

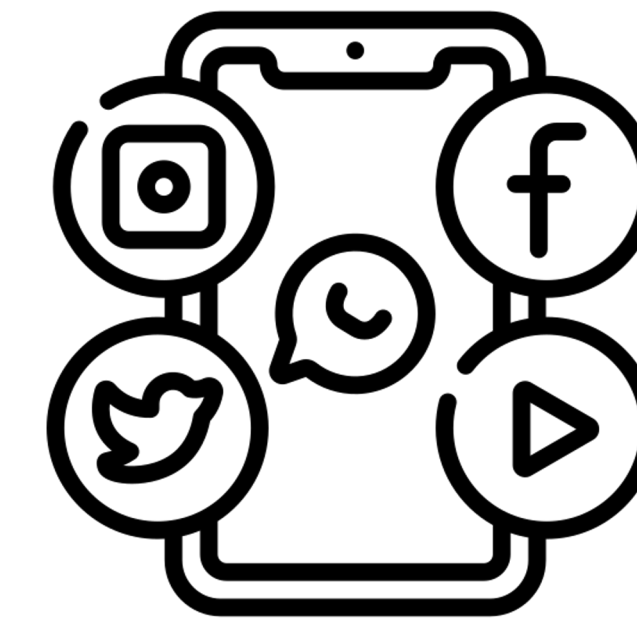
Exploring the Illustrations on the @juststutter Instagram Account

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INTRODUCTION:

- People who stutter (PWS) have experienced **benefits** when utilizing social media-specific websites and online-based applications to **digitally connect and share** with other PWS (Dignazio et al., 2020; Raj & Daniels, 2017; Raj et al., 2023).



- One of the most popular social media platforms currently is **Instagram**, in which **40%** of American adults use it to **digitally connect and share** with others, as well as consume specific content that is **relevant** to their lives (Pew Research, 2021).
- @juststutter is a public Instagram account that was created by Willemijn Bolks, a person who stutters, who frequently illustrates **stuttering-related thoughts and experiences** through **comic-like drawings** paired with **text**.

Willemijn Bolks



Example #1



Example #2



OUR RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What are the **reasons** that PWS choose to follow the @juststutter Instagram account?
2. In what ways do PWS **describe their experiences** of following the @juststutter Instagram account?

METHODS:

- Qualitative research approach. Online survey to PWS who follow @juststutter on Instagram. 127 participants shared perspectives and specific examples. Data analysis occurred to identify key themes.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

- What are your thoughts about the @juststutter Instagram account? What do you like? What do you dislike?
- Why did you choose to follow the @juststutter Instagram account?
- Is there a particular post on the @juststutter Instagram account that stood out to you? If so, which one and why?

RESULTS:

- **Thanks to the @juststutter account, PWS feel like they belong to a "specific community."** For example, "...others who understand" and "a community of people that are dealing with something similar." "Thanks to this account... I found my people."
- **Thanks to the @juststutter account, PWS feel compelled to share posts to "join this movement."** For example, it "...points out things that people need to be aware of" and now PWS can easily "educate friends and family."
- **Thanks to the @juststutter account, PWS can grow and evolve by examining themselves through @juststutter's posts.** For example, "I typically rush and try to force myself through my stutter but after seeing this post, it reminded me that people can wait as long as it takes for me to finish what I was trying to say. I deserve to be heard regardless..."

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