

What is Aphasia?

Aphasia is a disorder that results from damage to the parts of the brain that contain language. Aphasia may cause problems with speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

For most individuals, aphasia results from damage to the left side of the brain. Individuals who experience damage to the right side of the brain may have additional difficulties beyond speech and language.

Individuals with expressive aphasia have trouble using words and sentences, while people with receptive aphasia have problems understanding others. Others with aphasia struggle with both using words and understanding, known as global aphasia.



Aphasia can cause problems with spoken language (talking and understanding) and written language (reading and writing). Typically, reading and writing are more impaired than talking or understanding.

Aphasia may be mild or severe. The severity of communication difficulties depends on the amount and location of the damage to the brain.