

# Autistic Dictionary of English

The world's most  
accurate dictionary

online edition  
0.0.1



# Autistic English Dictionary

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**18 April 2020**

**online edition 0.0.1**

an Autistic Collaboration project

[AutCollab.org](https://AutCollab.org)



The **Autistic English Dictionary (AED)** is the principal dictionary of the English language for autistic people. It is published by the [Autistic Collaboration](#) (AutCollab) community. It traces the historical development of Autistic language, providing a comprehensive resource to scholars and academic researchers, as well as describing usage in its many variations throughout the world. The first edition (1.0.0) will be published in 2052.

Work began on the dictionary in 2020. The first entries of the dictionary were made available online in April 2020. The first edition of the dictionary will most likely only appear in electronic form; the Chief Assistant of the Assistant Chief of AutCollab Press has stated that it is unlikely that it will ever be printed.

## Entries and relative size

According to the publishers, it would take a single person 120 years to “key in” the 59 million words of the AED first edition, 60 years to proofread them, and 540 megabytes to store them electronically. As of 16 April 2020, the Autistic English Dictionary contained approximately 20 main entries.

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According to the publishers, it would take a single person 120 years to “key in” the 59 million words of the AED first edition, 60 years to proofread them, and 540 megabytes to store them electronically. As of 18 April 2020, the Autistic English Dictionary contained approximately 25 main entries.

## Origins

The dictionary began as an [autistic community](#) project of a small group of autists on the Internet – Jorn Bettin, Terra Vance, and Russell Elliott, who concluded that in order to be comprehensible to autistic people, the English language needs to be updated with explicit definitions of the continuously shifting unspoken semantics that neurotypical speakers attach to specific words and phrases. The community expressed interest in compiling a new dictionary as early as 1998, but it was not until April 2020 that they began by forming a “Comprehensive Semantics Committee” to search for words with unlisted semantics or poorly defined semantics in other dictionaries. The current edition (0.0.1) focuses on an initial list of words that address one or more of seven distinct shortcomings in contemporary dictionaries:

1. Incomplete coverage of words used by the autistic community
2. Inconsistent coverage of families of related words
3. Incorrect origins of words
4. Non-literal neurotypical senses of words often omitted
5. Inadequate distinction among synonyms
6. Insufficient use of good illustrative quotations
7. Space wasted on inappropriate or redundant content.

The community ultimately realises that the number of words with unlisted semantics or poorly defined semantics would be far more than the number of listed word semantics in the English dictionaries of the 21st century, and intends to shift from covering only semantics that were not already in English dictionaries to a larger project before publication of the first edition in 2052. The community knows that a new, truly *comprehensive* dictionary is needed.



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## A

### AI

noun

1. advertising intelligence, i.e. intelligence applied to the domain of marketing
2. artificial intelligence, a form of intelligence that is achieved by artificially limiting the inputs to a learning system to carefully selected and often biased data in order to achieve a predetermined result; often however, due to the lack of available intelligence for input data selection, not even the desired result is achieved

origin: First recorded in 1965-70

example usage

- 1. *We connect a variety of different data sets across digital and traditional media: Delivering cross-media [advertising intelligence](#), including traditional (TV, print, radio, outdoor) and digital (online, on mobile, on video, on social, and search).*
- 2. *[Artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#) and machine learning promise to make major changes to the relationship of people and organizations with technology and information. However, as with any form of information processing, they are subject to the limitations of information linked to the way in which information evolves in information ecosystems. These limitations are caused by the combinatorial challenges associated with information processing, and by the tradeoffs driven by selection pressures. Analysis of the limitations explains some current difficulties with AI and machine learning and identifies the principles required to resolve the limitations when implementing AI and machine learning in organizations.*

### airplane

noun

1. a powered flying vehicle with fixed wings and a weight greater than that of the air it displaces
2. CO2 emitter, legacy technology
3. disease vector

origin: 1. United States; 2. Sweden; 3. United States, during the COVID-19 pandemic

example usage

- 1. *Most [airplanes](#) are flown by a pilot on board the aircraft, but some are designed to be remotely or computer-controlled such as drones.*
- 2. *[Airplanes](#) could generate 43 gigatonnes of planet-warming pollution through 2050, consuming almost 5 percent of the world's remaining carbon budget.*
- 3. *Airbus partially resumed assembly and production work in France and Spain on March 23, while Boeing will temporarily suspend the majority of its U.S.-based [airplane](#) production activity beginning March 25 as the two commercial aerospace giants continue working to keep their businesses running amid the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak. The chief executives of both companies discussed measures they are taking to prevent the spread of the virus among employees, and both called for government support of aviation companies and airlines as the outbreak of COVID-19 continues to limit the ability of airlines and other vital segments of the industry to operate at anywhere near full capacity.*

