

TITLE: Do visual attentional factors contribute to phonological ability? Studies in adult dyslexia.

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**Running Head:** Visual attention and phonological ability.

## **ABSTRACT**

A multiple case study was conducted to examine the role of visual attention and auditory memory processes in phonological dyslexia. All participants were administered a battery of neuropsychological tests and participated in an attentional cueing experiment. Individual data revealed that although one adult with dyslexia showed overt visual attention deficits on a visual search task, and five showed auditory working memory deficits, they all had difficulties with shifting attention covertly, in particular shifting attention toward and away from fixation. These results indicate that deficits in overt visual attentional processing and working memory can be present with dyslexia, but neither is a necessary requirement. Overall, the results suggest that covert visual attention makes significant contributions to phonological ability, and thus reading.