

Brad Pitt says he suffers from facial blindness

11th July, 2022



Hollywood heart-throb Brad Pitt has revealed he suffers from facial blindness. This is a neurological disorder that causes people to find it difficult to recognize people's faces. In more serious cases, sufferers can draw a blank when seeing

the face of a family member or even one's own face. The condition is called prosopagnosia. It is a little-known ailment that afflicts about 1 in 40 people. It often triggers anxiety as people feel embarrassed in social situations when they struggle to remember who people are. Sufferers tend to avoid situations in which they will meet people, and as a result become withdrawn. In extreme cases, they will be reluctant to leave their home.

Brad Pitt, 58, says he has not been officially diagnosed with prosopagnosia. He first spoke about it in 2013. He said nobody believed him when he could not recall their name. He worried that people thought he was being "aloof, inaccessible and self-absorbed". He said: "People hate me because they think I'm disrespecting them." He said he has used many strategies to get around his lack of recall. He asked acquaintances where he had met them before, but said that made the situation worse. He explained: "People were more offended....You get this thing, like, 'You're being egotistical. You're being conceited.'" He hopes speaking about facial blindness will raise awareness of it.

Sources: cnn.com / metro.co.uk / wikipedia.org

Writing

Famous people should talk more about medical problems. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Hollywood / heart-throb / facial blindness / faces / blank / ailment / anxiety / reluctant / officially / worried / aloof / hate / strategies / lack / recall / acquaintances / awareness

True / False

- 1) Brad Pitt has revealed he's going blind. T / F
- 2) People with facial blindness find it difficult to draw. T / F
- 3) About one in forty people suffer from facial blindness. T / F
- 4) People who have facial blindness never leave their house. T / F
- 5) Brad Pitt was diagnosed with facial blindness last week. T / F
- 6) Brad Pitt worries that people think he's being aloof. T / F
- 7) Brad Pitt has tried many things to put names to faces. T / F
- 8) Brad Pitt hopes that he can raise awareness of prosopagnosia. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. revealed | a. unfriendly |
| 2. disorder | b. apprehension |
| 3. anxiety | c. upset |
| 4. struggle | d. disclosed |
| 5. reluctant | e. approaches |
| 6. aloof | f. contacts |
| 7. strategies | g. hesitant |
| 8. acquaintances | h. disease |
| 9. offended | i. consciousness |
| 10. awareness | j. stumble |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think about Brad Pitt?
- c) Do you ever draw a blank?
- d) What do you do if you forget someone's name?
- e) How do you feel if someone forgets your name?
- f) Has anyone accused you of being aloof or egotistical?
- g) How can we raise awareness of facial blindness?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Brad Pitt?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. This is a neurological | a. was being aloof |
| 2. sufferers can draw a | b. to leave their home |
| 3. It often triggers | c. of it |
| 4. Sufferers tend to | d. officially diagnosed |
| 5. they will be reluctant | e. disorder |
| 6. Brad Pitt, 58, says he has not been | f. acquaintances |
| 7. people thought he | g. avoid situations |
| 8. He asked | h. worse |
| 9. that made the situation | i. anxiety |
| 10. raise awareness | j. blank |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Brad Pitt?
- What do you know about facial blindness?
- Are you good at remembering people's faces?
- Are you good at remembering facts?
- When was the last time you forgot someone's name?
- Do you ever feel embarrassed in social situations?
- Do you ever avoid social situations?
- What advice do you have for Brad Pitt?

Spelling

- Hollywood hetra-rboth Brad Pitt
- This is a iucllnrgaooe disorder
- errsfesuf can draw a blank
- It is a little-known ainemtl
- that tliaffcs about 1 in 40 people
- they will be tturealcn to leave
- he has not been officially esgdniaod
- being aloof, lciaescsbien and self-absorbed
- He asked niaccaqnutsea
- People were more eefdfdon
- You're being asoetcltgij
- You're being enedcctoi

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. b	4. j	5. g
6. a	7. e	8. f	9. c	10. i

Role Play

Role A – People's Names

You think people's names are the worst things to forget. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): passwords, where you put your phone or English words.

Role B – Passwords

You think passwords are the worst things to forget. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): people's names, where you put your phone or English words.

Role C – Where You Put Your Phone

You think where you put your phone is the worst thing to forget. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): passwords, people's names or English words.

Role D – English Words

You think English words are the worst things to forget. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): passwords, where you put your phone or people's names.

Speaking – Things we forget

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| • People's names | • Homework |
| • Where you put your phone | • Birthdays |
| • English words | • What day it is |
| • Appointments | • Passwords |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 F	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 T
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.