

# UNBOXING APHASIA



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- Aphasia is a neurological language disorder that impairs a person's ability to use and/or understand words.
- Impairments may include deficits in the ability to speak, understand speech, read, and/or write—but aphasia does not affect one's intelligence.

## WHAT CAUSES APHASIA?

- Aphasia may occur after damage to the part of the brain where we organize, store, and produce written and spoken language.
- Although aphasia is more common among older adults following a stroke, aphasia can occur across all ages, races, nationalities, and genders.





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## ARE THERE DIFFERENT TYPES OF APHASIA?



## WHO CAN DIAGNOSE APHASIA?

- A Neurologist
- A Speech-Language Therapist

- There are many types of aphasia.
- Some individuals have difficulty speaking; whereas, others may struggle to follow a conversation. Severity may range from mild to severe.
- Symptoms may differ greatly, but all people with aphasia will have some difficulty communicating.
- The symptoms of aphasia may be temporary or permanent, depending upon the amount of brain damage.





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## WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR APHASIA?

- A Speech-Language detailed assessment will be done to determine the type and severity of Aphasia.
- A Speech-Language Therapist may suggest Speech Therapy sessions for communication stimulation.
- The earlier you start intervention, faster the progress.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP AT HOME?

- Give the person with aphasia time to speak - do not try to finish his/her sentences.
- Turn off background noise when possible (TVs, radios, etc.).
- Use other means of communication (drawing, gesturing, or writing key words).
- Confirm to the person with aphasia that you understand their communication.
- Speak simply and directly - you do not need to shout.
- Limit the use of figurative language.
- Ask yes/no questions whenever possible.





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