

Having ADHD is not a sentence for failure, you can succeed!
Check out these celebrities who are thriving with ADHD.

Business

Jeff Besos: Founder of *Amazon* & *Blue Origin*.

Ingavar Kamprad: Founder of *IKEA* empire.

Henry Ford: Founder of *Ford* cars.

Brandon Steiner: CEO *Steiner Sports*.

Tony Robbins: Motivational speaker, life coach.

John Lee Dumas: Entrepreneur and podcaster, wrote *Think And Grow Rich* and podcast *Entrepreneur on Fire*.

Andrew Carnegie: Founder of *Carnegie Steel*, *Carnegie Hall*, *Carnegie Mellon University* and more.

Malcolm Forbes: Founder of *Forbes Magazine*.

Bill Gates: CEO and founder of *Microsoft*.

Paul Orfalea: Founded copy chain *Kinko's*.

Ted Turner Entrepreneur, founder of *Cable News Network*.



credit: Tamara Mellon Twitter

Tamara Mellon

Founder of *Jimmy Choo*, the luxury shoe brand. Tamara thought of the idea of creating a shoe brand while she was in rehab. When she shared her idea, people suggested perhaps she could work in a shoe store first. However, like many ADHDers Tamara was a big thinker and created the Jimmy Choo empire. You can read all about her life and adventures in her memoir called *In my shoes*.

Sir Richard Branson

Billionaire and founder of all things *Virgin*. With over 400 companies in his empire Richard has achieved success in many areas of life, including business, relationships and humanitarian work. Learn about the secrets of his success [here](#).

Business

Keith Krach: Billionaire and CEO of *DocuSign*, the most trusted electronic signature software.

Werner Von Braun: Father of rocket technology and space science in America.

Brian Scudamore: Successful entrepreneur, CEO and founder of *1-800-GOT-JUNK?* and a few other companies.

Alan Meckler: Founder and Chairman of *Mecklermedia* corporation until 1998. He is presently Chairman and CEO of *Mediabistro Inc.*

Cameron Herold: Cameron appeared on a TED Talk to speak about his three massively successful companies, stating that ADHD traits can be an opportunity for entrepreneurs.

Walt Disney: Founded *Walt Disney World*.

Peter Shankman: CEO and founder of *HARO: Help A Reporter Out*.

David Needleman CEO of *Jet Blue*.

Elon Musk: Founder & CEO of *Tesla* automobiles, a highly successful, environmentally friendly electric car brand. Musk is widely believed to have ADHD based on his tendencies and behaviours displayed in his interviews.



credit: Seth Godin Twitter

Seth Godin

An American author, entrepreneur, marketer, and public speaker. Author of 18 best selling books including *Tribes*, *Purple Cow* and *What to do When It's Your Turn*. He is a thought leader and writes on his blog every day.

Matt Curry

Entrepreneur, writer and founder of the Hybrid Shop. Author of *The ADD Entrepreneur: How to Harness your Super Powers to Create a Kickass Company*.

Keith Lemer

Unable to concentrate on his 700-page textbook in University, Keith decided to start a business instead of finishing his term paper. Though his professors were impressed with his work, they still failed him. Today, Keith is the CEO of *WellNet Healthcare*, a health insurance provider that racks in \$150 million a year.

Athletes

Terry Bradshaw: Super Bowl champion, plays for the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Pete Rose: Former major league baseball player, Pete wrote a book about his life-long struggle with ADHD called "Pete Rose: My Prison Without Bars".

Babe Ruth: Former American baseball player in MLB, career spanning 22 seasons. Established many batting and pitching world records. Known for his unconventional lifestyle.

Greg Lemond: Cyclist, 3-time winner of the Tour De France.

Greg Louganis: The greatest diver in history, 4 times Gold Medal Olympic Champion.

Josh Freeman: NFL Quarterback for the Buccaneers, Josh has been approved to take his ADHD medication through the entirety of his career in football.

