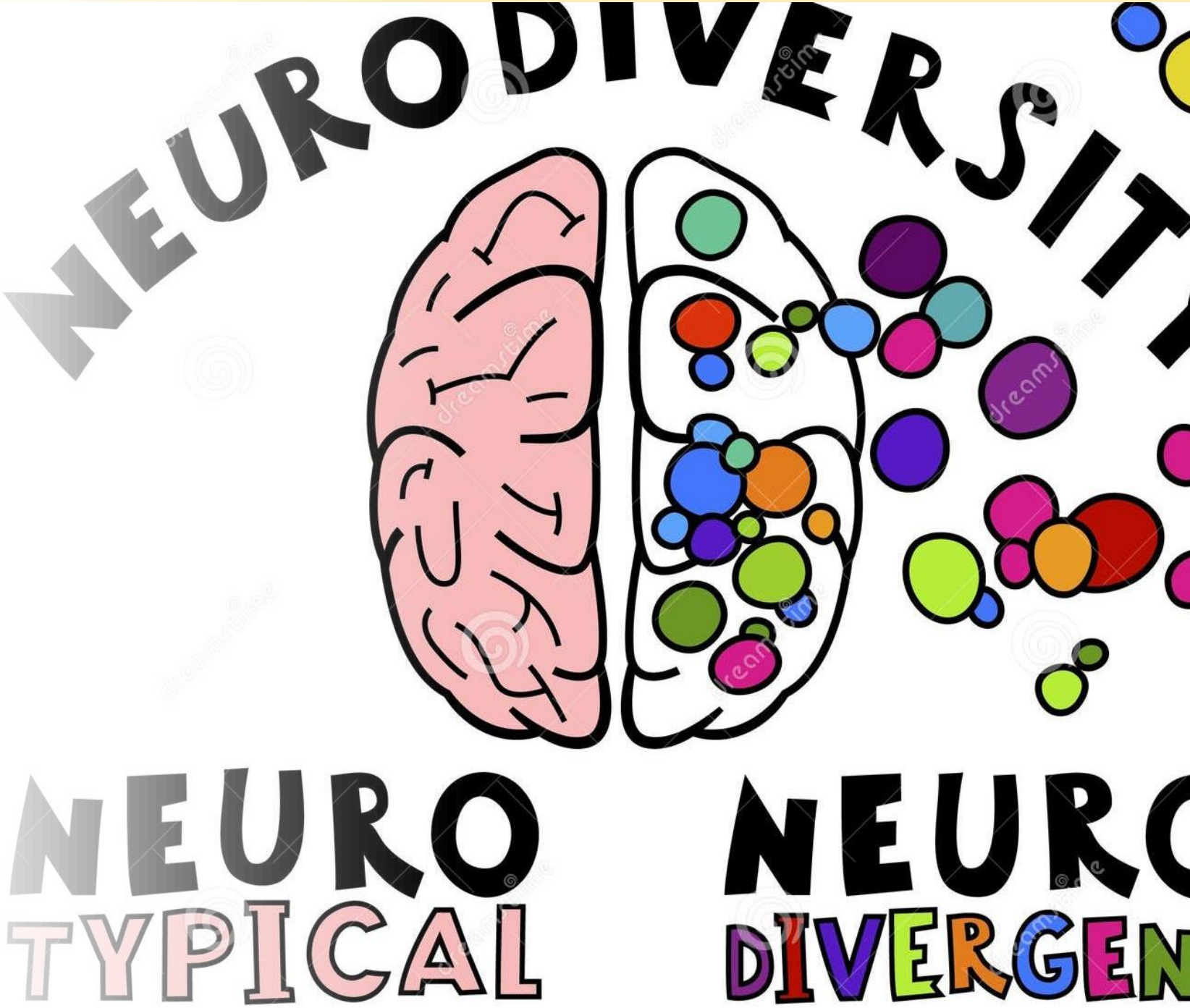
Neurodivergent brains

- A neurodivergent brain works a little bit differently from a brain that is considered 'typical'. It does not mean the brain works any better or worse- it just works differently.

