

Different Names for Autism



Table Of Contents

Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)	3
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)	4
Asperger Syndrome	5
High & Low Functioning Autism	6
Autism	7

Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)

ANC isn't overly keen on this term, but it isn't as bad as some of the others below. The word condition isn't liked by some autistic people, but we appreciate it can be hard as to how to refer to it.

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

ANC does not use this term, even though that is the term used in the DSM-5. The word disorder is very harmful to autistic people, as it implies it is wrong or needs fixing.

Asperger Syndrome

ANC does not use this term. The reason being that Hans Asperger was part of the Nazi regime during World War 2. He played a key role in sending some autistic people to their deaths, simply just because they were autistic.

Therefore we do not like to be linked to that term.

However, it is worth point out that some autistic people prefer to be referenced to as having Aspergers and that has to be accepted as their personal choice! Some do this simply because that is what they were diagnosed as having originally.

High & Low Functioning Autism

Many autistic people do use these terms, as do many neurotypicals. ANC does not use these terms though because the functioning terms often either limit people's capabilities or do the opposite in that people are not believed that they struggle how they do because of being "high functioning".

Autism

This is the term ANC uses. It's the shortest phrase and the most appropriate as that is what it is. It doesn't imply anything negative either.

We do accept that it is personal preference; however...each autistic person has the right to refer to themselves in whichever way they want. So if you're autistic choose whichever you want.

If you're not autistic please use 'Autism'.



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By ANC

