

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.

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.

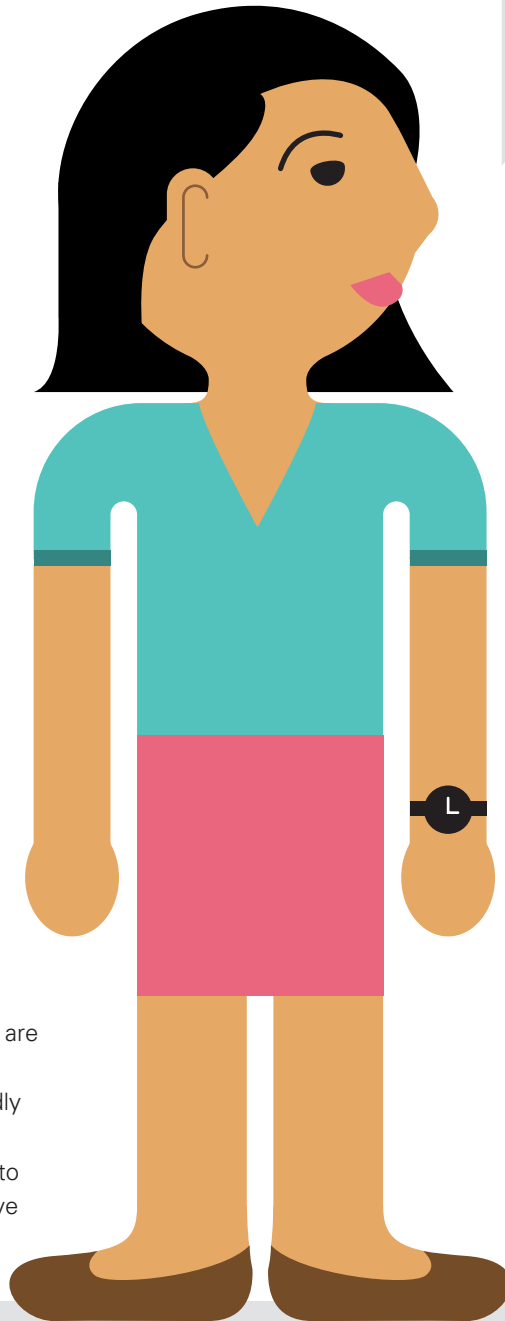


Confirm

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.