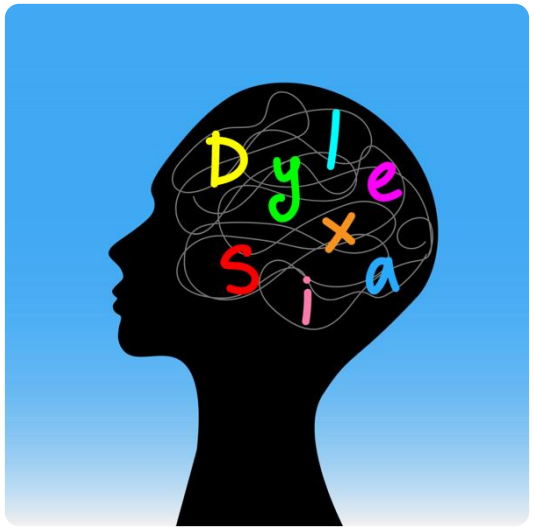
- People who are neurodivergent may learn, think, communicate or experience the world in their own way.

- Can you think of any types of neurodivergence?



Some examples include:

- Autism
- ADHD
- Dyslexia
- Dyscalculia
- Dyspraxia (DCD)
- Dysgraphia
- Auditory Processing Difficulties
- Intellectual Difficulties
- Giftedness
- Tourettes



Dyslexia

Ellie and Erin

What is Dyslexia?

- Learning difference that can make it harder to read, write and spell. It also affects short-term memory. The Dyslexic brain processes written language differently.

- 10%-20% of people have Dyslexia

- A lot of people with Dyslexia have a above-average intelligence but can find sounding out and spelling words tricky.

UNDERSTANDING DYSLEXIA

5 facts

Signs of Dyslexia in younger children

Taking a lot longer to learn the alphabet and alphabetic order

Finding sounds and putting sounds together (blending) tricky.

Guessing words instead of breaking them down and sounding them out.

Difficulty with learning the days of the week, months of the year and with rhymes.

Signs of Dyslexia in older children

Reading slowly or getting tired quickly when reading. Words can seem jumbled up.

Frequent spelling mistakes

Trouble understanding long instructions

Leaving letters out at the start of words.

