

# ACQUIRED APHASIA VS. PRIMARY PROGRESSIVE APHASIA

In light of the recent news regarding Bruce Willis' diagnosis, we want to provide information and resources on both Acquired Aphasia and Primary Progressive Aphasia. To be clear, at the time, we do not have a complete understanding of Willis' diagnosis. As the news unfolds, we may have more information.

**Acquired Aphasia (Aphasia):** Often just referred to as “Aphasia”, is usually 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.

## Key points to remember:

- There is no cure for acquired Aphasia, but research has shown that patients can always continue to improve with therapy.
- Acquired Aphasia does not impact your intelligence and patients DO NOT decline over time.

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

## Key points to remember:

- It is different from other forms of Aphasia, as there must be no focal lesion for a diagnosis of PPA to occur.
- PPA results in deterioration of brain tissue important for speech and language and patients CAN decline over time.
- PPA is NOT the same as Alzheimer's Disease, it is a subtype of Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD)



**Below are additional resources you can explore to learn more about Aphasia, Primary Progressive Aphasia and the differences between them.**

## **Aphasia Resources:**

### Written Resources:

[What is Aphasia and Apraxia?](#)

[What is Aphasia and what Aphasia is NOT?](#)

[Communication Strategies for a Person with Aphasia](#)

[Find Support for Aphasia](#)

### Video Resources:

[What is Aphasia?](#)

[Aphasia Advocacy Videos: Hear from people with Aphasia](#)

[Cognitive Challenges vs. Language in Aphasia](#)

[Communication Tips](#)

## **Primary Progressive Aphasia Resources:**

### Written Resources:

[What is Primary Progressive Aphasia?](#)

[What is PPA and what are the Symptoms?](#)

[PPA: A Caregiver's Perspective on a Different Kind of Aphasia](#)

[PPA: The Journey to Diagnosis and What We Know about Treatment for Communication Difficulties](#)

### Video Resources:

[Primary Progressive Aphasia: What is it and what are the variants?](#)

[Primary Progressive Aphasia: Maximizing Communication](#)

## **Comparing Aphasia and Primary Progressive Aphasia:**

[Understanding Bruce Willis' Aphasia Announcement](#)

[Bruce Willis' Aphasia battle: Living in a country where you don't speak the language](#)

## **General Websites for more information:**

[Integrative Reconnective Aphasia Therapy](#)

[National Aphasia Association](#)

[Tactus Therapy](#)

