

# Aphasia

## What is aphasia?

- aphasia is sometimes called 'dysphasia'
- aphasia is a language difficulty
- aphasia does not affect intelligence

## If you have aphasia, you may have trouble with

- talking
- understanding
- reading
- writing
- using numbers

## What causes aphasia?

- stroke or brain injury can cause aphasia

## A speech pathologist can help you to

- communicate in new ways
- communicate better with friends and family

## **Will my aphasia get better?**

- some people with aphasia improve very quickly
- some people with aphasia improve more slowly
- people with aphasia can keep improving for years
- there are no medications or treatments that cure aphasia

## **Tips for you**

- communicating can be very frustrating - give yourself time
- staying in touch with friends and family can help
- meeting other people with aphasia can help

## **Tips for your communication partner**

- communicating is still very important for people with aphasia
- talk clearly, using a normal tone of voice
- give the person time to talk. Wait and listen
- family and friends need ongoing support and friendship too

## **Useful websites**

- The Australian Aphasia Association: [www.aphasia.org.au](http://www.aphasia.org.au)
- Connect : [www.ukconnect.org](http://www.ukconnect.org)

Talk to your speech pathologist for more information.

Your speech pathologist is:

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