

Achlophobia: crowds
Acrophobia: heights
Aerophobia: high objects
Agoraphobia: open spaces
Ailuraphobia: cats
Algophobia: pain
Androphobia: men
Ankrophobia: flowers
Anthrophobia: people
Aphiphobia: bees
Aquaphobia: water
Arachnophobia: spiders
Astraphobia: storms
Aviophobia: flying
Bacilophobia: microbes
Bacteriophobia: germs
Ballistophobia: bullets
Bathophobia: depth
Belonephobia: pins-needles
Botanophobia: plants
Brontophobia: thunder
Clinophobia: beds
Cynophobia: dogs
Decidophobia: making
decisions
Chromophobia: certain
colors

Claustrophobia: enclosed
places
Demonophobia: demons
Domatophobia: being
Confined in a house
Entomophobia: insects
Equinophobia: horses
Ergophobia: work
Gephydrophobia: crossing
Bridges
Gynephobia: women
Hematophobia: blood
Herpetophobia: reptiles
Heterophobia: opposite sex
Hydrophobia: water
Iatrophobia: doctors
Monophobia: being alone
Mysophobia: dirt
Necrophobia: dead bodies
Nosophobia: disease
Nucleomitiphobia: nuclear
bombs
Numerophobia: numbers
Nyctophobia: night
Ombrophobia: rain
Ophidiophobia: snakes
Optophobia: opening
your eyes

Pathophobia: disease
Peccatophobia: sinning
Pediphobia: children or dolls
Phobophobia: your own
fears
Psychrophobia: cold
Pyrophobia: fire
Sitophobia: food
Sophophobia: learning
Stenophobia: open places
Syphilophobia: syphilis
Taphephobia: being buried
alive
Technophobia: technology
Thalassophobia: ocean
Thanatophobia: death
Topophobia: performing on
stage
Trichophobia: hair
Triskaidekaphobia: # 13
Tropophobia: moving
Verbophobia: words
Vestiophobia: clothing
Xenophobia: strangers
Zoophobia: animals

Bipolar Disorder



Previously known as “manic-depression,” Bipolar Disorder causes someone to alternate moods between two extreme poles.

In the depressive state, the sufferer shows symptoms of major depression. In the manic state, she may feel euphoric and extraordinarily energetic, talking without stopping and showing an exaggerated sense of greatness. She may go on spending binges or engage in other excessive or reckless behavior, needing little sleep.

Vincent Van Gogh A Case Study

Vincent van Gogh was a man of astonishing creativity and profound suffering. He was isolated, lonely, and financially dependent on his brother Theo. And during the last 18 months of his life he was plagued by a neurological disorder that led to the famous incident in 1888 when he cut off part of his ear with a razor.

It is true that Van Gogh was a disturbing presence in polite society. He was

intense, stubborn, and often disheveled, with a spiritual, ascetic side to his character. During his twenties, an interest in the religious life led him to become a lay missionary, working among the poor coal miners of southern Belgium. He lived in a shack, sleeping on the floor. He nursed victims of disease and mine accidents. This chapter of his life ended when his supervisors, who rebuked him for “excessive zeal,” dismissed him from his missionary work.

He emerged from the experience shaken, but convinced that his life was to be an intellectual and artistic quest. In the remaining ten years of his life, Van Gogh devoted himself to painting. “What am I in the eyes of most people? A nobody, an eccentric and disagreeable man. I want to show by my work what there is in the heart of such an eccentric man, of such a nobody,” he wrote. He worked incessantly, often producing a painting a day. He also wrote hundreds of letters to Theo and others, filled with vivid descriptions of the landscapes and people around him, and with analysis of his work in progress (perhaps during fits of mania).

Today, Van Gogh is known for his impressionist paintings such as *Starry Night*, *Sunflowers*, and his *Self-portrait*. Several have sold for more than \$80,000,000 each. Sadly, only one of his paintings was sold during his life (*The Red Vineyard*) for a mere \$80.

