

Reading and dyslexia: Cognitive processes and brain mechanisms

Manuel Carreiras

Director of the Basque Center on Cognition and Language,

Spain

Written language permeates modern society. Reading is a key determinant of educational achievement and plays a central role in the personal and economic success of the individual. Reading skills are essential in the job market and valuable in everyday life (reading sign-posts, checks, shopping lists, medicine prospects, phone messages, address-book entries, emails, SMS, etc.). Here I will discuss the cognitive processes involved in the extraction of meaning from printed words, their time course and the neural pathways that support the reading process. Finally, I will discuss the neural sources and the malfunctioning of the circuit in a reading disorder: dyslexia.