CHARACTERISTICS

Schizophrenia affects 1 in 100 people in their lifetime, between the ages of 15-35, each with very different symptoms from each other.

Positive Symptoms: In addition to “normal” behaviours.

- **Hallucinations**: Perceptions that are unreal. Many people report auditory hallucinations, such as hearing sounds or voices. For example, Kathryn (2009) estimated that 20% of people have experienced tactile hallucinations (someone is touching their skin). Includes formication (insects crawling under the skin)
- **Delusions**: Beliefs that are unreal. Persecution (the belief that someone is out to harm them). Grandiosity (the belief that the individual is special in some way)
- **Disordered Thinking**: Evident through speech (“derailment” or “Knight’s move thinking”). “Thought Insertion” the person believes the thoughts have been placed by a third person

Negative Symptoms: Taken away from “normal” behaviours.

- **Alogia**: Poverty of speech – people with schizophrenia lack meaning
- **Avolition**: No Motivation – No desire to take part in activities (including work, school or relationships). Distinct lack of goal-directed behaviours
- **Anhedonia**: Does not react to appropriately to pleasurable experiences. (“inappropriate responses”)
- **The flatness of Effect**: Individual has no emotions – little to no facial expression – such as smiling. Their behaviours can be interpreted by others as apathetic. Speech patterns are monotonous and do not rise and fall as normal speech patterns do

**Catatonic Behaviours**: Fast, repetitive, useless movements to little or no movement at all. This may also make unexpected gestures and emit loud utterances. Echopraxia (mimicking the movements of others around them). Echolalia (imitating speech). An individual may experience immobility for long periods of time.