His bipolar behaviors started when he had epileptic seizures. When his attacks began, they terrified him since they brought on bizarre, self-destructive behavior. Work was impossible and he eventually entered an asylum. Though he painted intensely until the end, he felt a growing despair and, at the age of 37, took his own life (shot himself in the stomach).

Van Gogh’s illness was never completely diagnosed during his lifetime, but it has been analyzed posthumously by many specialists. The most common theory suggests Van Gogh suffered from epileptic seizures, resulting in the emotional roller-coaster of extreme mania and depression.

Fugue

People with dissociative fugue forget who they are and all details of their lives. Sufferers may wind up in an emergency room, unable to recall their identity, or they may move elsewhere and begin a new life with a new identity.

Occasionally, the person keeps the identity for years, but typically the condition doesn’t last very long. When it ends, the person may not recall what happened during that time period.

It is usually the result of serious, unresolved problems, such as a dysfunctional marital relationship.

Patty Hearst A Case Study

Patty Hearst was 19 years old in 1974 when she was kidnapped by a terrorist group known as the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA). The granddaughter of the newspaper publisher William Randolph Hearst (*Citizen Kane* fame), she was held for a \$2,000,000 ransom at first.

However, while captive, Hearst converted to the cause of her abductors and began to participate in some of the criminal behavior, including robbing a bank.

In 1975, she was captured as a criminal and did spend time in prison (she was released in 1979). Psychiatrists diagnosed her with “traumatic neurosis with dissociative features.” In essence, the fugue state was brought on by brainwashing. She does recall her experiences and wrote about it in her biography.

Autism

Autism is a rare, severe mental disorder in children, characterized by a child’s inability to develop normal relationships with people, including its own parents. Often, it is not discovered until it becomes apparent the child’s speech development is markedly behind schedule.

Occurring mostly in boys (75 %), autism symptoms include a strange, vacant stare. Most autistic babies do not cuddle. As the child

grows, he will tend to continue to withdraw from human contact, preferring to play alone with a favorite object (usually in a repetitious manner). The child develops compulsive routines and may be extraordinarily intolerant of changes in the physical surroundings, showing severe tantrums if books, toys, furniture, or other objects are moved from their “correct” place (*Rainman* repeating “who’s on first when things put out of order”).

On a positive note, autistic children tend to move gracefully and many are expert climbers (*What’s Eating Gilbert Grape?* Scene of boy climbing the water tower). An autistic child can use their hands skillfully, but often refuse to use their hands, instead taking an adult’s wrist and using her hands.

No one knows what causes autism, though most experts agree it is an inborn disorder of body chemistry.

Leslie Lemke A Case Study

Autistic children have difficulty communicating and probably will need assistance throughout their lives. Their IQ may be limited by the disorder. However, some autistic people will show signs of “Savant Syndrome,” a rare condition in which the autistic child may possess an unusual ability in a single field, most often relating to music, art, or numbers. *Rainman* had an extraordinary ability to count (yet his autism limited his ability to be

independent). Below are several true savants:

Leslie Lemke is from Arpin, Wisconsin. He is blind and limited in IQ, yet he possesses an extraordinary memory, sings and plays piano. The subject of the film *An Island of Genius*, Lemke can play a musical piece verbatim (note for note) after hearing it just once. He also composes his own music.

Thomas Bethune had a vocabulary of less than 100 words, but could play 5,000 musical pieces on the piano. He learned each piece after hearing it only once.

Alonzo Clemons has an IQ of 40, yet is an exceptionally talented sculptor who has sold hundreds of pieces for up to \$45,000. Most buyers are unaware the art is done by a handicapped person.

Thomas Fuller was born in Africa in 1710. He was a calculating wonder who could easily multiply nine-digit numbers. At age 78, Fuller, who was never able to read or write, was asked, “how many seconds has a man lived who is 70 years, 17 days, and 12 hours old?” Ninety seconds later, he gave the answer – 2,210,500,800. Informed he was wrong, Fuller corrected the person, pointing out that the man had forgotten to include leap years.

George and Charles, the Bronx Calendar Twins. Born in 1939, the brothers can give the day of the week for any date over a period of 80,000 years. They can also recall, in detail, the weather for any day of their lives.