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Neuroticism

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Definition

Having a neurotic condition or mental disorder that causes distress or mild dysfunction but does not interfere with rational thought or the persons' ability to function. This is in contrast to psychosis that refers to more severe disorders. Neuroticism is a key construct in psychoanalytical theories where distress is triggered by unconscious defense mechanisms for unresolved conflicts (Sigmund Freud) or conflict between two psychic contents, one of which must be unconscious (Carl

Jung). Neuroticism is also one of the five domains of the NEO-Personality Inventory, comprised of six facets: anxiety, depression, angry hostility, self-consciousness, impulsivity, and vulnerability.

Cross-References

- ▶ [NEO-Personality Inventory](#)
- ▶ [Neurosis](#)
- ▶ [Neurotic Disorder](#)

References and Readings

Matthews, G., & Deary, I. J. (1998). *Personality traits*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.