

# What is Aphasia?

Aphasia is a language disorder that occurs after neurological damage to the language centre of the brain. Aphasia is a loss of language, not a loss of intelligence. Depending on the site of the damage, signs and symptoms of aphasia will vary. Individuals may experience trouble understanding spoken or written language, trouble communicating daily wants and needs, or have difficulty writing. Therefore rehabilitation is essential to facilitate the improvement and restoration of communication.



## Aphasia May Impact:

Listening comprehension



Verbal comprehension



Reading comprehension



Written expression



## aphasia

This pamphlet contains a brief summary of what aphasia is, treatment, and other additional information. Feel free to contact us regarding any questions you may have.

## Contact Us



18 Eton Rd  
Johannesburg, 2193  
South Africa



083 656 8979



karyn@brainworxtherapy.comw

<https://www.brainworx.info>



## Aphasia Checklist

If you are experiencing the following symptoms, please consult a doctor as soon as possible.

- Trouble with word finding and word retrieval
- Difficulty understanding spoken and/or written language
- Trouble attending and/or concentrating during every day tasks
- Word substitutions, spelling errors, and/or nonsense words
- Slow, telegraphic, halting speech filled with grammatical errors
- Difficulty self-monitoring and recognizing speech deficits
- Difficulty with reading comprehension and/or writing

## Aphasia Warning Signs

- Sudden weakness or numbness on one side of the body
- Sudden trouble seeing
- Sudden dizziness or trouble walking
- Sudden headache for no reason
- Sudden confusion or trouble talking and understanding

# What Are the Main Causes?

Aphasia is caused by damage to the part of the brain responsible for understanding and producing language. Aphasia can affect people of all ages, but is most common among people over the age of 65.

Common causes include:

- Stroke
- Severe head injury
- Brain tumour
- Progressive neurological conditions that damage the brain and nervous system over time (such as dementia)



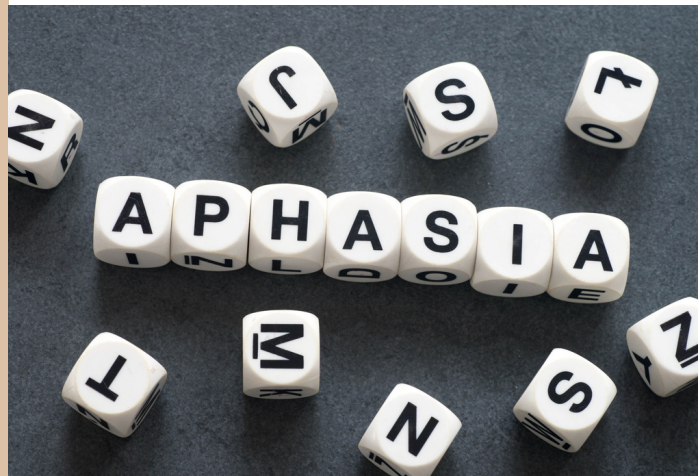
# How is Aphasia Diagnosed?

Aphasia is typically first seen by the doctor who is treating the patient's brain injury. The majority of people will have a CT or MRI scan to both confirm the occurrence of a brain injury and to pinpoint its exact location. The doctor will assess the patient's comprehension and language skills by having them follow instructions, respond to questions, name things, and carry a conversation.



## Why Brainworx?

With years of experience, we understand how to work with our patients to ensure they receive the best care possible. Our thoughtful and personalised approach means we are fully committed to the health and well-being of all our patients.



# Types of Aphasia

There are many different types of aphasia, which affect people in different ways. The most common types of aphasia are Broca's aphasia, Wernicke's aphasia, and Anomic aphasia.

## Broca's Aphasia (Non-fluent aphasia)

When people find it very hard to find and say the right words, although they probably know exactly what they want to say. Also known as expressive aphasia, people with this type of aphasia may only be able to say single words or very short sentences, although it's usually possible for other people to understand what they are saying.

Common features include:

- Severely reduced speech, often limited to short sentences
- Limited vocabulary
- Clumsy formation of sounds
- Difficulty writing (but ability to read and understand speech)

## Wernicke's Aphasia (Fluent aphasia)

Also known as receptive aphasia, the diagnosis of this condition occurs when someone is able to speak well and use long sentences, but what they say often do not make sense. They may not know what they're saying is incorrect, so they may get frustrated when people don't understand them.

Common features include:

- Impaired reading and writing
- An inability to grasp the meaning of spoken words
- An inability to produce sentences that hang together
- The intrusion of irrelevant words in severe cases



# Treating Aphasia

Speech-language therapy is the main type of treatment for people with aphasia.

This is intended to aid in some communication recovery and, if necessary, to assist in the development of substitute communication channels.

Depending on your needs and the service provided, you may get speech and language therapy on an individual basis or in a group setting.

Each patient responds to treatment differently. Most aphasia sufferers recover to some extent, and some even totally.



# Complications of Aphasia

The challenges of living with aphasia can impact how a person feels and how they interact with others. In some cases it can lead to isolation, anxiety, and depression.



## brainworx

speech-language pathologists

## Communicating With Someone Who Has Aphasia

- Speak slowly and provide extra time
- Encourage singing and melodic language
- Ask simple questions and provide choices
- Reduce background noise and distractions
- Try not to finish their thoughts/sentences for them
- Encourage the use of non-verbal gestures
- Allow extra time to process messages and respond
- Use symbols, pictures, and/or other objects when possible



# Types of Aphasia Continued

## Anomic Aphasia

Common features include:

- An inability to supply the words for the very things the person wants to talk about, particularly significant nouns and verbs
- Speech that is full of vague expressions of frustration
- A difficulty finding words in writing as well as speech



## Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA)

A condition where language capabilities become slowly and progressively worse, which leads to a gradual loss of the ability to

- Read
- Write
- Speak
- Understand what people are saying

Deterioration can occur slowly, over a period of years. Other mental functions such as memory, reasoning, insight, and judgement are not usually affected. Unfortunately, there is no cure for PPA, however a person can still communicate effectively with the right tools and support.