# Understanding The Spectrum - A Comic Strip Explanation

Link: <https://the-art-of-autism.com/understanding-the-spectrum-a-comic-strip-explanation/>

This comic explains the autism spectrum in a simple way and with the perspective of a person with autism. It is a good introduction to the autism spectrum, very basic but gives the right amount of general knowledge.

Page 1: The reason this comic was made: to explain the autism spectrum to combat misconceptions about people with autism.

Page 2-3: How people often perceive the autism spectrum as linear.

Page 4: How the perception of the autism spectrum as linear is not good or accurate.

Page 5: The autism spectrum is “neurodiverse”.

Page 6-7: How autism can affect different people.

Page 8: What the author wants the audience to take away from the comic.

# Understanding the Three Levels of Autism

Link: <https://www.verywellhealth.com/what-are-the-three-levels-of-autism-260233>

This article is good for clarification on what I mean when I talk about “high-functioning” autism. Not perfect by any means as it is a pretty linear view of autism but is good for gaining a bit more understanding as to how autism can range in impactfulness. Especially important because my content theory focuses on AI implemented for use by people with functioning autism.

Starts off by introducing the concept of three levels of autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

The image they chose is honestly a major over-simplification of the symptoms. As discussed in (1) autism is pretty neurodiverse.

I will not be referencing the levels of autism in my paper the same way this article does, however it gives some insight into the struggles people with autism commonly face.

The Limitations of ASD Levels is a very important acknowledgement to the falls in some of the explanations of the levels of autism.

# 10 Characteristics of a Person with Asperger’s Syndrome

Link: <https://www.appliedbehavioranalysisprograms.com/lists/5-characteristics-person-aspergers-syndrome/>

The main reason I like this article is that it includes a bit more nuance on the topic of intelligence. As someone diagnosed with Asperger’s, there are way too many things that talk about how people with Asperger’s syndrome often have high intelligence. ‘But why is that a problem?’ you may ask. Because, it is not that people with Asperger’s are all insanely smart, it is that we typically have special interests which we want to know everything about. The article also goes into symptoms that are not as commonly talked about like the speech differences and deleted motor development.

Intellectual or Artistic Interest: Often people with Asperger’s have a special interest they excel in. This could have been combined with Detail-Oriented.

Speech Differences: How asperger’s can affect verbal communication.

Delayed Motor Development: It may take people with Asperger’s more time to learn to do basic motor skills.

Poor Social Skills: One of the most widely known problems people with Asperger’s face. How hard it can be to develop social skills.

The Development of Harmful Psychological Problems: People with Asperger’s are at higher risk for developing anxiety or depression.

Detail-Oriented: This part of the article talks about what is commonly referred to as a “special interest”. This is probably one of the most common symptoms of autism I have personally seen and experienced. Also

Persistence: This part is a bit too positive for my liking. People with Asperger’s sometimes get obsessive and cannot stop doing something regardless of what happens because your brain just tells you you have to.

Not Socially-Driven: Typically people with Asperger’s are introverts.

High Integrity: I think this is a misunderstanding. It is not integrity, it is just people with Asperger’s struggle with socializing and will sometimes just be brutally honest because “why lie?”.

Masters of Routine: People with Asperger’s very much tend to prefer a strict routine with specific patterns.

I appreciate the article looking at the positives, but also I do think there are some misunderstandings. Still worth a read.