

Lucky Lefties - or are they?

Most of the time, if you ask someone what hand they write with, they will say 'right'. This is because 90% of the world's population are right-handed so that only leaves 10% of lefties. Being left handed is special because you are one of the few left-handed people in the world. However some left-handed people are ashamed of their abilities and back in time were even forced to use their "proper hand" – their right hand.

There is some evidence to suggest lefties might be different, but some studies have shown that being left-handed could increase the risk of dyslexia. The left hemisphere is the part of the brain that controls the right side of the body for example when you write with your right hand it is controlled with your left side of the brain. The left side of the brain is associated with languages and if you are left-handed you are not as good at languages, and it is this anatomical difference that means left-handers are more likely to become dyslexic.

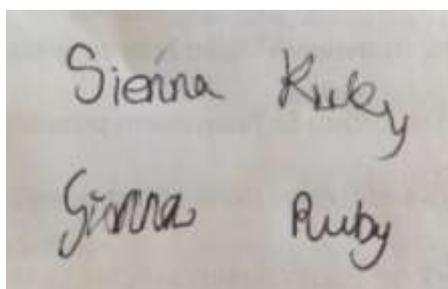
Lulu, an LMS pupil, who is left-handed and dyslexic, told us how she thought being left handed affected her daily life. "Being left-handed doesn't make you any different it is just a bit harder to use things like scissors and tennis rackets. You have to get ballpoint pens as ink pens smudge when you move your hand across the page, and my writing is messy."

However, many lefties are partially reliant on their right hand. We asked a pupil from LMS, Sienna, a couple of questions. When asked if she was right or left handed she said, "I write with my left hand but for everything else I use my right hand." We decided to carry out a test on how left-handed and right-handed people cope with writing with their other hand.

We asked Sienna – left-handed, and Ruby – right-handed to write first with their left hand then their right hand. Below is a picture of the results.

Left hand →

Right hand →



As you will have noticed Sienna was better at writing with her right hand than Ruby with her left.

If we go back in time, to the 1950s, the left-handed were forced to right with their “proper hand”- their right hand. This was because the devil was said to be left-handed and God was right-handed. Religion was a big part in life then but the word right also meant correct and right while the word left meant sinister and bad in many languages. Studies have shown that if children are forced to write with their right hand when they are actually left-handed they might have bad handwriting, shyness, poor concentration and reading difficulties.



However, many of the most recognised people in historical and modern day society are left handed. These people have overcome all of the discrimination towards them and done something to be recognised such as Albert Einstein, Leonardo

Da Vinci, Isaac Newton, Jennifer Lawrence, Steve Jobs, Lewis Carrol... the list goes on. This list of talented people shows that left handed people are equally as likely to be the names that everyone recognises. This suggests that left-handed people are not limited by writing with the other hand and who knows who will be the next superstar, left-handed or right-handed!

Some left-handed people may be ashamed of their difference but there is a day where they can celebrate their abilities; August 13th is International

Left-Handers Day. Even though lefties are the minorities, this doesn't mean that they will die out. In a world of only right-handed people, sports would become much more competitive as would every other job. That's right, lefties are here to stay!

By Lucie and Poppy

