

What is a disability?

Definition – restricted capability to perform particular activities: an inability to perform some or all of the tasks of daily life

What are some disabilities?

Asperger's Syndrome, OCD, Tourette's, deaf, blind, language processing, dyslexia



Dan Ackroyd - Ackroyd was born on Dominion Day at the Ottawa General Hospital in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Dan was diagnosed with tourette's and asperger syndromes at an early age, but the symptoms seem to have disappeared when he was around 14. The diagnosis of Asperger syndrome did not exist in the 1960s, when Ackroyd was a preteen. It involved mostly grunting and physical tics through nervousness.



David Beckham - David suffers from OCD and it manifests itself through constant cleanliness and perfection of all that is around him. Anything out of order is enough to cause a conflict and must be attended to immediately. Examples of this complete order is that everything must be in pairs, if there are three books on a table one must be added, or one must be removed. Only 2% of the population suffer from this strong OCD



Rowan Atkinson - (born 6 January 1955) Rowan is an English comedian, writer and actor famous for his British roles in the television series Mr.Bean and Blackadder. He has been listed as one of the 50 funniest acts in British comedy. Rowan's first Mr.Bean television appearance was in 1990 on New Years Day in a half hour special for Thames Television. His strong talent in facial expressions has made him capable of doing visually based comedies with little or no dialogue, he has sometimes been called "the man with the rubber face". Atkinson had a stutter as a child and had problems with the letter B. He overcomes it through over-articulation which he turned into a comic device.



Helen Keller - (1880 - 1968) - Helen Adams Keller (June 27, 1880 - June 1, 1968) was an American author, activist and lecturer. She was the first deaf/blind person to graduate from college. She was not born blind and deaf; it was not until nineteen months of age that she came down with an illness described by doctors as "an acute congestion of the stomach and the brain", which could have possibly been scarlet fever or meningitis. The illness did not last for a particularly long time, but it left her deaf and blind. Keller went on to become a world-famous speaker and author. She is remembered as an advocate for people with disabilities amid numerous other causes.



Thomas Edison - Thomas Alva Edison (February 11, 1847 - October 18, 1931) was an American inventor of Dutch origin and businessman who developed many devices that greatly influenced life around the world, including the phonograph and a long lasting light bulb. In school, the young Edison's mind often wandered. He was noted to be terrible at mathematics, unable to focus, and had difficulty with words and speech. This ended Edison's three months of official schooling. The cause of Edison's deafness has been attributed to a bout of scarlet fever during childhood and recurring untreated middle ear infections.



Ludwig Van Beethoven - Beethoven was as we know a great source of confidence for himself and for others, being able to create music and play music even after being completely deaf is by itself quite a miracle. Although it was clear to everyone that beethoven was but a man, he conquered his disability and led himself to being one of the greatest musicians of all time. If there was one thing that was affecting his struggle to succeed it was not only being deaf, but having to fight all the emotions that he felt inside when he had to turn around to look at the audience applause because he could not hear.



Cameron Diaz - Cameron Michelle Diaz (born August 30, 1972) is an American actress and former fashion model. She is perhaps best known for her roles in popular blockbuster movies such as The Mask, There's Something About Mary, My Best Friend's Wedding, Charlie's Angels, Shrek, and Gangs of New York. Cameron Diaz suffers from obsessive-compulsive disorder, and has publicly admitted she habitually rubs doorknobs so hard before opening doors to clean them that the original paint on the doorknobs fades afterwards. She says, she washes her hands "many times" each day and uses her elbows to push open doors. Diaz has perhaps modified her fears somewhat, saying on May 10, 2007, "I think I've made my peace with it."



Leonardo DiCaprio - Leonardo Wilhelm DiCaprio (born November 11, 1974) is a three-time Academy Award-nominated and Golden Globe Award-winning American actor who garnered world wide fame for his role as Jack Dawson in *Titanic*. Leonardo DiCaprio has revealed he suffers from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. The 'Titanic' star says he has to force himself not to step on every chewing gum stain when walking along and fight urges to walk through a doorway several times, because he doesn't want his condition taking over his life.



Michael Jackson - Michael Joseph Jackson (August 29, 1958 - June 25, 2009), was an American musician and entertainer, who debuted at the age of five as a member of the Jackson 5, and went on to become a pop icon as a solo artist. Michael Jackson seemed to have BDD. He had over 30 cosmetic surgery operations and his ex-wife Lisa Presley has said he would never take off his make-up, even in bed. Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD) is a negative preoccupation with physical appearance. Many who suffer from this disorder are at a greater risk of becoming plastic surgery addicts. Individuals with BDD display symptoms similar to those who are diagnosed with OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder).



Agatha Christie - (15 September 1890 - 12 January 1976) Agatha Christie was the world's best selling book writer of all times only truly surpassed by the Bible and equaled by Shakespeare, her books sold approximately 4 billion copies worldwide. Agatha suffered from dyslexia but in no way did it stop her from being creative and learning how to write, her mystery novels have always been some of the most captivating of all times. Her bestselling book was without a doubt "*And then there was none*" which was a source of inspiration for novelists and movie makers even many years after.