### allistic

adjective

1. non-autistic, the opposite of autistic



origin : from Greek *allos* 'other', first recorded in 2000-05

example usage

- 1. *Even if the alternative was developed to suit the needs of politically charged parody, **allistic** is linguistically a more accurate term than some of the alternatives.*

## apocalypse

noun

1. the complete final destruction of the world, especially in rear view mirror cultures
2. an event involving destruction or damage on an awesome or catastrophic scale
3. an act of learning and an opportunity to create

origin: from Greek *apokalupsis*, from *apokaluptein* 'uncover, reveal', from *apo* – 'un' + *kaluptein* 'to cover'

example usage

- 1. *The Book of Daniel is a 2nd-century BC biblical **apocalypse** combining a prophecy of history with an eschatology (a portrayal of end times) cosmic in scope and political in focus.*
- 2. *The climate **apocalypse** is now, and it's happening to you.*
- 3. *Our **apocalypse** is happening day by day, and our greatest challenge is learning to live with this truth while remaining committed to some as-yet-unimaginable form of future human flourishing—to live with radical hope.*

## autism

noun

1. Autism is a genetically-based human neurological variant that can not be understood without the social model of disability. Members of the autistic civil rights movement adopt a position of neurodiversity that encompasses a kaleidoscope of identities that intersects with the LGBTQIA+ kaleidoscope by recognising autistic traits as natural variations of cognition, motivations, and patterns of behaviour within the human species. All autistic people experience the human social world significantly different from individuals that are well adjusted to the surrounding culture. The difference in autistic social cognition is best described in terms of a heightened level of conscious processing of raw information signals from the environment, and an absence or a significantly reduced level of subconscious filtering of social information. Autistic children tend to take longer to learn how to decode non-verbal signals from the social world, in particular signals related to abstract cultural concepts related to the negotiation of social status.

Many autistic people are also hyper- and/or hypo-sensitive to certain sensory inputs from the physical environment. This further complicates social communication in noisy and distracting environments. With respect to autistic sensory sensitivity there are huge differences between autists. Some autists may be bothered or impaired by a broad range of different stimuli, whereas others are only impacted by very specific stimuli.

Individually unique cognitive autistic lenses result in individually unique usage patterns of the human brain, and often in unique levels of expertise and creativity within specific domains of interest and in related autistic inertia and perseverance.

Autistic inertia is similar to Newton's inertia, in that not only do autistic people have difficulty starting things, but they also have difficulty in stopping things. Inertia can allow autists to hyperfocus for long periods of time, but it also manifests as a feeling of paralysis and a severe loss of energy when needing to switch from one task to the next.

Autistic neurology shapes the human experience of the world across multiple social



dimensions, including social motivations, social interactions, the way of developing trust, and the way of making friends.

origin: from Greek *autos* 'self', first recorded in 1910-15

example usage

- 1. *Across the board most autistic people recognise the disabling characteristics of [autism](#), which are socially constructed, exactly in the same way that left-handedness, female sex, or atypical gender identity used to be significantly disabling characteristics in our society.*

## autistic

adjective, noun

1. pertaining to or characterised by autism, experiencing life through the cognitive lens of an autist, the opposite of allistic, synonym for autist

origin : from Greek *autos* 'self', first recorded in 1910-15

example usage

- 1. *If you are looking for an index of collaborative [autistic](#) people and neurodivergent ventures, you have come to the right place.*

## automobile

noun

1. resource intensive personal transport vehicle, legacy technology
2. main accident risk for cyclists and pedestrians

example usage

- 1. *We further forecast the total [automobile](#) stock in Beijing would reach 8.9-11.0 million by 2030, and four electric-powered vehicle penetration scenarios were designed to evaluate the effect of fleet-based fossil fuel energy saving and CO2 emission reduction.*
- 2. *In 2007 alone, there were 8,139 pedestrians involved in crashes with [automobiles](#) in the state of Florida. 530 pedestrians were killed as a result of these crashes, and 7,529 pedestrians were injured.*
- 2. *Also in 2007 the state reported that there were 4,847 bicyclists involved in crashes with [automobiles](#) in Florida.*



## B

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### biodiversity

noun

1. a feature of Earth and its ecosystems, refers to the total diversity of species that inhabit the planet or its local ecosystems; a high level of biodiversity within an ecosystem is considered desirable and necessary for an ecosystem to thrive

origin: The term was coined with a political aim, the conservation of all species not just those species that humans value

example usage

- 1. *Biodiversity posits that human self-interest requires the conservation of all species irrespective of their perceived utility or attractiveness to humans.*