Positives of Dyslexia

CREATIVITY

BIG PICTURE THINKERS

PROBLEM-SOLVING

STORY-TELLING

More Positives about Dyslexia

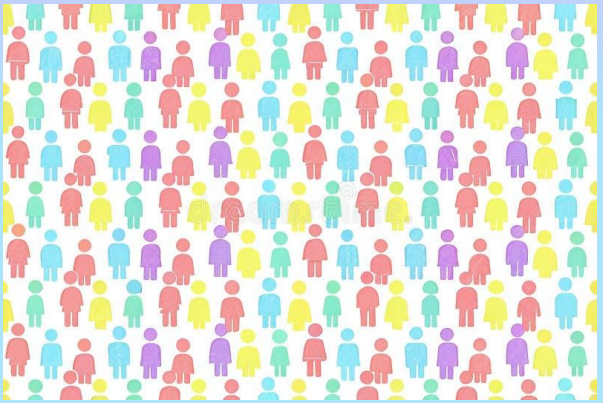
Good communicator

Empathy

Observant

Determined

Famous Dyslexic People



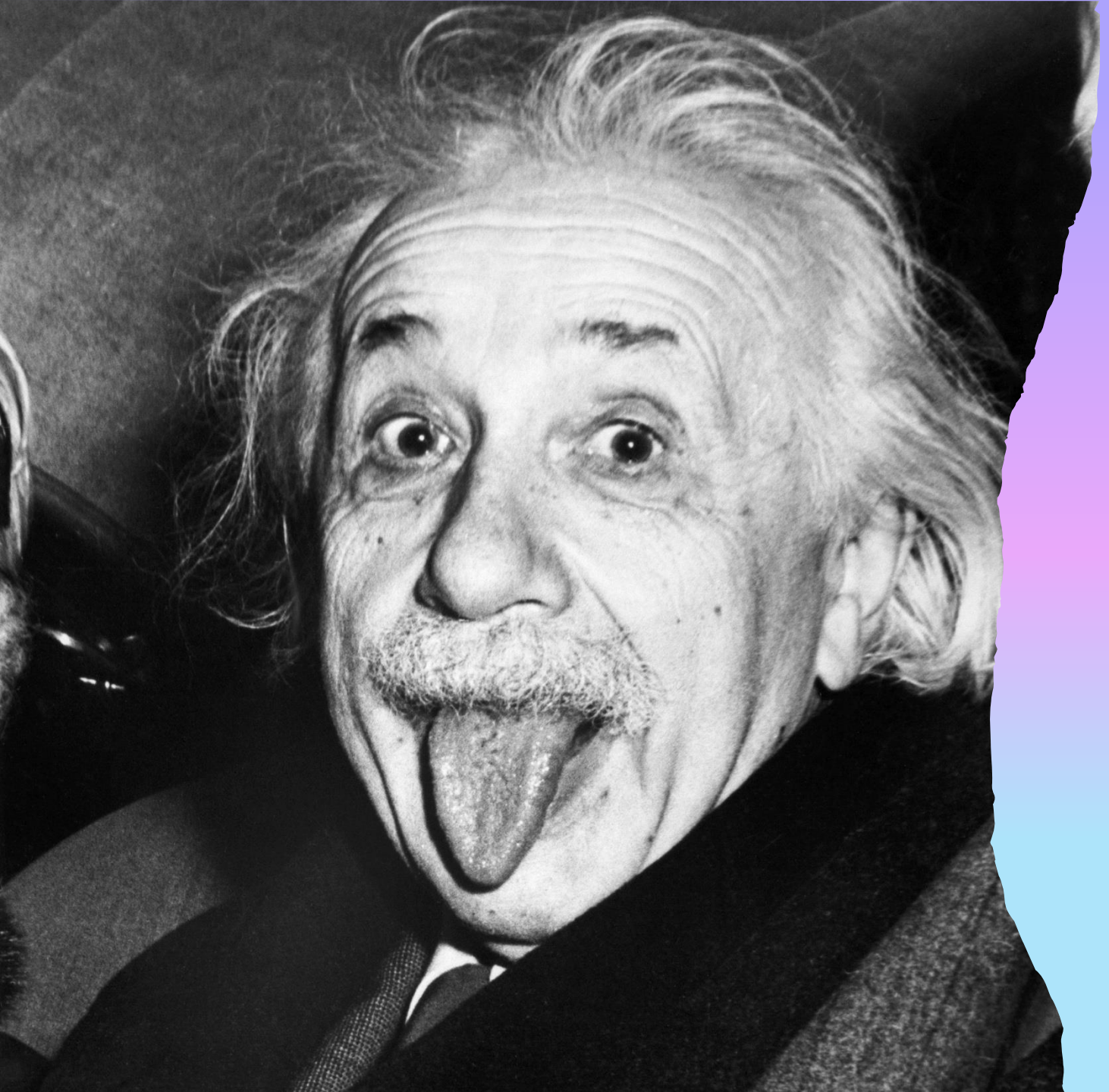
Jennifer Aniston

Actress from the programme 'Friends'

She played Rachel

Only found out in her 20's- she found school very hard

Uses her creativity in acting



Albert Einstein

- Famous scientist
- Highly intelligent and creative
- Struggled with spelling and grammar
- Visual thinker

