Digital Tool - CANVA

How to use Canva in teaching adults with learning difficulties

Canva - a graphic design platform

Overview

Canva is a graphic design platform that provides tools for creating visual content such as social media graphics, presentations, promotional merchandise and websites. It features an intuitive interface, lots of customizable templates, and access to millions of images, fonts, and icons. Canva simplifies creating designs that are professional and high-quality which is accessible to users of all skill levels. Canva facilitates educators in creating, customizing, and sharing visually engaging content tailored to the needs of learners with learning difficulties.

Learning Objectives

- creating visually engaging and accessible content, which contributes to enhancing digital literacy, visual communication skills, and creative expression among learners with learning difficulties.

Skills Developed

- Visual design
- Digital literacy
- Proficiency with graphic design tools
- Creative expression and confidence in creating visual content
- Collaboration and teamwork (through shared projects)
- organization of information visually

Target Group

Canva is specifically beneficial for adults with learning difficulties such as dyslexia because it provides a user-friendly and accessible platform for creating visual content.
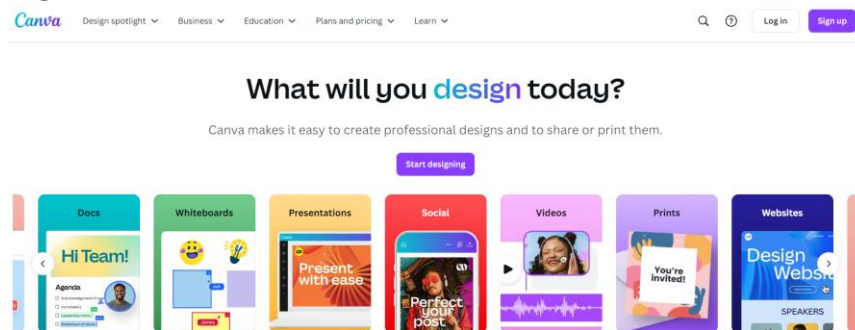
Key features

Accessibility - user-friendly drag-and-drop interface, customizable templates, adjustable fonts and color schemes to accommodate visual impairments and dyslexia, and integration of multimedia elements (audio and video) to support different learning styles.
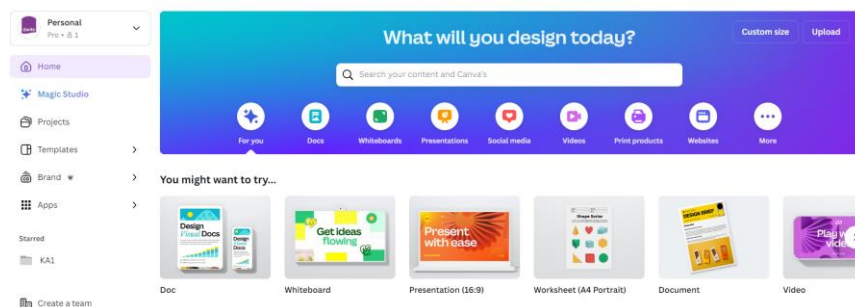
Instructions/ Integration

1. **Sign up and log In**
   Go to Canva's website or download the Canva app on your device. Sign up using your email, Google, or Facebook account. If you already have an account, log in.

2. **Explore the dashboard**
   Familiarize yourself with the Canva dashboard - templates, projects, and design tools. The main sections include Home, Templates, Projects, and Brand Kit.