Cammi Granato: Captain of the U.S. women's hockey team, Cammi believes that winning gold was due in part to her ADHD, claiming that constant restlessness contributed to her drive on the ice.

Louis Smith: Olympic gold-medalist, professional gymnast, Louis believes that living with ADHD helped him achieve Olympic glory.



credit: Jeff Curry / Getty Images

Michael Phelps

Swimmer and most decorated Olympian ever! He has a total of 28 Olympic medals - 23 of which are gold medals and has competed in 5 Olympics. Learn about the lessons we can learn from him [here](#).

Michael Jordan

Professional super-star basketball player. Considered to be the greatest basketball player of all time, MJ is known for his skill, talent and burning desire to win.

Simone Biles

At just 19 years old, Simone Biles holds the title of being the most decorated American gymnast.

Magic Johnson

Retired professional basketball player for the Los Angeles Lakers, won NBA finals "Most Valuable Player Award".

Tim Howard

A record-breaking World Cup soccer player, Tim was diagnosed with ADHD, OCD, and Tourette's syndrome at a young age.

Inventors & Innovators

Alexander Graham Bell: Scientist, teacher for the deaf, engineer, invented the telephone.

Louis Pasteur: French biologist, microbiologist, discovered vaccinations.

Wright Brothers, Orville and Wilbur: Pioneers of aviation, achieved the first airplane flight.

Benjamin Franklin: One of the founding fathers of the United States. Scientist, inventor and founder of the *University of Pennsylvania*. Invented the lightning rod and Franklin stove.

Sir Isaac Newton: English mathematician, astronomer, physicist. Discovered calculus, gravity, and the three laws of motion.

Socrates: Classic Greek philosopher thought to have had ADHD.

Dean Kamen: Prolific inventor, Dean was nicknamed *Dino The Relentless* by his teachers. Diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia, Dean was set on following his own path to success.

Steve Jobs: Steve Jobs was the founder and CEO of a now trillion-dollar company *Apple*. Steve is remembered for his perfectionism, attention to detail, determination and hyper focus.



credit: Rob Bodman

Stephen Hawking

Accomplished physicist, missed by many, wrote *A Brief History of Time* and many other accomplishments while battling Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis for over 50 years.

Albert Einstein

Theoretical physicist. There are no words needed to describe this legend.

Galileo de' Galilei

Italian physicist, mathematician, astronomer and philosopher, contributed to the Scientific Revolution.

Scott Kelly

Astronaut Scott Kelly was certain from a young age that he was living with ADHD, however at the time, a formal diagnosis did not exist. Scott claims he promised himself every year to focus in class, but always failed. Now, due to his innovative research in space flight, humans may soon be able to fly to Mars.

Artists

Salvador Dali: Formerly accomplished Spanish surrealist painter, known for his imaginative hallucinations he painted.

Pablo Picasso: Painter, sculptor, most influential artist of the 20th century, artist of all forms.

Peter Hurley: World famous photographer.

Auguste Rodin: Celebrated french artist & sculptor of "*The Thinker*".



credit: Leonardo Da Vinci .net

Leonardo Da Vinci

Led the Italian Renaissance, painter of the Mona Lisa, inventor and sculptor. Prime example of a universal genius with unquenchable curiosity.

Vincent Van Gogh

Renowned post-impressionist painter, among the most famous Western art figures.

Authors

Edgar Allen Poe: Celebrated poet of the 19th century, Edgar was a writer, editor, and critic of literary works.

George Bernard Shaw: Playwright, critic, activist for political issues, had profound influence on the world of theatre, culture and politics in the 19th century.

Leo Tolstoy: Critically acclaimed author, wrote *War and Peace*.

Henry David Thoreau: Famous essayist, poet and philosopher best known for his belief in civil obedience.

Tennessee Williams: Pulitzer-prize winning playwright of the 20th century.

Virginia Woolf: Renowned novelist, having written novels and pioneering essays. Work centred around artistic theory, women's rights and politics.