Steve Jobs

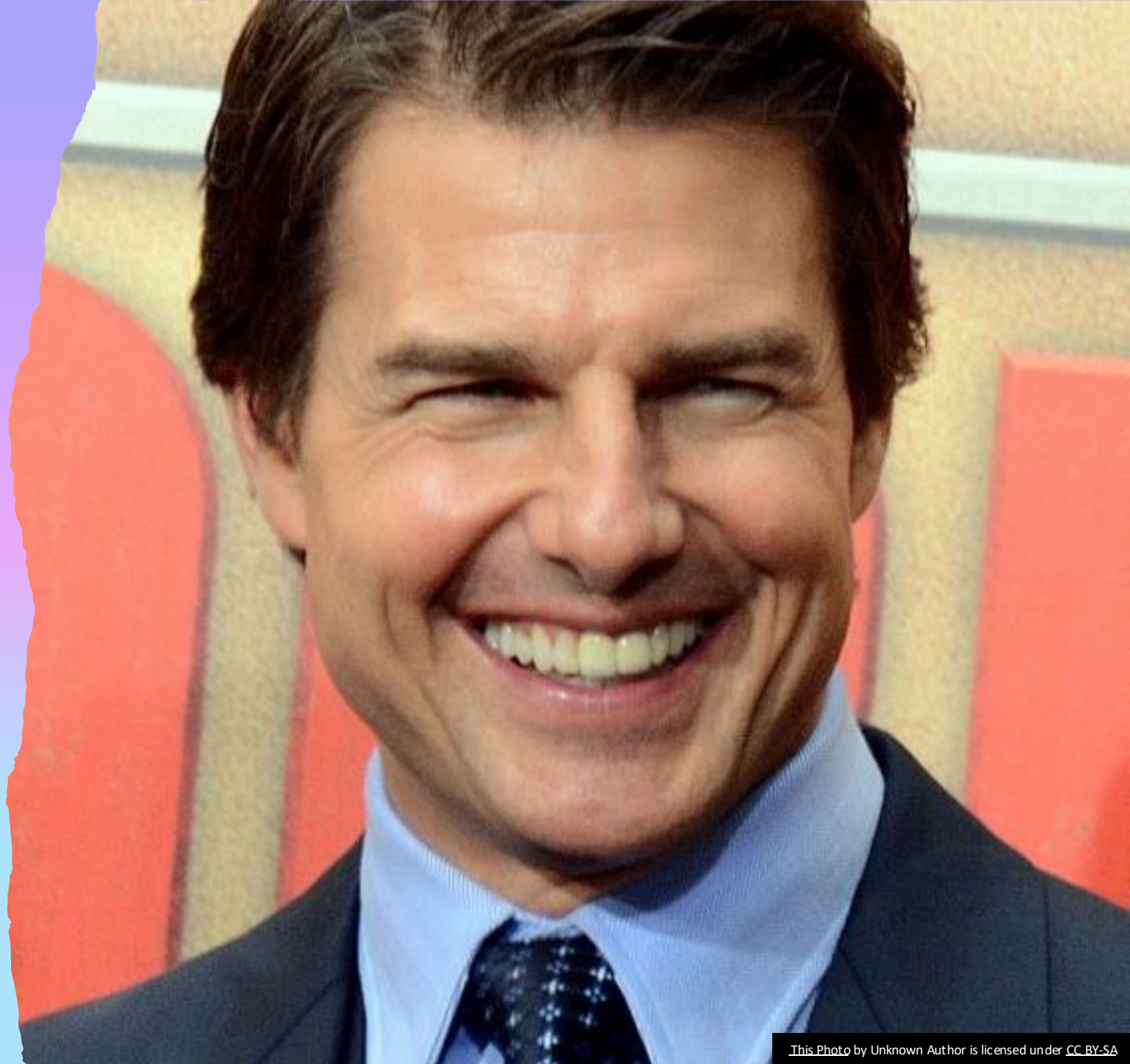
- Invented all of the Apple products
- Very successful and rich
- Creative, thought outside of the box, determined

Ed Sheeran

- Very famous English singer and songwriter
- Found it hard to express himself in school and felt like an outsider
- Very creative- writes and comes up with all the music for his songs

Tom Cruise

- Famous actor
- He found reading in class really difficulty and found he was mentally exhausted.
- Learning his lines through visual memory rather than scripts.



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Travis Kelce

American Football Player (NFL) and Taylor's Swift's future husband

Lifelong difficulties with reading, writing and spelling.

Uses podcasts and audio to help him learn or find out new information.

Tom Holland

- Played SpiderMan
- He has proved that Dyslexia does not have to stop you from learning scripts and being or doing the thing the love.

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The most famous celebrity of them all…..

- Very famous actress and amazingly talented person. Landed a star role in a big Christmas brand deal.
- This actress can often be seen around Blarney.
- Very creative and uses this creativity to help with her acting career.