3. **Choose a template**

Canva provides a vast library of customizable templates for presentations, infographics, posters, and more. Educators can select templates that align with their instructional goals and modify them to suit their learners' needs.
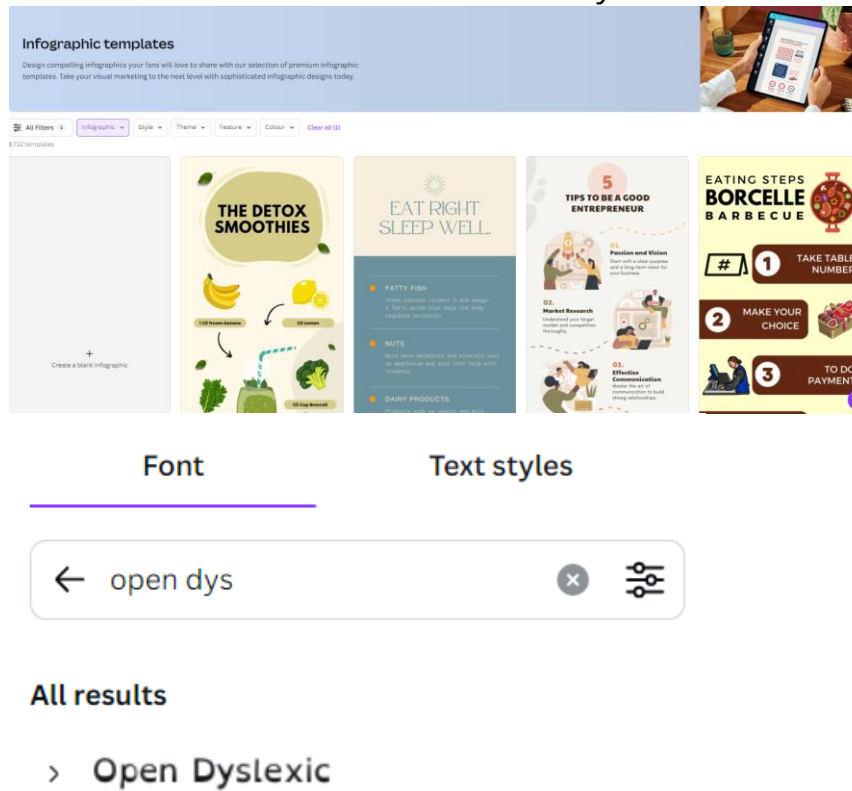
Click on "Templates" to explore a wide range of customizable templates. Use the search bar to find specific types of templates (e.g., "infographics," "posters," "presentations"). Select a template that suits your needs. Templates are categorized by themes and use cases, making it easier to find one that fits your purpose.
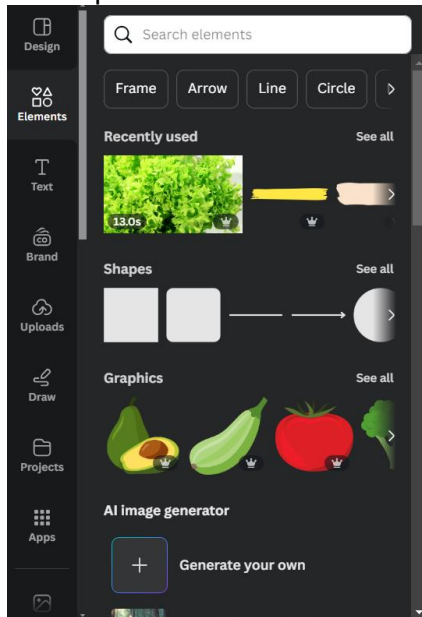

4. **Customize your template**

   Educators can add and format text boxes to highlight key concepts and provide explanations. Use dyslexia-friendly fonts and high-contrast color combinations to enhance readability. You can change fonts, sizes, and colors. Opt for dyslexia-friendly fonts such as OpenDyslexic or Arial, and use high-contrast color combinations for better readability.
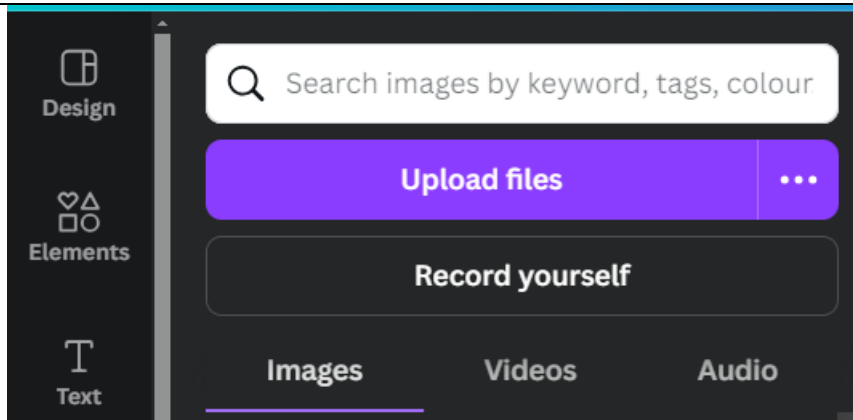
5. Add visual elements

Click on the "Elements" tab to add shapes, icons, and illustrations. Visual aids can help break down complex information. Use the "Photos" and "Uploads" tabs to add images. You can upload your own images or use Canva's library of stock photos.