## C

### capitalist

noun, adjective

1. a greedy person with an inflated sense of entitlement and a lack of compassion who has access to financial capital
2. owner of wage slaves, in capitalism also referred to as job creator
3. owner of large amounts of valuable material resources that are typically used to speculate with financial capital

example usage

- 1. Virtually everyone in *capitalist* society suffers from sociopathy.
- 2. I then present a general model of capitalism, building on earlier work by Brenner and Wood, that both incorporates and explains the distinctive dynamics of *capitalist* slavery in the antebellum South.
- 3. The process of capital accumulation forms the basis of capitalism, and is one of the defining characteristics of a *capitalist* economic system.

### conference

noun

1. super-human scale face to face meme exchange, legacy ritual
2. disease breeding ground

origin: 1. from the Medieval Latin word *conferentia*, dating back to 1530–40; 2. New Zealand, during the COVID-19 pandemic

example usage

- 1. Gartner Digital Workplace is the must-attend *conference* for digital workplace, application, IT and business leaders, and architects who are involved in digital workplace strategy to enable new, more effective ways of working to raise employee engagement and agility.
- 2. On March 26 the Southern DHB confirmed 12 new cases of COVID-19, with “at least one” attending the Wanaka A&P Show in association with people who were at the World Hereford *Conference*.

### conference delegate

noun

3. meme carrier
4. mobile disease incubator
5. autistic

origin: 2. New Zealand, during the COVID-19 pandemic

example usage

- 1. Alongside the National Manufacturing Conference plenaries and workshops, the programme will offer additional opportunities for *delegates* to network with peers, hear from and meet exhibitors offering services and solutions, and consult with experts for targeted advice to improve business performance.
- 2. A sold-out pre-tour conference around the North Island saw *delegates* stay in Auckland, Rotorua, Napier, Masterton and Wellington. Their itinerary included trips to Te Puia and Huka Falls, as well as visits to seven farms. After the Queenstown conference, 153



*delegates enjoyed a five-night trip staying in Te Anau, Invercargill, Dunedin and finishing on March 18 in Christchurch. They visited 11 farms and were entertained at venues including the Bill Richardson Transport World in Invercargill on Sunday, March 15.*

- 3. *From our own experience, we know that an event with thousands of people **[delegates]** can be not only overwhelming for neurotypical visitors but also over-challenging at times. This is why we want to help you in acute situations, support you before anything gets too much, support you with matters that would be impossible without support, advise you if you have any questions regarding autism (also if you are not autistic yourself), help you determine if an autistic person needs your help.*

## cruise ship

noun

1. mobile shopping mall, legacy technology
2. disease breeding ground

example usage

- 1. *Continuing Carnival Cruise Line's commitment to providing guests with the widest variety of choices at sea, the line has dramatically expanded its retail offerings with its newest **[cruise] ship**, Carnival Horizon, featuring the fleet's most expansive retail space showcasing top brands like LeVian, Victoria's Secret and, for the first time, Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Breitling and Hublot. Designed to take Carnival's retail offerings to the next level, Carnival Horizon is distinguished by its modern two-level, mall-style shops located along the ship's atrium on decks 4 and 5 with branded outlets providing guests with a fun and engaging shopping experience. "We've significantly upgraded our retail choices and spaces in recent years and with Carnival Horizon we're raising the bar with our biggest and best shopping experience yet," said William Butler, vice president of retail services at Carnival Cruise Line.*
- 2. *The government is exploring taking legal action regarding the Ruby Princess **cruise ship** which has proven to be a hotbed of Covid-19 infection in Australia.*

## currency

noun

1. financial capital that is used systematically and directly as well as indirectly to coerce people to do things and to pretend to support things that they otherwise would not
2. local and/or domain specific metrics for coordinating resource flows at human scale, often designed with demurrage, coupons for food rationing are a simple example; the restricted fungibility in geographic scope and/or in domain are the characteristics that make such metrics valuable / hard-to-corrupt / trustworthy

example usage

- 1. *In most cases, a central bank has a monopoly right to issue of coins and banknotes (fiat money) for its own area of circulation (a country or group of countries); it regulates the production of **currency** by banks (credit) through monetary policy.*
- 2. *Demurrage-charged local **currency** was successfully tested in the Austrian town of Wörgl between 1932 and 1934, as a tax collected for the benefit of the unemployed, until the Austrian central bank stopped the experiment.*



