

Strengths and Challenges

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It is important to note that this is a general list. For every strength and challenge, you will often find examples in people that prove the opposite. For example, clumsiness is a common challenge. However, some with Asperger Syndrome have significant strengths in movement and balance, perhaps as a dancer.

<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Challenges</i>
Attention to detail	Grasping the “big” picture
Often highly skilled in a particular area	Uneven set of skills
Deep study resulting in encyclopedic knowledge on areas of interest	Difficulty in developing motivation to study areas not of interest
Tendency to be logical (helpful in decision-making where emotions may interfere)	Difficulty perceiving emotional states of other
Less concern for what others may think of them (can be a strength and a challenge). Also known as independent thinking. Often results in novel "big picture" insights due to different ways of looking at things, ideas, and concepts.	Perceiving unwritten rules of social interaction. But can learn these rules through direct instruction and social narratives social as Power Cards (Gagnon, 2004)
Usually visual processing (thinking in pictures or video)	Difficulty processing in non-favorite modalities such as aural, kinesthetic, etc.
Often very verbal (Propensity of giving detailed descriptions may be useful in providing directions to lost persons)	Difficulty parsing out and summarizing important information for a conversation
Direct communication	Sensory integration problems where input may register unevenly, distorted, and difficulty in screening out background noise
Loyalty	Generalization of skills and concepts
Honesty	Difficulty expressing empathy in ways that others expect or understand
Nonjudgemental listening	
Average to above average intelligence	Executive functioning resulting in difficulties planning long-term tasks