Dyslexia Facts

It is just as common in boys and girls.

Dyslexia can run through families.

Dyslexia Awareness Month is celebrated in October every year.

It is more common to be Dyslexic than it is to be left-handed.

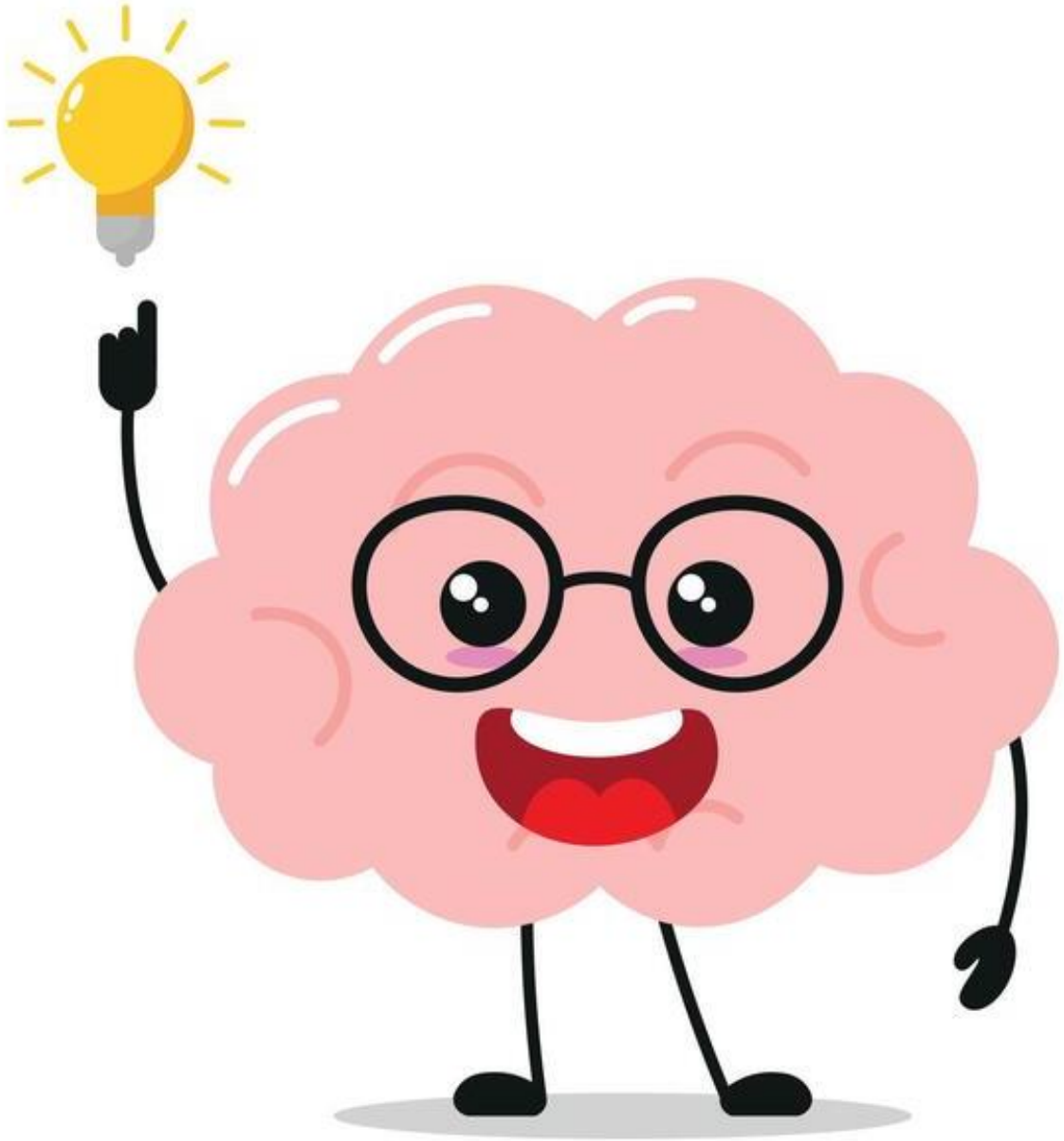
Dyslexia and Anxiety

- **Pressure at school:** It can be very stressful in school to constantly have to read, write and spell all day.