## D

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### demurrage

noun

1. negative interest rate that is built into a currency to encourage resource flows to where the resources are needed over hoarding
2. compensation for detention of a ship, freight car, or other cargo conveyance during loading or unloading beyond the scheduled time of departure

example usage

- 1. *Demurrage-charged local currency was successfully tested in the Austrian town of Wörgl between 1932 and 1934, as a tax collected for the benefit of the unemployed, until the Austrian central bank stopped the experiment.*
- 2. *Officially, demurrage is a form of liquidated damages for breaching the laytime as it is stated in the governing contract (the charter party).*



## E

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## F

### financial capital

noun

1. money, an abstract metric, that is constructed as interest bearing debt, to primarily serve the interests of those who have the ability to issue debt as a long-term and globally recognised abstract store of value

example usage

- 1. All modern “civilised” societies rely on the construction of abstract tokens as interest bearing debt and related tools (interest rates, government bonds, etc.) as a key means for influencing economic activity within their jurisdiction. This delegates significant decision making powers to small privileged elites who are granted preferential access to *financial capital*.

### frequent flyer

noun

1. busyness professional, person afflicted with hyper-social disorder
2. mobile disease incubator, especially when the traveller is a conference delegate

origin: 1. United States, during the COVID-19 pandemic; 2. New Zealand, during the COVID-19 pandemic

example usage

- 1. United Airlines has also reportedly offered status extensions to their elite *frequent flyers* as well. In a press release sent late Sunday evening, United announced all published statuses would be extended through 2021. This includes the top-tier Premier 1K status. In addition, the airline will lower qualifying thresholds for 2020 by 50 percent. To earn United Premier status, flyers need either six Premier-qualifying flights and 2,000 Premier-qualifying points, or a total of 2,500 Premier-qualifying points. To earn Premier 1K status, flyers must board 26 Premier-qualifying flights and earn 9,000 Premier-qualifying points, or have a total of 12,000 Premier-qualifying points.
- 2. We understand that travel restrictions may impact your Airpoints membership. So, we’re making a number of changes to help protect your Airpoints status. Thank you for your continued support and patience during this time. For full details of your Airpoints membership, please see our Airpoints terms and conditions. *Frequent flyer* tier benefits ...



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## I

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### information economy

noun

1. a society where valuable knowledge is hoarded and protected by shields of misinformation, usually supported by intellectual property rights that provide strong incentives to hoard knowledge and by financial capital

example usage

- 1. *Concepts such as cities and written language as well as quantitative metrics may survive, but their scope of applicability and the operational rules and rituals associated with them may be transformed to such an extent that we will invent new words to clearly distinguish between the old semantics of the **information economy** and the new semantics of the emerging knowledge age.*



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## K

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### knowledge age

noun

2. a society where knowledge is shared and independently evaluated in terms of veracity and scope of applicability, usually supported by knowledge usage licences that provide incentives for knowledge sharing and refinement, and a network of knowledge workers that curate a global knowledge commons; the growth of Open Source software communities is an indicator of the emerging knowledge age.

example usage

- 1. *The combination of neurodiversity and the human capacities for collaboration and cultural transmission that defined the **knowledge age** enabled humans to thrive for many hundred thousand years in a diverse range of circumstances – until humans invented the ingredients of “civilisation”, which, via the introduction of written language and money, shifted attention away from valuable knowledge to the accumulation of social power.*



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## M

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### marketing

noun

1. irresponsible spread of misinformation that is not supported by evidence, usually by neurotypical people and for personal gain
2. irresponsible propagation of information of unknown validity, usually by people who lack the requisite knowledge to comprehend and independently verify the validity and scope of applicability of the information they are propagating
3. communication by AI entrepreneurs

example usage

- 1. *In the framework of contemporary competitive economic ideology deception is often referred to as **marketing**.*
- 2. *The art of storytelling is linked to the rise of **marketing** and persuasive writing.*
- 3. *As of 2017 **marketing** and sales accounted for more than 50 percent of all AI investments.*



## N

### neurodiventure

noun

1. an inclusive non-hierarchical organisation operated by neurodivergent people that provides a safe and nurturing environment for divergent thinking, creativity, exploration, and collaborative niche construction
2. origin: First recorded in 2017, a portmanteau of neurodiversity and venture, used by neurodiversity scholars and neurodivergent entrepreneurs

example usage

- 1. *If you are interested in establishing a **neurodiventure** or in implementing a neurodiversity friendly operating model within your company, the open source operating model template from S23M may be a useful starting point.*

