

The term **twice-exceptional** or **2e** refers to individuals acknowledged as gifted and [neurodivergent](#). On literal sense, it means a person (usually a child or student but can also be an adult), is at the same time, very strong or [gifted](#) at some task, and very weak or unable in some other task. Due to this duality of their cognitive profile, the strengths as well as weaknesses and struggles may remain unnoticed or unsupported. Also conditions like [hyperlexia](#) or precocious development in some aspects, while having difficulties in common or day-to day tasks, these people may frequently face contradictory situations which lead to disbelief, judgements, [alienation](#), and other forms of [epistemic injustice](#). Some related terms are "**performace discrepancy**", "**cognitive discrepancy**", "**uneven cognitive profile**", and "**spikey profile**". Due to simultaneous combination of abilities and inabilities, these people do not often fit into an *age-appropriate* or *socially-appropriate* [niche](#). An extreme form of twice-exceptionalism is [Savant syndrome](#). The individuals often identify with the description of twice-exceptional due to their unique combination of exceptional abilities and [neurodivergent](#) traits. The term twice-exceptional first appeared in Dr. James J. Gallagher's 1988 article titled National Agenda for Educating Gifted Students: Statement of Priorities.^[2] Twice-exceptional individuals embody two distinct forms of exceptionalism: one being giftedness and the other including at least one aspect of [neurodivergence](#). Giftedness is often defined in various ways and is influenced by entities ranging from local educational boards to national governments;^[3] however, one constant among every definition is that a gifted individual has high ability compared to their age-level [neurotypical](#) peers. The term [neurodivergent](#) describes an individual whose cognitive processes differ from those considered [neurotypical](#) and who possesses strengths that exceed beyond the [neurotypical](#) population. Therefore, the non-clinical designation of twice-exceptional identifies a gifted person with at least one [neurodivergent](#) trait.^[4]