Katherine Elison: Pulitzer-prize winning journalist turned author.

Agatha Christie: World's best-selling author of all time. Wrote detective novels and short stories.

Ernest Hemingway: Accomplished short story novelist, journalist. Author of the famous *Moby Dick*.

Charlotte Bronte: English best-selling author, wrote *Jane Eyre*.

Emily Bronte: Related to Charlotte, Emily is also an accomplished novelist, notable works include *Wuthering Heights*.

Samuel Clemens: Best known as Mark Twain, was an author, entrepreneur, publisher, lecturer and an all-around funny guy.



credit: Macdara Smith

Robert Frost

Poet of the 19th century, best known of all American poets. Famous quote: *Two roads diverged in a wood, and I, I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.* -Robert Frost

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Successful writer, lecturer, and philosopher, his most famous essay is called *Self-Reliance*. Leader of the transcendentalist movement.

William Butler Yeats

Awarded a *Nobel Peace Prize* in 1928, William was regarded for his influential poems and literature in the 20th century.

Hans Christian Anderson

Author of well-known children's fairytales such as *The Ugly Duckling*, *The Princess and the Pea* & *The Little Mermaid*.

Lisa Ling

Journalist Lisa Ling was diagnosed with ADHD at age 40, during a filming of her series *My America With Lisa Ling*.

Actors & TV Celebrities

Kirk Douglas: One of the last surviving stars of the Golden Age, at 101 years old, Kirk still works out everyday with a personal trainer.

Anne Bancroft: An American actress, entertainer, director and singer, Anne had a profound influence on method acting school.

Jack Nicholson: Known for many memorable performances in hits such as *The Shining*, Nicholson has lived a fulfilling life with his ADHD.

Dustin Hoffman: Talented American actor and director, Hoffman is known for his method acting, where he tries to become the character he's playing. Dustin has had a career in film since 1960, all while having ADHD. In 1988, Dustin portrayed an autistic man in *Rain Man*.

Sylvester Stallone: Alongside being diagnosed with ADHD, Sylvester is best known for his acting, directing, producing and writing, along with his dynamic roles in action movies.

Henry Winkler: Winkler is very open about his struggle with dyslexia in addition to ADHD, having written a children's book featuring a main character with dyslexia. He is also an accomplished actor and director.

Danny Glover: Famous actor and political activist, Danny Glover rose to fame despite his battle with dyslexia and ADHD.

Salma Hayek: Oscar nominated actress. Brought Mexican painter Frida Kahlo to life in the movie *Frida*.



credit: Getty Images

Tom Cruise

Known for his brilliant smile and dashing personality, Tom Cruise is a famous actor and producer. In his earlier years, Cruise once described himself as a "functional illiterate", having been diagnosed with dyslexia at age 7.

Patrick McKenna

Not only is Patrick McKenna an accomplished actor with ADHD, he also advocates for the gifts ADHD has brought to his life, creating an award-winning documentary called *ADD and Loving It* with fellow comedian Rick Green. McKenna also tours schools and conferences telling his story. Patrick has starred in TV series such as *The Red Green Show* and *Traders*.

Tom Hanks

Movie star. Tom Hanks has won 2 Oscars for *Best Actor*. He credits his success to having ADHD (not in spite of it). He has starred in many brilliant movies including *Philadelphia*, *Bridge of Spies*, *Forrest Gump*, *Saving Private Ryan*, *The Da Vinci Code* and *Toy Story*.

Actors & TV Celebrities

Alfred Hitchcock: Known for his famous movie *The Birds*, Alfred Hitchcock is one of the most influential producers in film history.

Sir Anthony Hopkins: Having struggled with ADHD and dyslexia as a child, Sir Anthony Hopkins was labelled a “problem child” growing up. Despite his struggle, Hopkins amassed great success in acting and is considered one of the world’s greatest living actors.

