

Transcript — Daejon, age 17: Day in the life with dyslexia

[On-screen text: Daejon's story]

[Description: Gentle piano music plays. A teenager with braided hair, wearing a white-and-black striped T-shirt, sits on a couch surrounded by pillows.]

[On-screen text: Daejon, 17, Dyslexia]

Daejon: Hi, my name is Daejon Straker. I'm 17 years old. And my learning difference is dyslexia.

[Description: Daejon smiles. Transition to Daejon sitting at a desk in his room, writing on a piece of paper. The desk has toys on it. The room is decorated and has sports memorabilia on the wall, including a Chicago Bulls sign.]

Daejon: I would describe my reading speed as a turtle because I read slower than my other peers.

[Description: Daejon sits on the couch, now wearing a black-and-gray patterned hooded sweatshirt.]

When I was little, what was hard for me was blending in sounds.

[Description: Daejon sits in an office, talking across a desk to a person with brown hair wearing a red sweater.]

And now, when I'm older, reading fluently is harder.

[Description: Daejon, wearing a black hooded jacket, walks through automatic doors into a large retail store. Daejon walks down the aisle and picks up a bottle of cough syrup from the shelf, then pays for it at a self-checkout kiosk.]

It's hard for me to blend in the syllables, so I take a little longer when I'm reading. And sometimes words, like B and D, get mixed up.

[Description: Daejon sitting on the couch, talking to the camera.]

When I get to the big words and I'm reading them slowly, it's hard to understand them.

[Description: Daejon sits at his desk in his room. Another person is talking and pointing to a paper that they hand to Daejon, who begins to fill it in. Transition to Daejon on the couch. Transition back to Daejon in his room, looking at the piece of paper. Then back to him on the couch.]

By the time I read a sentence and try to figure out all the words and how to say 'em, I forget what the sentence we're talking about. So I gotta go back and read it again. And I get nervous, so I feel like that's a factor, too.

[Description: Daejon walks down a hallway in what appears to be a school or office. A person with brown hair wearing a red sweater smiles and talks with him. Another person joins them and shakes Daejon's hand. Daejon and the person in the red sweater walk down the hall into an office.]

If I'm like in class with a whole bunch of people and I gotta read out loud, sometimes I'll make a quiet little guess about the word and then keep going.

[Description: Daejon sits at the desk in the office, talking to the person in the red sweater.]

I get scared when I gotta do presentations and read in front of the class.

[Description: Daejon opens a set of doors to a building, enters, and walks down the hall.]

And I get accommodations, like more time on the test and stuff like that.

[Description: Back on the couch in the striped T-shirt, Daejon speaks to

the camera. Transition to Daejon and his family seated around a U-shaped couch, holding giant UNO cards.]

I'm embarrassed I can't read as fast than the other kids. I gotta sit there and try to figure out the sounds and the letter to combine the word and know what it says.

[Description: Daejon sits on the couch in the black-and-gray hoodie.]

I try to hide from reading, shy away from reading.

[Description: In his bedroom, Daejon puts on a black-and-white varsity-style jacket.]

So I do feel embarrassed of how slow I read.

[Description: Daejon, wearing a bookbag, walks out the front door of a house. Transition to Daejon on the couch in the black-and-gray hoodie, looking directly at the camera. He nods at the camera.]

I feel nervous, scared, um, sometimes worried. So, that's how I feel.

[Understood](#) sonic logo]