

Famous People Who are/were Twice-Exceptional



Albert Einstein did not speak until the age of three. Even as an adult Einstein found that searching for words was laborious. He found schoolwork, especially math, difficult and was unable to express himself in written language. He was thought to be simple minded (retarded), until it was realized that he was able to achieve by visualizing rather than by the use of language. His work on relativity, which revolutionized modern physics, was created in his spare time.



Thomas Alva Edison was unable to read until he was twelve years old and his writing skills were poor throughout his life.

George Washington was unable to spell throughout his life and his grammar usage was very poor. His brother suggested that perhaps surveying in the backwoods might be an appropriate career for young George.



Leonardo Da Vinci was fascinated with levers and gears--so much so that they were at the heart of nearly all his inventions--from the crane to the helicopter. It is also believed that he struggled with dyslexia.

Walt Disney, the creator of Mickey Mouse, recipient of 32 personal Academy Awards for his animated features and founder of the Disney Empire struggled with a learning disability.



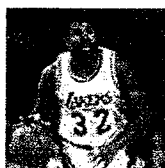
Tom Cruise is unable to read even today due to severe dyslexia, he never even finished High School. He has though, the ability to memorize his lines and perform on both the stage and screen

Henry Winkler (actor, director, producer) As a child was called stupid and lazy in the classroom. Bottom 3% in country, in math, he was thought to have ADD, he once said "It is not easy to compete when you have LD, but it is possible."



Harry Andersen (TV actor, played Judge Stone on Night Court) Has ADD and managed to con and charm his way through school he had extraordinary memory and could remember anything at 16. Valedictorian but he could barely read to rehearse his lines.

Robin Williams the actor/comedian has been diagnosed with ADHD



Magic Johnson (basketball player) Has a reading problem, "It's a bad feeling, a lonely feeling" "You've got to take whatever means are necessary to enhance your skills. Then once you've conquered it, once you have met the challenge, teach back and help the next guy, because that is what it is all about"

Bruce Jenner (Olympic decathlon champ) barely got through school, diagnosed as a dyslexic (sports gave him better self-esteem) he found that through sports he could hold his head up with friends and feel good about himself.



Although known for his voice, **James Earl Jones** was born with a stuttering problem that made him very self-conscious, and he was almost mute until the age of 15. A high school teacher discovered Jones had a gift for writing poetry, thought forcing public speaking would help him out of his silence and insisted that he recite a poem to the class each day. Jones claims that he still stutters sometimes (it doesn't bother him anymore) but was mostly cured by being forced to speak to an audience.

Some people claim that **Bill Gates**, chairman of Microsoft Corp. and the richest person on earth, displays many characteristics of Asperger's Syndrome. They say that he is famously negligent about his personal appearance and schedule and that he has the autistic behavior of compulsively rocking in his chair, which reportedly began early in his childhood. He is also regarded as one of the smartest people in American industry.



(Information compiled from <http://www.childdevelopmentinfo.com/disorders/famous.shtml>, <http://www.twicegifted.net/ld.htm>, <http://www.firsthandfoundation.org/jamesearljones/bio.html>, and <http://scout.wisc.edu/addserv/NH/99-09/99-09-28/0000.html>)