

What is aphasia?

You may have been told that you have **aphasia**.

What is **aphasia**?



Aphasia affects a person's ability to communicate with others.



If you have aphasia, you may find it hard to:

- talk
- understand others when they speak
- read
- write
- use numbers and do calculations.

People who have aphasia can think clearly.

But they have difficulty getting messages in and out.

They know what they think and feel, but can't get to the words.

If you have aphasia:

- you are still a **competent adult**
- you **know** what you want to say
- you **can** make your own decisions
- you are **not** deaf.

But aphasia means you have a problem with **communication**.

I have **aphasia**.
I can think clearly.
But I can't get the messages in and out.



Aphasia is usually **caused by** stroke.

But it can also be the result of **brain tumors** or **head injuries**.

Strokes are now often called **brain attacks**.

Aphasia usually comes on **suddenly**.


But in rare cases it may develop **gradually**.

This is called **Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA)**.

PPA resources

National Aphasia Association (NAA)


 www.aphasia.org


 800-922-4622

Email naa@aphasia.org

Information on PPA

Northwestern University PPA Program

 www.brain.northwestern.edu/ppa

 312-908-9432

Email ppa@northwestern.edu

National resource offering information, support and a newsletter about PPA

Addresses begin on page 165