

Aphasia communication tips

Aphasia is a **condition** that **affects the brain** and leads to **problems using language** correctly.

It is the result of **damage** to the parts of the brain involved in **speaking, reading, writing** and **understanding** others.

Ways that the brain can become damaged:

- » Stroke
- » Severe head injury
- » Brain tumor
- » Health conditions that cause progressive loss of cells from the brain, such as Alzheimer's disease
- » Infections, such as Meningitis and Encephalitis

AphasiaNow


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Communication tips

- » **Minimise** distraction and **background noise**
- » **Make eye contact** with the person
- » Ensure their **full attention**
- » Pitch, pause & pace use short clear sentences
- » **Speak clearly** (articulate)
- » Remove unnecessary words
- » Use familiar words **avoid metaphors** and abstract language
- » Ask **one question** at a time: do you want tea? Do you want coffee?
- » **Use facial expression, tone** of voice, **pointing** and **gesture** to explain yourself
- » **Be patient** give the person space to respond
- » **Clarify** and **rephrase** when necessary, especially with numbers

For **FULL** communication strategies visit: www.aphasianow.org/resources and click on '*communication strategies*'