



The RITES FACTS

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WHAT IS ORTON-GILLINGHAM INSTRUCTION?

Orton-Gillingham instruction is given by highly experienced and trained teachers who have taken an accredited Orton-Gillingham course that involves at least 60 hours of coursework and 100 hours of a supervised practicum (teacher in training works directly with at least one student). Many teachers go beyond this initial level of training. How Orton-Gillingham is taught, or its principles, are what make this type of instruction successful:

- Orton-Gillingham is **simultaneous multisensory** instruction, in which teachers use all the learning pathways - visual, auditory and tactile/kinesthetic – at the same time to enhance memory and learning.
- Orton-Gillingham teachers have a **comprehensive knowledge of language** and thus present the different principles of language by teaching students how to break down words and put them together systematically and effectively for reading and spelling.
- Instruction is **sequential** and **cumulative**. Teachers follow a logical sequence, based on proper language development, and consistently review previous concepts to ensure retention of all previously learned material.
- All instruction is delivered in person, in an interactive, give-and-take way, in what is called **direct instruction**. This means the teacher is modeling and explaining the principle while continuously interacting with the student. There is no inferential learning or guessing (the instruction is “explicit”, not “implicit”), which can be problematic for many students with language difficulties.
- Orton-Gillingham teachers also use what is called **prescriptive teaching**, in that the teacher continually assesses the individual need of the student and presents material to ensure mastery and success, improving the student’s self-esteem and lessening the student’s anxiety about reading and spelling.