- Even just the thought of being picked on to read out loud can cause some children to feel very anxious.

- **Avoiding tasks:** Sometimes we can feel so exhausted that they may try to avoid reading and writing in school.

- This is sometimes misunderstood as laziness.



- **Confidence:** Sometimes we may feel not as smart as our classmates which is completely untrue.

- Our brains can learn information in many other ways. Written language can be more difficult to work out but we can also learn really well in other ways too.

How teachers can support children with Dyslexia

Break instructions up into smaller parts or chunks to stop information overload.

Allow extra time for reading and writing tasks.

Give children links to audiobooks, use lots of visuals and mind maps to plan ideas

Assistive Technology (laptops, text to speech, c-Pen, audiobooks and podcasts).

Support at school

Many of us get extra support from Support Teachers (Niamh and Amy) in this school.

Lots of us need extra help with different areas. The support teachers mostly work on reading, spelling and writing with Dyslexic students.

With the right help and support, we can learn ways that help us learn how to read and spell in a way that works for us.

No two children learn in the same way. Everybody should be able to learn in a way that works best for them.

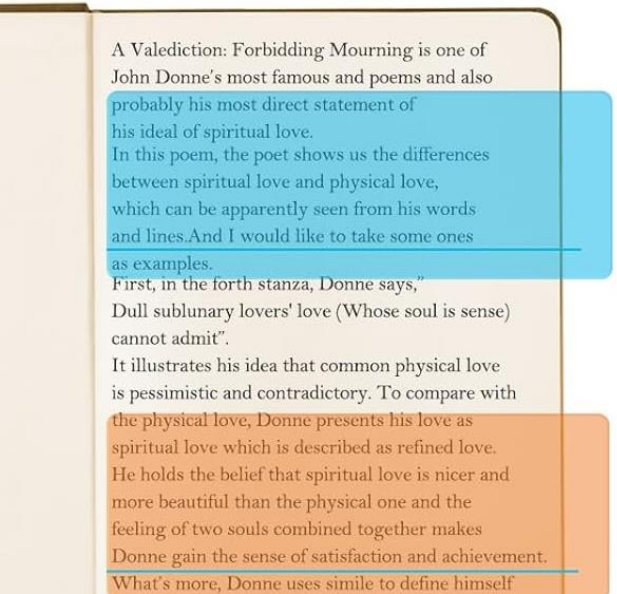
1:37 on

Dyslexia Ireland

Workshops in Scoil Mhuire gan Smál every week.

Children aged 8 to 16.

Dyslexic children go to workshops in small groups where they get extra support with reading and spelling. We also get to meet other people who can relate to how our brains work.



Coloured paper and overlays

- Many of us feel more comfortable reading on pastel or cream paper as it reduces visual stress and reduces the black and white contrast that can make words seem blurry or like they are moving.

How we can help our Dyslexic classmates and friends

Be patient- they may forget things or may get a bit flustered if you tell them too much information at once. Sometimes, it takes us an extra second to read tricky words so please don't say the word for us. We know how to say it but it might just take a bit longer.

Be kind- be kind to everyone and offer them help if needed. Remind them of how amazing they are and all the things they are good at. Listen to them if they are struggling.

Voice notes rather than text messages can also be helpful as it reduces pressure.

Our Advice about Dyslexia

Believe in yourself- you can do difficult things and you are intelligent and capable.

Find what you love to do. Dyslexia does not stop you from doing what you love.

Be kind and patient with yourself. Your brain works a little differently and you may have challenges that other people don't have.

Speak up for yourself. If something is stressing you, think of another way that you can complete it that works for you.