Christopher Knight: Actor known for portraying Peter, the middle child brother in *The Brady Bunch*.

James Stewart: American actor and officer of the military, Stewart was one of the most popular actors of the 20th century, starring in the holiday classic *It’s A Wonderful Life*.

Evil & Robbie Knievel: Evil Knievel was a well-known American stunt performer, who passed down his legacy to Robbie Knievel, also a well known daredevil and stunt performer.

Ty Pennington: Former model and actor, Ty Pennington now hosts television shows, alongside carpentry and writing. Known for his energetic personality, Pennington attributes it all to living with ADHD.



credit: Getty Images

Ryan Gosling

Oscar nominated actor, writer, director. Ryan began his career starring in *Disney Channel’s Mickey Mouse Club*. He has starred in movies such as *The Notebook*, *Lars and the Real Girl* and *The Big Short*.

Will Smith

Singer and actor. Known for his breakthrough role in *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, Will’s success runs in the family; both of his children are successful musicians and actors. Will has won 4 Grammy awards. He is also a 2-time Oscar nominated actor for his role in *Ali*, a movie about Muhammad Ali, and *The Pursuit of Happiness*. Will has recently become a YouTube personality, and continues to think outside the box.

Channing Tatum

Charismatic and charming, Channing Tatum is best known for his success in *21 Jump Street* and *Magic Mike*. Despite his success, Channing still battles with ADHD and dyslexia.

Actors & TV Celebrities

Bex Taylor-Klaus: Playing lead roles in hit TV shows such as *Arrow* and *House Of Lies*, Taylor went to multiple schools as a child due to her ADHD.

Lindsay Wagner: Though Lindsay had low grades in high school due to dyslexia, she rose to fame as a well-known actress in several TV shows.

Woody Harrelson: Best known for his role as the bartender on *Cheers*, Woody thrives in the acting business, despite having been diagnosed with dyslexia and ADHD.

Wendy Davis: Successful actress known for her role in *Army Wives*, Wendy believes:

"ADHD makes you different, not defective."

-Wendy Davis

Jim Caviezel: Best known for portraying Jesus in *Passion Of The Christ*, Jim was diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia at age 25.

Matt Morgan: Professional actor and wrestler, known for his appearance in *American Gladiators*, under the nickname *Beast*.

George C. Scott: Talented stage and film actor, director and producer.



credit: Xinhua/Landov /Barcroft Media

Steve Rodney McQueen

Renowned movie director of legendary *12 Years A Slave*. He is also a film producer, screenwriter and artist. McQueen was removed from his regular classes as a child due to his dyslexia.

Mariette Hartley

Despite being diagnosed with ADHD and bipolar disorder, Mariette won an Emmy for her role in *The Incredible Hulk*. Mariette is very open about her life with ADHD and bipolar disorder, hosting videos to help adults manage their ADHD. She is also the founder of the *American Foundation for Suicide Prevention*.

Pete Nelson

An expert treehouse builder, Pete Nelson hosts the well-loved *Animal Planet: Treehouse Masters* show.

Michelle Rodriguez

Actress known for her starring role in the *Lost* series, *Fast & Furious* series, and *Avatar*.

Comedians

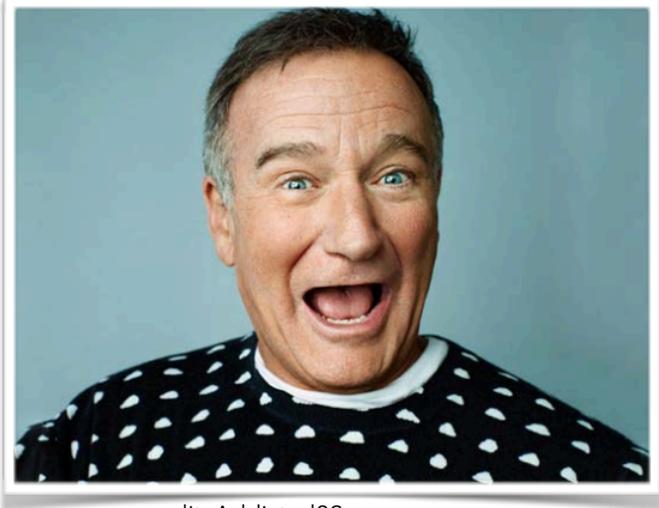
Rick Green: Satirical comedian, writer, actor & director. Creator of *History Bites*. Green is the winner of *Gemini*, *Actra* and *New York* festival awards. Directed the documentary *ADD & Loving It*. Rick has also founded the ADHD resource website *TotallyADD.com*, and authored *ADD Stole My Keys*.

