Talking to Other People About Aphasia

Do you find most people have HEARD of aphasia once you explain what it is?

- Yes, they tell me they've heard of it before (13.3%)
- No, they tell me they've never heard of it (86.7%)

Do you find most people UNDERSTAND what aphasia is once you explain it?

- Yes, I think they understand (46.7%)
- No, I sense they still don't get it (53.3%)
How would you describe your aphasia?

- Not detectable—People do not know or forget that I have aphasia
- Mild—Most of the time, people don’t realize that I have aphasia
- Moderate—I need people to speak slowly and give me time to think
- Moderate/Severe—I have trouble with speaking or processing language
- Severe—I have extreme trouble with speaking or processing language

Did you know what aphasia was before you experienced aphasia?

- Yes, I knew what it was
- Maybe, I think I had heard of it before
- No, until it affected me, I didn’t know the term "aphasia"

Check out how these results compare to our 2020 Aphasia Awareness Report [https://www.aphasia.org/2020-aphasia-awareness-survey/](https://www.aphasia.org/2020-aphasia-awareness-survey/)
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How often do you have to tell people about aphasia?

- A few times per week: 36.4%
- A few times per month: 34.1%
- Several times per day: 11.4%
- A few times per year: 9.1%
- Never: 4.5%
- Daily: 4.5%

How do you explain aphasia to people?

I have a communication disorder called aphasia. Sometimes I need time to find the right word.

I was in an automobile accident 5 years ago. I suffered a head injury. Therefore, I need extra time processing information and sometimes mix up my words.

It’s a language disorder caused by a stroke I had. Please be patient and allow me to speak slowly.

I have some cognitive issues that affect how I speak and process language.

I know what it is, but I can’t explain it.

My intellect is intact. I just need a little time to get my thoughts together.

I had a stroke, and I have aphasia. I have trouble speaking. Please be patient.

I have trouble turning a thought into a spoken word.

I know what I want to say, but I have a hard time saying it.

PPA is not stroke or Alzheimer’s.
Do you ever tell people how to best communicate with you?
- Yes, I tell them what I need (22.2%)
- Sometimes, it depends on the situation (48.9%)
- No, I usually just hope they’ll speak slowly and give me time to think (28.9%)

Do you wish more people knew about aphasia?
- I wish I never had to explain it. I wish people just knew about it (18.2%)
- I don’t mind explaining aphasia, though it would be nice if there was more awareness (27.3%)
- I like explaining it and educating people (54.5%)

Even more communication tips: https://www.aphasia.org/stories/thats-a-fact-quick-tips-for-aphasia-friendly-communication-part-one/

Provide people with communication tips: https://www.aphasia.org/stories/thats-a-fact-quick-tips-for-aphasia-friendly-communication-part-two/
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How important is it to convey these 4 facts about aphasia?

That aphasia is a loss of language but not intellect

That aphasia affects speaking, listening, writing, and reading
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How important is it to convey these 4 facts about aphasia?

That there are many types of aphasia

The best ways to communicate with people who have aphasia