

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



## **Be Patient**

Allow plenty of time for a response. Talk with him/her not for him/her.



#### Remove Distractions

Turn off radios



## **Be Creative**

Try writing, gesturing, pictures and communication tools like an iPad.

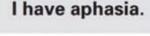


## Confirm

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.





## **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.





Learn more at StrokeAssociation.org/aphasia and Aphasia.org

©2014, American Heart Association

SCALE: Baltimore Area's only Aphasia Center 410-323-1777