Dyslexia- True or False Quiz

1. Dyslexia means you cannot read or spell.

2. Dyslexics all see letters backwards.

3. Dyslexia can be noticed in children from the age of 3.

4. Dyslexic people cannot do well in school and do badly in tests.

5. Anyone who finds reading and spelling hard has Dyslexia.

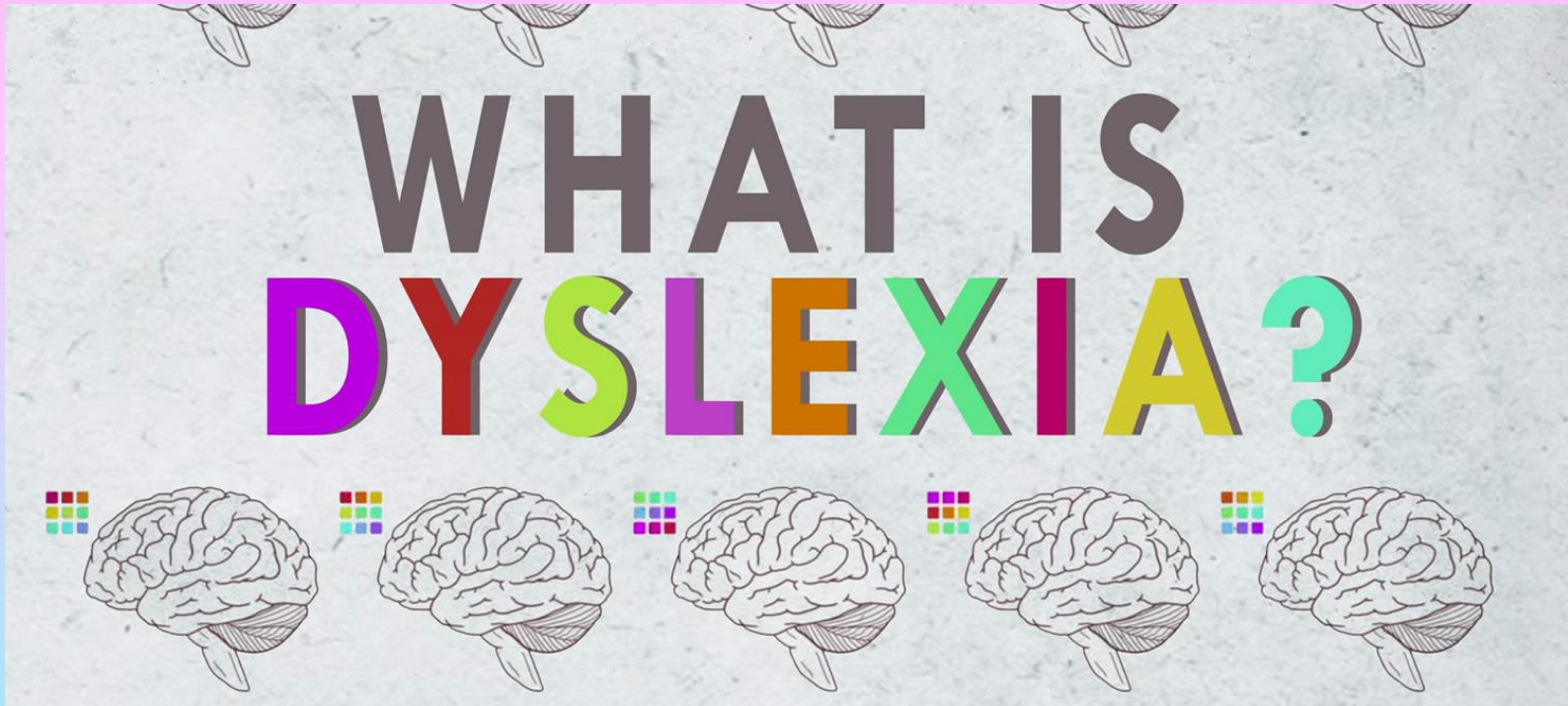
6. Dyslexia affects adults and children.

