

# Tips for Communicating with a Person with Aphasia



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These leaflets are **not** about helping a person with aphasia talk perfectly – they are about **helping them to communicate successfully**.

These tips can help a person with aphasia to:

- **get their message across**
- **understand what you say**
- **understand written information**

Aphasia is **different for everyone**. Different tips work better for different people. This may depend on the **type and severity of aphasia**, and on **personal preference**. A speech pathologist can help to advise which tips might be most useful for you.

## General Communication Tips

- People with aphasia often find it easier to speak **one on one**. They may find it **hard** to participate in a **busy group conversation**. **Don't all talk at once** in a group situation!
- Find a **quiet place to talk**.
- Always **give a person with aphasia time to:**
  - **process what you say**
  - **formulate their reply**
- Be aware that people with aphasia may:
  - Say a word **they don't mean to say**. This could be the **wrong** word, a **made-up** word, or a **swear** word.
  - Get **stuck** on a word and say it over and over.
  - Say **'yes'** when they mean **'no'**, or vice versa.
- Be **patient!** Don't judge a person for saying the wrong word.
- Always **double check** that you have **understood correctly**.



The next leaflet will provide **more specific tips** about helping a person with aphasia to **get their message across**.