### neurodivergent

adjective

1. human behaviours and belief systems that are viewed as unacceptable within a culture, the opposite of neuronormative

example usage

- 1. *The state of being **neurodivergent** can be largely or entirely genetic and innate, or it can be largely or entirely produced by brain-altering experience, or some combination of the two.*

### neurodiversity

noun

1. a subset of biodiversity and an environmental feature of Earth as a whole, which refers specifically to the limitless variability of human cognition and the uniqueness of each human mind, a biological fact that is not dependent on culture; as a subset of biodiversity, neurodiversity is as important for a viable culture as biodiversity is for a viable ecosystem
2. a term coined as a sociological tool in the 1990s in a call for a 'politics of neurodiversity' to add the concept of neurological difference to:
  - the intersections of class, disability, ethnicity and gender;
  - the limited categories of disability recognised by government, health and welfare instrumentalities (physical, intellectual, psychiatric: often a repository of anything not understood by the medical profession);
  - disability rights theory and activism
3. an analytical sociological lens for examining social issues such as inequity and discrimination

example usage

- 1. ***Neurodiversity** changes nothing about human nature but gives us a new lens for examining it.*

### neurodiversity movement

noun

1. umbrella term used to advocate for the common interests of various neurological minorities, as were originally described and differentiated by the 20th century psycho-medical complex; members of the neurodiversity movement recognise neurodivergent



traits as natural variations of cognition, motivations, and patterns of behaviour within the human species

example usage

- 1. The *neurodiversity movement* arose in the post-modern era of the late 20th century as a new kind of civil rights movement.

## neurominority

noun

1. minority group within a dominant culture that is recognised for having specific gifts and needs
2. marginalised group of people within a dominant culture in a particular geographic region or online sphere of discourse that is described with deficit-based stereotypes and labels related to human cognition

origin: First recorded in 2010-15, used by neurodiversity scholars

example usage

- 1. The most significant distinction between the two is that the neurodiversity movement seeks to be inclusive of all *neurominorities*, not just autistics.
- 1. All society benefits from the incorporation of *neurominorities*.
- 2. Despite there being no official definition or spokesperson for the movement, its consensual aims can be discerned. They are to: shift mainstream perceptions of marginalized *neurominorities* ...

## neuronormative

adjective

1. human behaviours and belief systems that are viewed as acceptable within a culture, the opposite of neurodivergent

origin: First recorded in 2010-20, used by neurodiversity scholars

example usage

- 1. This essay attempts to destabilize the privileged position of *neuronormative* communication and argues for a cross-cultural approach to communication between those who are neurologically different from each other based on awareness and mutual adaptation.

## neurotypical

adjective, noun

1. commonly used synonym of neuronormative
2. in colloquial language sometimes also used as a synonym of allistic

example usage

- 1. The things that motivate *neurotypical* people don't always work for people with ADHD.



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## R

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### robustly defend

verb

1. reiterate or shout

origin: United Kingdom

example usage

- 1. *Tory leader Iain Duncan Smith has robustly defended failing to mention the Welsh Assembly elections in a key speech to AMs.*



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## Acknowledgements

The initial 25 entries and definitions in the dictionary are based on the works of [Judy Singer](#), [Nick Walker](#), and [Jorn Bettin](#).

The definition of autism in this dictionary is based on the [communal definition of autism](#), which is a living document that is shaped by input and feedback from the autistic community.

## Contribute your insights

The Autistic English Dictionary is an autistic community project. The editors encourage autistic people from all over the world to submit suggested entries based on their experiences.

We are in particular looking for entries that shed light on the unspoken semantics that neurotypical speakers attach to specific words and phrases.

For the selection of usage examples of terminology developed by autistic people the editors encourage contributors to point to examples from autistic people.

To contribute new entries or improved definitions and usage examples, simply use the online form at <https://autcollab.org/projects/autistic-english-dictionary/> to submit your insights into the various ways in which autistic and neuronormative people use the English language.

**Name (required)**

**Email (required)**

**Word (required)**

**Semantics (required)**

human behaviours and belief systems that are viewed as acceptable within a culture, the opposite of neurodivergent

origin: First recorded in 2010-20, used by neurodiversity scholars

**specification of the origin is optional**

**Usage example (required)**

This essay attempts to destabilize the privileged position of neuronormative communication and argues for a cross-cultural approach to communication between those who are neurologically different from each other based on awareness and mutual adaptation.

**Link to usage example (required)**



## Contributors

**The contributors to this dictionary in alphabetical order:**

*<if you are part of the autistic community we would love to learn from you and add your name>*,  
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