Satoshi Tajiri (born on August 28, 1965) is a Japanese electronic game designer and the creator of *Pocket Monsters*, better known as **Pokémon**. Tajiri went to work for Nintendo and spent the next six years working on Pokémon. He became friends with Shigeru Miyamoto, the creator of *Mario*, *The Legend of Zelda*, *Pikmin*, and *Donkey Kong*, who also became a mentor to Tajiri. As a tribute to Tajiri and Miyamoto, Ash Ketchum (the anime counterpart of "Red" in the games) is named *Satoshi* and Gary Oak (the anime counterpart of "Blue" in the English games, and "Green" in the original Japanese version) is named *Shigeru* in the Japanese version of Pokémon. Most recently, Tajiri (along with Nintendo president Satoru Iwata) served as an executive producer for the Game Boy Advance game *ScrewBreaker* released outside of Japan as *Drill Dozer*. Satoshi Tajiri has allegedly been diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome according to the Independent.co.uk but i have been contacted by Game freak inc press officer saying this information is not correct.

Bill Gates, one of the richest people in the world today, is the founder of [Microsoft](#). Gates shows many traits of Asperger's, although he has never been formally diagnosed. Gates was always more interested in machines than people as a kid, and had a single minded focus on figuring out how the computer worked. The first computers were just being developed when Gates was growing up, and he spent hours at his school's computer trying to figure out how to build software for it and learn how it worked. His tenacity would serve him well later on as he developed the software that would become the basis of Microsoft. Videos show Gates rocking on television, and point out his incredible memory as a child. *Gates had little time for social niceties and always preferred to get to the point of things.*

James Maury "Jim" Henson (September 24, 1936 – May 16, 1990) was the most widely known puppeteer in American television history. He was the creator of The Muppets and the leading force behind their long creative run in the television series *Sesame Street* and *The Muppet Show* and films such as *The Muppet Movie* (1979) and *The Dark Crystal* (1982). He was also an Oscar-nominated film director, Emmy Award-winning television producer, and the founder of The Jim Henson Company, the Jim Henson Foundation, and Jim Henson's Creature Shop. Henson is widely acknowledged for the ongoing vision of faith, friendship, magic, and love which infused nearly all of his work

Charles Monroe Schulz (November 26, 1922 – February 12, 2000) was a 20th-century American cartoonist best known worldwide for his *Peanuts* comic strip. Schulz's drawings were first published by Robert Ripley in his *Ripley's Believe It or Not!*. His first regular cartoons, *Li'l Folks*, were published from 1947 to 1950 by the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*; he first used the name *Charlie Brown* for a character there, although he applied the name in four gags to three different boys and one buried in sand. The series also had a dog that looked much like Snoopy. In 1948, Schulz sold a cartoon to the *Saturday Evening Post*, the first of seventeen single-panel cartoons by Schulz that would be published there. In 1948, Schulz tried to have *Li'l Folks* syndicated through the Newspaper Enterprise Association. Schulz would have been an independent contractor for the syndicate, unheard of in the 1940s, but the deal fell through. *Li'l Folks* was dropped in January, 1950

Sir Alfred Joseph Hitchcock KBE (August 13, 1899 – April 29, 1980) was an iconic and highly influential director and producer who pioneered many techniques in the suspense and thriller genres. After a substantial film career in his native Britain he moved to Hollywood and became an American citizen in 1956, although he also remained a British subject. He ultimately directed more than fifty feature films in a career spanning six decades, from the silent film era, through the invention of talkies, to the colour era. Hitchcock was among the most consistently successful and publicly recognizable world directors during his lifetime, and remains one of the best known and most popular of all time.

Paul Allen - Another Microsoft "geek", the owner of the Seattle Seahawks & Portland Trailblazers, and the second richest man in the world, Mr. Allen is, according to some, Asperger-ish in nature.

Temple Grandin - She is a designer of humane food animal handling systems, and has been one of the pioneers in Autism and Asperger Awareness.

Al Gore - This Vice President of the United States is considered by some to be another famous person with Asperger's Syndrome. Decide for yourself. He's got the social awkwardness, the inability to relate and speak with others on their level, and definitely the intelligence. Mr. Gore, give us a yell to let us know. :) We'd love to have you join us.

Other Famous People with Asperger's - Woody Allen, Isaac Asimov, Ludwig van Beethoven, Alexander Graham Bell, Anton Bruckner, Henry Cavendish, John Denver, Bob Dylan, Thomas Edison, Bobby Fischer, Henry Ford, Jim Henson, Alfred Hitchcock, Thomas Jefferson, Carl Jung, Andy Kaufman, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Michael Palin, Charles Schulz, Steven Spielberg, James Taylor, Andy Warhol, Thom Yorke