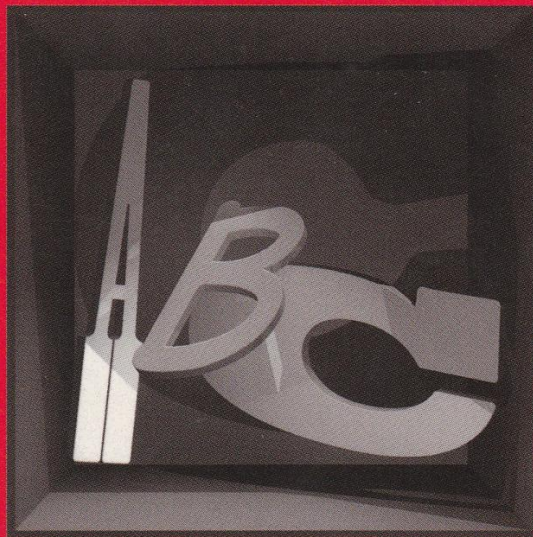


# *The* Cyclopedic Education Dictionary



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**Symbolic racism** The tending of the media in the 1980s and 1990s to report extensively on certain social problems of some African Americans such as crime, drugs, and long-term dependence on the social-welfare system. The media do provide a balanced view of the large numbers of African Americans who do not have such problems.

**Sympathetic nervous system (SNS)** That division of the autonomic nervous system that is responsible for our "fight-or-flight" emergency reactions, as well as those associated with emotional expressions such as fear and anger responses.

**Symptom severity** A standard of classification that alludes to the degree from the norm (average) the symptom deviates.

**Symptomatic epilepsy** Also known as acquired epilepsy, this is a condition characterized by convulsions as a result of brain damage caused by such things as drug or alcohol intoxication, encephalitis, trauma, tumors, or other pathologies.

**Synapse** The point of junction between two neurons through which transmission of nerve impulses takes place. In this neural pathway, the axon terminal of one neuron is in close proximity to the dendrites of another. The impulses travel in one direction from the first neuron to the second, and so on.

**Synaptic cleft** The narrow space between the axon terminal of a sending neuron and the membrane of a receiving neuron. Often, the axon terminal is a swelling, shaped like a knob or bulb. In that case, the receiving membrane seems to form a pocket around the knob, as if a cleft had been chipped out of the membrane. These sending and receiving membranes are between 200 and 300 Angstrom units apart.

**Syndrome** Symptoms characterized by certain patterns, collections, or groupings that are usually found in specific diseases or disabilities.

**Syndrome description** A standard of classification that often describes special

needs or special education disorders in technical language or medical terms.

**Synophrys** Eyebrows that tend to grow together or meet.

**Syntax** The grammar of our language that involves combining words to form sentences and paragraphs. In effect, syntax contributes to how we determine the meaning of our words and sentences.

**Synthetic speech** The combination of sounds into phonemes and words to produce speech by means of a computer; usually resulting in (an) artificially produced speech sound(s); sometimes the sound produced is stunted and tinny in nature.

**Synthetic touch** Pertains to the touching or feeling of an object; that is, synthetic touch involves the tactile handling and experience or the information one receives as a result. The object may be held in one or both hands and is usually of a size to be so handled (i.e.,

**Synthisophy** The integration of socially pertinent information derived from the study of history into present culture.

direct contact between persons usually as a result of sexual intercourse. The spirochete *treponema pallidum* enters through broken skin or mucous membrane. In the primary stage (two to four weeks), a lesion (papule to small ulcer or chancre) appears on the prepuce or vulva. In the secondary stage (six weeks after the primary lesion appears), an eruption of the skin involving a rash (reddish brown spots) appears; this stage may also include headache, malaise, and fever. In the tertiary stage, the heart, blood vessels, and the central nervous system are affected. Laboratory tests are available to diagnose this condition. The antibiotic treatment of choice is penicillin. SEE: *veneral disease (VD)*

**System of Multicultural Pluralistic Assessment (SOMPA)** A special assessment developed in 1977 by J. Mercer and J. F. Lewis to help identify gifted minority children. It uses traditional measures of intelligence but weighs the