

Ime: \_\_\_\_\_ Priimek: \_\_\_\_\_ Razred: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Read the text *What Is Asperger Syndrome?* and then answer the questions below with short answers.

1. When was the first paper about this kind of disorder published? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which skills are poor in individuals with this syndrome? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What do persons with AS have difficulties with? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Can they understand body language? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How do they react to sound and smell? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How do they observe the world if compared with other people? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is their intelligence like? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Do they show any special talents? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How do people very often experience them? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What obstructs their language skills? \_\_\_\_\_

## **What Is Asperger Syndrome?**

By Barbara L. Kirby

Asperger Syndrome or (Asperger's Disorder) is a neurobiological disorder named for a Viennese physician, Hans Asperger, who in 1944 published a paper which described a pattern of behaviors in several young boys who had normal intelligence and language development, but who also exhibited autistic-like behaviors and marked deficiencies in social and communication skills. In spite of the publication of his paper in the 1940's, AS has been recognized by professionals and parents only in the past few years.

Individuals with AS can exhibit a variety of characteristics and the disorder can range from mild to severe. Persons with AS show marked deficiencies in social skills, have difficulties with changes and prefer sameness. They often have obsessive routines and may be preoccupied with a particular subject of interest. They have a great deal of difficulty reading nonverbal cues (body language) and very often the individual with AS has difficulty determining proper body space. Because they are often overly sensitive to sounds, tastes, smells, and sights, the person with AS may prefer soft clothing, certain foods, and be bothered by sounds or lights no one else seems to hear or see. It's important to remember that the person with AS perceives the world very differently. Therefore, many behaviors that seem odd or unusual are due to those neurological differences and not the result of intentional rudeness or bad behavior, and most certainly not the result of "improper parenting".

By definition, those with AS have a normal IQ and many individuals (although not all), exhibit exceptional skill or talent in a specific area. Because of their high degree of functionality and their naiveté, those with AS are often viewed as eccentric or odd and can easily become victims of teasing and bullying. While language development seems, on the surface, normal, individuals with AS often have deficits in pragmatics and prosody. Vocabularies may be extraordinarily rich and some children sound like "little professors." However, persons with AS can be extremely precise and have difficulty using language in a social context.

Adapted from: <http://www.udel.edu/bkirby/asperger/aswhatisit.html>

More on Asperger Syndrome:

<http://www.aspergers.com/aspclin.htm>

<http://www.aspergersyndrome.org/>

<http://users.wpi.edu/~trek/aspergers.html>

II. Can you recognize Christopher's problems in the text from exercise I.?  
In chapter 73 he gives us the following list of his behavioural problems.



a) Make the list complete.

- A. Not talking to people for a long time.
- B. Not eating or drinking anything for a long time.
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Not liking being in really small places with other people.
- F. \_\_\_\_\_
- G. \_\_\_\_\_
- H. Not liking yellow things or brown things and refusing to touch yellow things or brown things.
- I. \_\_\_\_\_
- J. Not eating food if different sorts of food are touching each other.
- K. Not noticing that people are angry with me.
- L. \_\_\_\_\_
- M. Saying things that other people think are rude.
- N. \_\_\_\_\_
- O. \_\_\_\_\_
- P. \_\_\_\_\_
- Q. \_\_\_\_\_
- R. Getting crossed when someone has moved the furniture.

b) You can add more problems to the list. Perhaps Christopher is not able to recognize all of them.

c) Where do the text in ex. I. and the list agree? Tick (✓) the items in the list.

