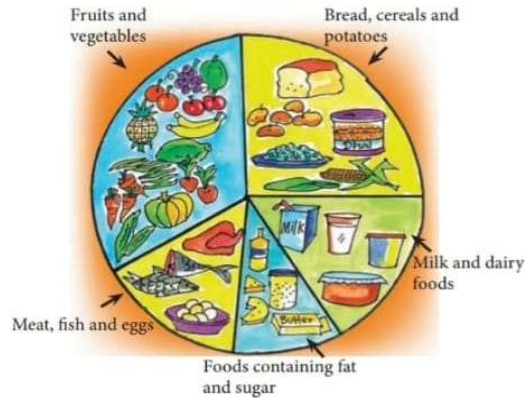


# Results

Feature(checklist item)	Grade 06	Grade 07	Observation
Font style (dyslexia-friendly)	0/3	0/3	<b>Times New Roman</b> used. One text starts <b>with drop caps</b>
Font size (12–14pt)	3/3	3/3	All the selected texts use dyslexic-friendly font sizes.
Line spacing (1.5)	0/3	0/3	Not consistent; none reached the recommended 1.5 spacing.
Word/letter spacing	0/3	0/3	Too close in all texts, making reading difficult.
Background colour (not bright colors or pure white)	1/3	0/3	Only one text in grade 6 used a dyslexic-friendly light colour; others used pure white or dark colours.
Paragraph structure	2/3	2/3	Some texts had clear short paragraphs, while others were long and dense.
Visuals (pictures)	2/3	3/3	Present in most texts, but some were irrelevant or did not support the text meaning.
Page layout	0/3	0/3	Overcrowded with text in all chosen texts.

## COMPREHENSION

An apple a day keeps the doctor away!



Food is an important part of our lives. There are five main nutrients in the food we eat. They are Carbohydrates, Vitamins and Minerals, Proteins and Fat. Cereals like rice and wheat and yams like sweet potatoes and manioc have Carbohydrates, while foods like



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For free distribution

milk, fish, eggs, beans, dhal and gram have Proteins. Milk and dairy foods like cheese, butter and yoghurt have fat while fresh vegetables and fruits as well as green leaves have Vitamins and Minerals. These nutrients are very important for many reasons. Carbohydrates and Fat give us energy while Proteins help us grow. Vitamins and Minerals are important to fight diseases and to protect our body. You should drink plenty of clean water because it helps in digesting the food and you should also stay away from fast or junk food because they are harmful to our body. We must eat healthy food for breakfast, lunch and dinner and as all the doctors say "To be healthy, we should have our breakfast like a king and dinner like a beggar."

Grade 06

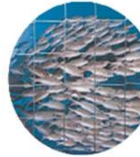
## UNIT 10

### FUTURE



#### Reading

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) asked readers for their predictions of life in the year 2100. Here is what futurologists Ian Pearson and Patrick Tucker think of the readers' ideas.



A

It will be necessary to feed 10 billion people and nature will not be able to supply food according to the demand, so oceans will be farmed to obtain food. Furthermore, farming of algae will commence for renewable energy as most of the energy resources will be over in the world.



B

People will be born with more advanced brains and they will be able to talk with each other using their thoughts. As a result, they will use language less and people will be able to communicate with others from distant locations without any electronic devices.



C

Due to many developments in the field of science and technology, people will be able to control weather to their benefit. This will help them to reduce the natural disasters and other harmful effects of nature.



D

People are already using different types of electronic currency worldwide and instead, there will be one global electronic currency. This will help people around the world to do transactions more easily and with less time.



E

These space elevators will be an easy way to visit space. This will be a future development in the tourism sector too. But, will it be cheaper so that a majority will be able to use it?



F

A majority of plant and animal species will be destroyed due to high resource consumption, overpopulation, and environmental destruction. Therefore, the nature which existed million years ago will only be for display.



G

Minor languages will disappear from the world and major languages will remain in the world. All people will use only three languages in order to communicate successfully.

Grade 07



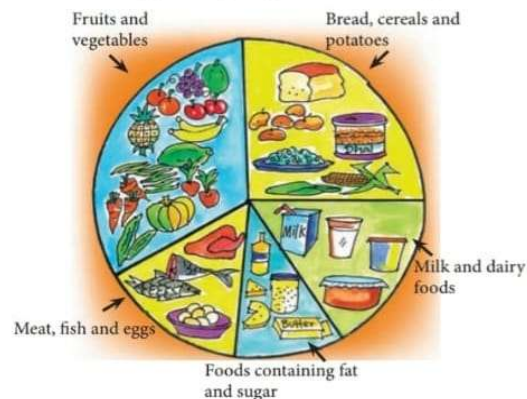
# Discussion

- Selected Grade 6 and 7 texts: an appropriate font size, but not dyslexic-friendly fonts.
- Poor line spacing, word spacing, and page layout, all of which can make reading more challenging.
- The background colors are also not supportive.



## COMPREHENSION

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Grade 06

Read the text.

## What did you really do at the weekend?

The next time a friend or colleague tells you about their fantastic weekend, wait a moment before you start feeling jealous – maybe they are inventing it all!



A survey of 5000 adults in the UK has shown that **one person in four invents details about their weekend because they want to impress their friends**. When they are asked, 'Did you have a good weekend?' they don't like to say that they just stayed at home and watched TV, because it sounds boring. So they invent the details. The most common lie that people told was 'I went out on Saturday night', when really they didn't go anywhere. Other common lies were 'I had a romantic meal', 'I went to a party', and 'I went away for the weekend'.

In fact, in the survey, 30% of people who answered the questions said that they spent their weekend sleeping or resting because they were so **tired** at the end of the week.

Another 30% said that they needed to work or study at the weekend. Psychologist Corinne Sweet says that people often don't tell the truth about their weekend 'because we don't want to feel that everyone else is having a better time than us, if we have had a boring weekend doing housework, paperwork, or just resting after a **tiring** week at work'. She also believes that networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter may be encouraging us to invent details about our social lives. 'People can create an illusion of who they want to be and the life they want to live,' says Corinne, 'and of course they want that life to seem exciting.'

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Oxford English file

# Conclusion

- The current reading materials in the Grade 6 and 7 textbooks are not dyslexic friendly.
- Materials writers should reconsider the textbook contents.



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**Q & A**



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