6. Incorporate multimedia

Integrate audio and video elements to cater to different learning styles. Educators can record voiceovers or add background music to make content more engaging and accessible.

To enhance understanding, integrate multimedia elements like videos and audio files. Click on the "Uploads" tab to add your own media or use the "Videos" tab to search for relevant video clips. Use Canva's interactive features, such as clickable links and embedded videos, to create dynamic and interactive learning materials.
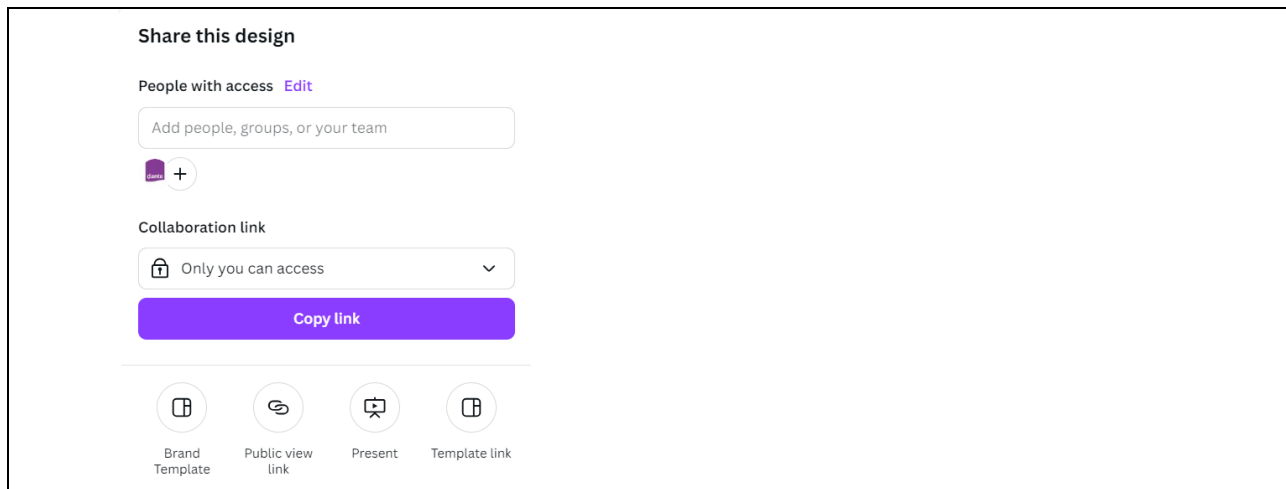
7. Use color and layout effectively

Use color-coded sections to organize information visually.

Ensure that the layout is not too cluttered and has enough white space to make reading easier. Customize color schemes and fonts to ensure they are suitable for learners with visual impairments or dyslexia.

8. Collaborate and share

Canva allows for collaboration. Click on the "Share" button to invite others to edit or view your design. You can also download your project in various formats (PDF, PNG, JPG) or share it directly via a link or social media.

Assessment and feedback

While Canva does not have built-in assessment tools, educators can create quizzes, worksheets, and interactive activities to assess learners' understanding. Feedback can be delivered through collaborative comments and direct communication within the platform.

Technical requirements

- Supported devices: desktops, laptops, tablets, and smartphones.
- Operating systems: Windows, macOS, iOS, and Android.
- Internet connectivity: An internet connection is required to access Canva's online platform and resources.

Useful resources

- Canva Design School offers tutorials, courses, and articles to help users improve their design skills.

- Canva Help Center provides answers to common questions and troubleshooting tips.
- Canva frequently hosts webinars and workshops for educators and users to learn new tips and techniques.

GUIDE: Facilitating Training of Adults with Learning Difficulties for Professional Development

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