



WHAT IS APHASIA?

Acquired Aphasia:

Often just referred to as “Aphasia”, acquired Aphasia is typically the result of a stroke or traumatic brain injury in the left hemisphere. Aphasia is a LANGUAGE disorder. It results in difficulty accessing language, causing impairments in verbal expression, language processing, reading, and writing. Difficulties with word retrieval (including numbers) is a hallmark of Aphasia, and sentence formulation is often quite challenging.

Primary Progressive Aphasia:

Primary Progressive Aphasia, also known as PPA, is a degenerative neurological condition in which language capabilities become impaired over time.

COMMUNICATING WITH A PERSON WITH APHASIA

- Use short, direct sentences while maintaining an adult tone.
- Give the Person with Aphasia time to respond
- Ask yes/no questions to confirm understanding
- Write down key words to assist with comprehension
- If you understand the message, try not to correct the Person with Aphasia
- Be Patient

KEY FACTS TO REMEMBER

- Aphasia **does not** affect a person's intelligence.
- Each person with Aphasia is **different**.
- Aphasia can happen to **ANYONE** at any **AGE**.
- There is **no cure** for Aphasia.
- Those with **Acquired Aphasia** can **continue to improve** (beyond the first 6-12 months) with therapy.
- **Primary Progressive Aphasia** results in deterioration of brain tissue important for speech and language, causing speech and language abilities to **DECLINE** over time.
- PPA is **NOT** the same as Alzheimer's.
- Caregivers of those with Aphasia need **support** and **resources** early on to assist them in navigating this challenging journey.

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