

# APHASIA



## What is aphasia?

When parts of the brain are damaged, a person's ability to speak, write, and understand speaking or writing is affected.

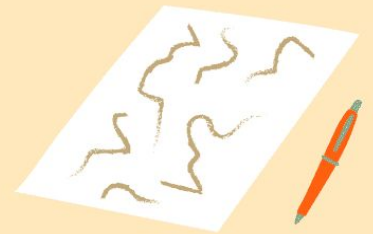
## Symptoms of Aphasia



**Trouble speaking clearly**



**Trouble understanding speech**



**Trouble writing clearly**



**Trouble understanding written words**



**Trouble remembering words**



**Trouble remembering object names**

## What causes aphasia?

STROKE

HEAD  
INJURY

INFECTION

BRAIN  
TUMOR

# Diagnosing Aphasia

- ❖ Medical History & Physical Examination
- ❖ Neurological Examination
- ❖ Imaging Tests (CT Scan, MRI)
- ❖ Speech & Language Assessments
- ❖ Cognitive Assessments

# Treating Aphasia

- ❖ Speech & Language Therapy
- ❖ Communication Aids
- ❖ Medications
- ❖ Non-Invasive Brain Stimulation
- ❖ Psychological and Social Support
- ❖ Alternative Therapies (Music Therapy, Art Therapy)

## aphasia

COMMUNICATING THROUGH THE BARRIERS.

### What is Aphasia?

Aphasia is a language disorder that affects the ability to communicate. It's most often caused by injury to parts of the brain that control speech and language resulting from a stroke.

## Reduce Your Risk of Aphasia

- Improve heart health
- Protect your head
- Treat health problems
- Avoid smoking

I need to communicate with someone who has aphasia.

**Keep It Simple**  
Speak in short, simple sentences.

**Be Patient**  
Allow plenty of time for a response. Talk with him/her not for him/her.

**Remove Distractions**  
Turn off radios and TVs.

**Be Creative**  
Try writing, gesturing, pictures and communication tools like an iPad.

**Confirm**  
Repeat back what you think he/she is saying.

**People With Aphasia**

1. Communicate differently, but they are as smart as they were before.
2. Their hearing is fine, speaking loudly does not help.
3. Aphasia is not contagious! To talk to people with aphasia, you'll just have to communicate differently.



I have aphasia.

**Take Your Time**  
Remember it may take a while to get the words out.

**Let People Know What Works Best For You**  
Do you want a question asked in multiple ways? Let them know.

**Use Assistive Devices**  
Bring photos, diagrams, pen and paper, etc.

**Getting Frustrated is Okay**  
Don't blame yourself if you get stuck or stumble on your words. Be patient with yourself as you find what works.

**If You Get Stuck, You Can**

1. Admit you're struggling.
2. Recap what you have discussed so far.
3. Decide whether to carry on or come back to it later.

### References:

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