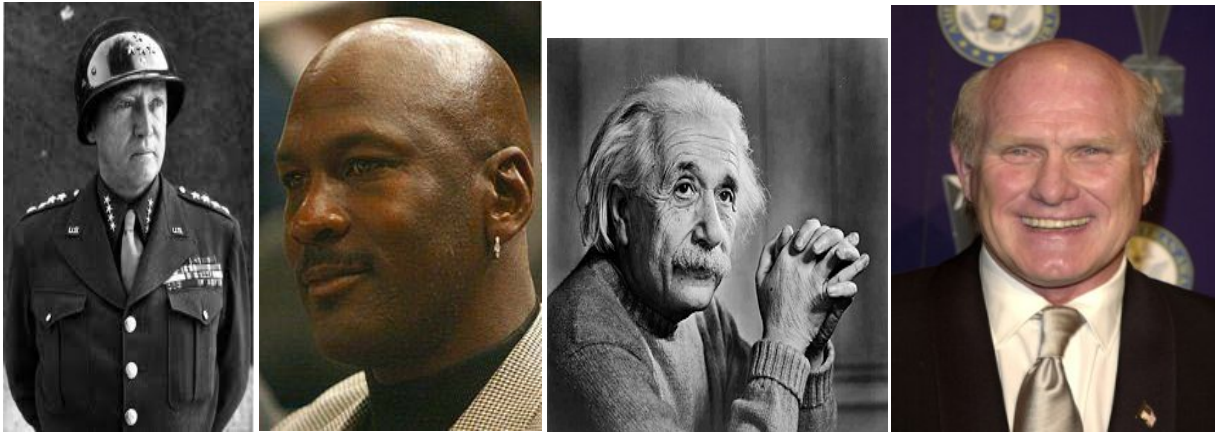


Famous People with Learning Disabilities



Learning disabilities can be difficult to manage, but they don't necessarily impact a person's chances of success. Many celebrities and famous figures from history struggled with learning disabilities, but the disabilities may have been instrumental in shaping their perspectives and helping them find the willpower to achieve their goals. Here's a full list of famous people with learning disabilities, including a description of their disabilities and their claims to fame. They can be a source of inspiration.

Alexander Graham Bell – Bell invented the telephone, but struggled with traditional schooling. It's believed that he had some form of learning disability, possibly dyslexia.

Napoleon Bonaparte – Napoleon's hypersensitivity to touch and his military strategic genius are two of the many symptoms that have led some modern scholars to suggest that he was a high-functioning autistic.

Richard Branson – A billionaire businessman, Branson credits his business intuition and unique perspectives to his early struggles with dyslexia, which affects the way he visualizes words.

Erin Brockovich – Brockovich is a former legal clerk whose success in building a case against illegal groundwater contamination led to a major motion picture starring Julia Roberts. Brockovich is dyslexic.

Terry Bradshaw – The NFL host and former player was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Cher – Cher is one of the most iconic performers, singers and actresses in the world. She has a form of dyslexia that makes it difficult to remember numbers or to perform basic mathematics.

Agatha Christie – Christie was the most famous mystery novelist of her time and developed a rich writing style that has impacted almost every mystery writer of the 20th and 21st centuries. Christie had dysgraphia, a learning disability that affected her ability to understand written words.

Tom Cruise – Cruise is among the most recognizable actors in the world. He has dyslexia and has spoken publicly about his disability.

Walt Disney – While no hard evidence exists, many scholars believe that Disney suffered from dyslexia or a related disorder due to his difficulties in school. Disney eventually dropped out of high school and pursued a career as an artist.

Albert Einstein – Einstein's parents once thought that he was mentally retarded due to his odd habits and difficulties in school. If he were born today, Einstein would probably be diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, a mild form of autism.

Thomas Edison – Edison is believed to have had dyslexia and possibly ADHD. His mother took him out of school at an early age, and Edison was home-schooled. He developed a voracious appetite for reading and made major scientific breakthroughs with his unusual methodology.