Jim Carrey: Celebrated for his goofy personality and profound honesty about show business, Carrey is a successful actor and comedian. He is also very passionate about art.

Howie Mandel: TV personality, actor, comedian, host of *Deal Or No Deal*.

Whoopi Goldberg: Comedian, actress & host on daytime show *The View*. Acted in the movie *The Colour Purple* and other films. Known for her role as *Guinan* in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

Rory Bremner: Comedian and impressionist who specializes in political mockery. Since being diagnosed with ADHD, Rory campaigns to raise awareness about adults dealing with ADHD.



credit: Addicted2Success

Robin Williams

Everyone loved Robin Williams. When he passed away, the sad news affected people all over the world on a deep level. We know he was a talented actor and comedian and after his death, many people shared personal stories of how he touched their lives. He had empathy and sweetness that resonated with us all.

Patte Rosenbank

Comedian, voice artist and writer, Patte believes that living with ADHD has shaped her into the woman she is today. Originally from Toronto, Canada, Patte has dealt with bullying, different schools and thoughts of suicide in her younger years. Despite her struggles, Patte is now a well-loved comedian.

Political Leaders

James Carville: Political commentator & media personality, lead strategist.

John F. Kennedy: The 35th President of the United States. People who met him used to describe him as having vibrant energy.

George S. Patton: One of the most successful United States field commanders of any war.

Dwight D. Eisenhower: 34th President of the United States, served as an American Army General.

Eleanor Roosevelt: America's first lady, diplomat, activist.

Nelson Rockefeller: 41st Vice-President of the United States, Rockefeller was a strong politician, businessman and industrialist.



credit: Gamma Keystone via Getty Images

Winston Churchill

British army officer, politician, writer and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Churchill was a key allied strategist during World War II. He was known for his unconventional habits & ideas.

Woodrow Wilson

28th President of the United States.

Thomas Jefferson

Contributed to the U.S. Declaration of Independence, first Secretary of State.

Daniel Koh

Chief of staff to the Mayor of Boston, Koh was named *Forbes Magazine's 30 Under 30* at age 26. Daniel has two degrees from Harvard, and believes his ADHD is his strength, as it caused him to learn habits he would have never learned otherwise.

Musicians

Harry Belafonte: Pop star, songwriter, social activist.

Amadeus Mozart: Famous classical music composer, among one of the most gifted musicians of all time.

Ludwig Van Beethoven: Despite being hard of hearing, Ludwig was a renowned German composer & pianist during the Classical and Romantic eras.

Will-I-Am: Rapper, singer, songwriter, DJ record producer, vegan enthusiast.

Ozzy Osbourne: English singer, songwriter and actor. Rock and roll icon.

Stevie Wonder: American singer, songwriter, record producer, blind but persevered and rose to success in the music industry.

Solange Knowles: Sister to Beyoncé, Solange was told by two doctors that she had ADHD before she believed it. Solange is an accomplished singer, songwriter and actress.