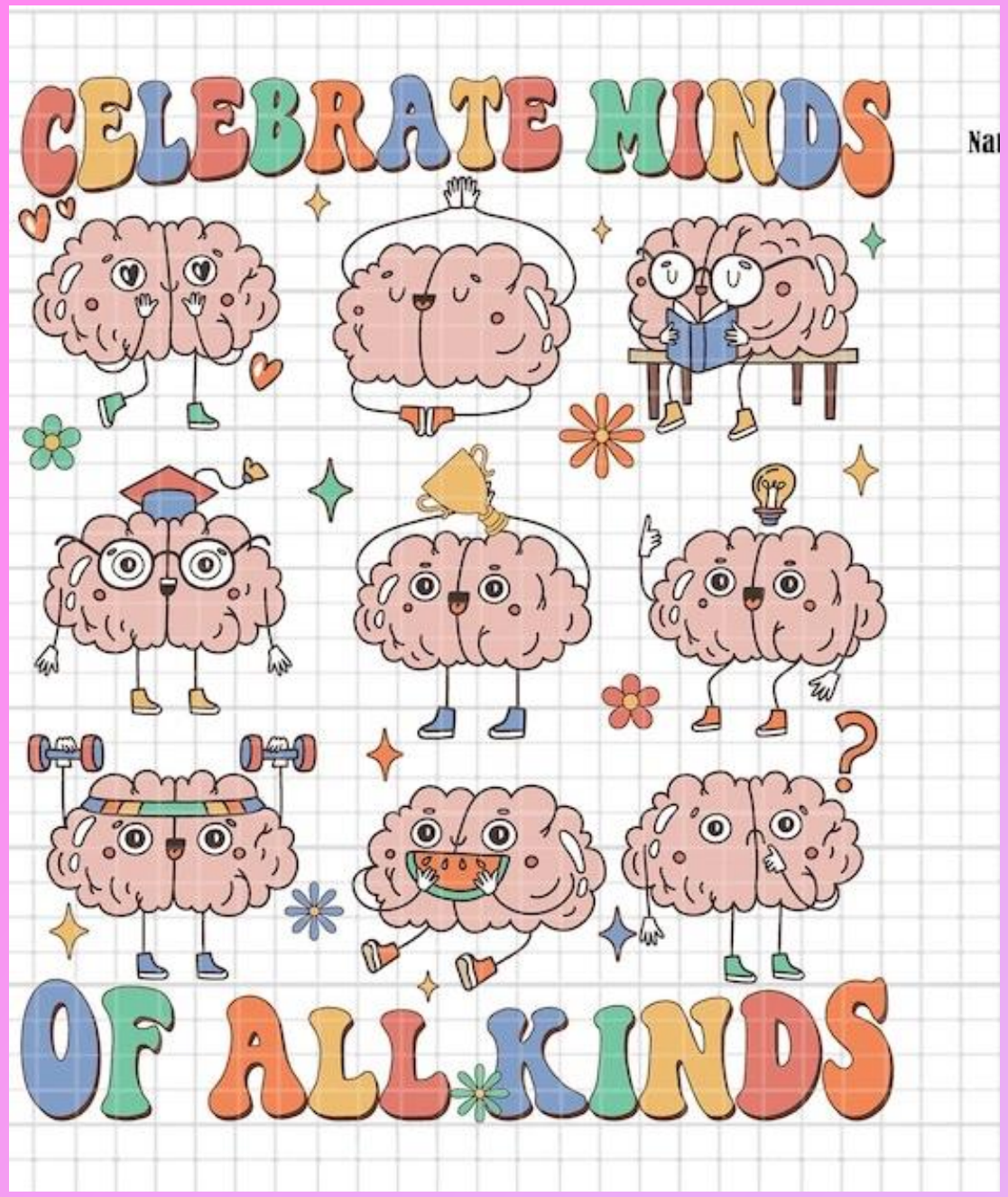
7. People with Dyslexia can be successful in any job

8. If you are Dyslexic, you hate reading and writing

Dyslexia Kahoot

https://create.kahoot.it/share/dyslexia-quiz/0b04fc04-c370-4072-9662-9bf250aa0cc0





- Being dyslexic or being neurodivergent does not define who you are as a person. AT ALL.
- You all have so many talents and skills regardless of how your brain works.
- Always be kind to yourself and others and remember that if everyone in the room was the same, it would be so boring.
- **Being different means being interesting. Our unique brains, ideas and talents are what make us special and should be celebrated.**