F. Scott Fitzgerald – One of the greatest American authors of all time, Fitzgerald was expelled from school at the age of 12 for an inability to focus and complete his work. It's likely that he had ADHD or a related disorder.

Benjamin Franklin – It's likely that the eccentric, brilliant founding father had a very mild version of autism.

Danny Glover – Glover has starred in the popular "Lethal Weapon" franchise and in dozens of other films. He is a dyslexic and frequently discusses his challenges in overcoming his learning disorder.

John F. Kennedy – President Kennedy may have had a form of dyslexia, but it didn't keep him from pursuing a successful education. He graduated from Harvard and won the presidency of the United States in 1961.

Bill Gates – Some autism experts have suggested that the head of Microsoft has Asperger's, although testing has never been performed.

Whoopi Goldberg – The actress and humanitarian suffers from dyslexia and frequently comments about her learning disability.

Dr. Temple Grandin – A doctor of animal husbandry whose work has revolutionized the cattle industry, Dr. Grandin was diagnosed as autistic at an early age.

John Lennon – Lennon was probably dyslexic, as he frequently mentioned in interviews that he was "never a speller" and had serious problems in school. He later showed his musical and lyrical genius through his work with The Beatles, and is widely considered to be one of the greatest pop songwriters of all time.

Steve McQueen – The star of "The Great Escape," Steve McQueen had a language-based learning disorder.

Thomas Jefferson – Although testing didn't exist in Jefferson's time, the founding father had great difficulties as a student. According to modern biographers and psychologists, Jefferson may have been dyslexic.

Jay Leno – Talk show legend Jay Leno has dyslexia, which severely affected his education.

Louis Pasteur – Pasteur's scientific work saved countless lives through his discovery of the now-common technique of pasteurization. Pasteur's learning difficulties in certain fields indicate a possible disability.

George Patton – One of history's most brilliant military minds, Patton did not excel in school. It is widely held that he had some form of dyslexia or a related learning disability.

Nelson Rockefeller – Rockefeller served as Vice President of the United States under Gerald Ford. He was severely dyslexic.

George C. Scott – Scott is most famous for his Academy Award-winning role as George Patton. Like Patton, Scott probably had a learning disability, possibly a form of ADD.

George Bernard Shaw – Shaw was an Irish playwright with many masterpieces to his name, including "Pygmalion". He probably had attention deficit disorder (ADD).

Tommy Smothers – Tommy was one half of the variety duo, "The Smothers Brothers." He had severe dyslexia and incorporated elements of his disability into his routine.

Suzanne Somers – Somers had a learning disability which led to poor performance in school and an inability to understand written language. She's most famous for her role on the sitcom, "Three's Company".

Sylvester Stallone – Stallone is one of the highest paid actors of all time. He suffers from dyslexia, but has developed an outstanding talent for screenwriting. His writing credits include “Rocky” and “Over the Top”, both of which he starred in.

Jules Verne – The novelist and writer of “Journey to the Center of The Earth” probably had some form of ADD or ADHD, as he performed poorly in school and often complained of an inability to focus.

Leonardo da Vinci – Da Vinci was a perfectionist who may have had Asperger’s, as he had savant-like skills and an enormous single-minded dedication to art and science.

George Washington – Despite his education, Washington was unable to spell properly and may have had a severe learning disorder. It’s likely that he was dyslexic. He’s probably the best known founding father of the United States and the first U.S. President.

Robin Williams – Williams is a comedian and actor, famous for his roles in “Mrs. Doubtfire,” “Good Will Hunting” and dozens of other films. He has been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) which affected his education and his ability to memorize scripts.

Woodrow Wilson – Wilson was the 28th President of the United States. His struggles with the written word have been well documented, and he is believed to have been a dyslexic. He aggressively pursued his education. To date, Wilson is the only U.S. President to hold a Ph.D.

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