Tom Cruise graduated high school with the label of a "functional illiterate". Cruise was showing signs of a learning disability as young as elementary school. He felt like school work was much harder for him than it was for his peers. Although he loved learning, Cruise struggled so much that he physically became exhausted and overwhelmed. He was diagnosed to having dyslexia. Cruse had to leave his normal classes to go remedial reading sessions.

Cruise did not want his fellow classmates to become aware of his learning disability, so he taught himself how to "blend in" and get around obstacles that normally got in his way. He joined sports teams, and became involved in theater. It was not until after high school that Cruise finally learned how to read. He used a program called Study Technology, a way to "learn how to learn" how to read or do other activities that people may struggle with. He feels that his belief in Scientology really helped him learn how to read as well.

Study Technology pinpoints three barriers of learning: lack of mass, skipped gradients and misunderstood words. The first step to learning, or getting over the "lack of mass" obstacle, is basically learn by doing, not just reading about it. Many education philosophies believe in this hands on type approach to learning as well. The second obstacle is mastering "skipped gradients", understanding that skills take time to master, and you cannot simply jump to the finish line without taking the necessary steps to get there. Finally, one must understand and carefully analyze the words they come across in order to master them.

Tom said that for him, once he focused on these problems, everything fell into place. He felt that the best method for him to learn how to read was not by others teaching him the skill of reading, but rather learning how to study and they ability to teach himself.

Bibliography:

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