

Patient name: _____

Aphasia



What is aphasia?

Aphasia is a problem with language. It occurs when the communication centres of the brain are damaged.

Aphasia can affect an individual's understanding of information, or ability to express themselves.

Symptoms may include:



- difficulty finding the **correct word** or within a word when speaking
- using the **wrong word** or a 'made up' word
- putting the words in the wrong **order** in a sentence
- getting '**stuck**' on a particular word or topic
- difficulty **understanding** what another person is saying
- difficulties with **reading** or **writing** words or sentences
- difficulties with **calculations**
- knowing **what** to write is more difficult than knowing **how** to write



Remember communication is not limited to speech. We communicate in a variety of ways including using pictures, facial expressions, gesture, intonation, laughing or smiling. Writing can sometimes be used as an alternative to speech and to support understanding.

Helping understanding:

- Talk slowly and clearly
- Use short and simple sentences - use pauses to break up longer sentences
- Avoid sudden and complicated changes in topic

- 1-1 conversations may be easier to follow - group conversations may be more difficult
- Provide extra cues - gesture, facial expression, writing
- Use props to help understanding i.e. photograph, mobile phone
- Check understanding and repeat/rephrase if necessary

Helping expression:

- Be patient - allow time for the person to get their message across
- Consider returning to the topic later if the person gets “stuck”
- Help the person join in the conversation by asking questions that can be answered with simple responses
- If the person has word-finding difficulties, encourage them to:
 - 1) Write it down/draw it/gesture it
 - 2) Describe the item (colour/what it is used for/where would you find it?)

If you have any questions or concerns, please call **0300 019 8052**.

Your speech and language therapist is:

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