Audra McDonald: Six time Tony Award-winning singer and actress. Audra thanked her parents in her acceptance speech: *"I want to thank my mom and dad up in heaven for disobeying the doctor's orders and not medicating their hyperactive daughter and finding out what she's into instead."*
-Audra McDonald

Justin Bieber: Pop culture icon and fantastic singer Justin Bieber believes he has ADHD, stating: *"I think I have ADD, ADHD or something like that when my mind doesn't work properly. I'm getting restless."*
-Justin Bieber



credit: Getty Images

Justin Timberlake

Singer-songwriter, actor, record producer. JT is an all around performer. He can sing, dance and has incredible stage presence. He is funny, genuine and can fill a huge stadium in 6 minutes.

Britney Spears

Pop Icon. Britney is a Grammy award winning singer. She has sold 100 million albums and over 100 million singles, making her one of the best-selling music artists of all time.

Cher

Commonly referred to as *The Goddess of Pop*, Cher is a celebrated singer, Burlesque dancer and actress.

Elvis Presley

Western cultural icon. Legendary singer and actor, known as the *King of Rock and Roll*.

Adam Levine

Other Famous Figures

Dave Farrow: Guinness world record holder for longest held memory and speed reading. Advocates for those with ADHD through social media.

Paris Hilton: Paris Hilton is a famous television personality, socialite, model and singer. Hilton was declared New York's *It Girl* in 2001.

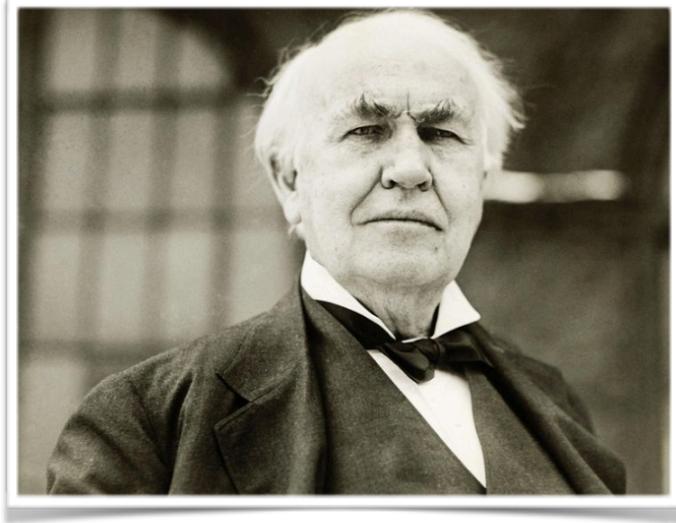
Caitlyn (formerly Bruce) Jenner: Reality TV celebrity and former track & field Olympian. Caitlyn has become a role model for people who are transgender & continues to speak openly about her life since the transition.

Karina Smirnoff: Professional dancer on *Dancing With The Stars*, winner of the 13th season.

David Blaine: Professional magician and artist of endurance, Blaine has set a few world records with his astounding acts.

Heston Blumenthal: *Michelin's* star chef. He is also the proprietor of *The Fat Duck in Brey* restaurant.

Jamie Oliver: Celebrity chef known for his tasteful cuisine and television appearances. His recipes are used and loved all over the world. Jamie made it his mission to introduce affordable, fresh & healthy food in public school cafeterias in the United Kingdom which used to offer frozen & ready made options.



Thomas Edison
credit:Underwood & Underwood/Corbis

People with Asperger's Syndrome or Dyslexia

In addition to many stars being diagnosed with ADHD, Asperger's syndrome and dyslexia were very prevalent in the 19th century. Famous figures such as Ludwig Van Beethoven (musician) and Albert Einstein (physicist) were known to have shown signs of autism. Other historic figures such as Thomas Jefferson (politician), Vincent Van Gogh (artist) and Amadeus Mozart (musician) also showed signs of high functioning autism. Renowned inventor Thomas Edison had trouble with reading and numbers from a young age, leading him to only start school at age 10. Despite his prolific inventions, Thomas was described as a distraction in the classroom by his teachers. It was not soon after that Thomas landed a job as a telegraph operator, which allowed him to hone his skills as an inventor and go on to make history.