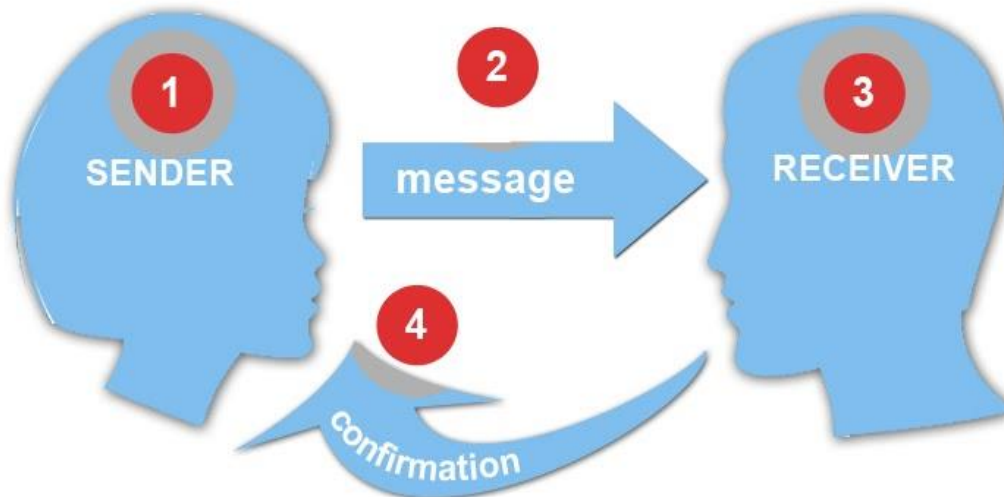


Helping a Person with Aphasia to Understand What You Say



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- **Always** speak to the person with aphasia **as an adult**:
 - **Speak naturally** – just a little **slower than usual**.
 - Keep your voice at a **normal volume** (no need to yell!)
- **Reduce background noise** (turn off the TV or radio).
- **Gain the person's attention** before speaking and **give them your full attention**.
- Make sure the person **can see your face and lips**.
- Speak in **short, clear sentences** using **simple words**.

Support your talking with **other types of communication.**

For example:

- **Write down key words.**
- **Draw simple pictures or icons**
- **Point** to relevant **objects, people or locations**
- **Use gestures** that show what you're saying (e.g. hand beside head to indicate 'phone')
- Use aids such as **communication boards or books**
- Use relevant items **such as calendars** (to explain upcoming events), **maps** (to explain where someone is from, or where you are going), **or newspapers** (to discuss recent events)

- Be as **specific** as possible.
- **Let the person know** when you are **changing the topic**, and stick to **one topic at a time.**
- **Repeat what you have said** when necessary.

The next leaflet will provide **specific tips** about helping a person with aphasia to **understand written information.**