

Aphasia Quiz

Test your knowledge of aphasia!

This quiz helps you learn more about what aphasia is– and what it isn’t. Try to answer each question, then check the explanation to learn more.

1. What is aphasia?

- A mental illness
- A speech disorder caused by hearing loss
- A language disorder caused by damage to the brain
- A memory disorder

2. True or False: Aphasia affects a person’s intelligence.

- True
- False

3. Which of the following can cause aphasia?

(Select all that apply)

- Stroke
- Head injury
- Brain tumor
- Alzheimer’s or other brain disease



4. True or False: Aphasia is a rare condition.

- True
- False

5. Which skill is usually affected by aphasia?

- Vision
- Walking
- Language (speaking, understanding, reading, writing)
- Hearing

6. True or False: People with aphasia can't understand anything you say.

- True
- False

7. What is a good way to communicate with someone who has aphasia?

- Talk louder and faster
- Ask them to write everything down
- Use short sentences, be patient, and use gestures or pictures
- Avoid talking to them so they don't feel stressed

8. Which of these is NOT helpful for communicating with someone with aphasia?

- Interrupting to finish their sentence
- Asking yes/no questions
- Using drawings or written words
- Being patient

9. True or False: Aphasia can be improved with therapy and support.

- True
- False

10. What is Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA)?

- A type of aphasia caused by stroke
- A memory disorder
- A form of aphasia that gets worse over time due to brain disease
- A form of autism

Answer Key

1. What is aphasia?

A language disorder caused by damage to the brain

Aphasia is a language disorder that happens when parts of the brain that control language are damaged. It can affect speaking, understanding, reading, and writing—but not intelligence. For more information on aphasia, visit our website: aphasia.org/what-is-aphasia/

2. True or False: Aphasia affects a person's intelligence.

False

People with aphasia know what they want to say and understand ideas—but may have trouble finding or understanding words. Aphasia affects language, not thinking ability.

3. Which of the following can cause aphasia?

All: Stroke, Head injury, Brain tumor, Alzheimer's or other brain disease

Aphasia is most often caused by a stroke, but any brain damage—like from injury, tumor, or illness—can cause it. Learn more about the causes of aphasia on our website: aphasia.org/what-is-aphasia/

4. True or False: Aphasia is a rare condition.

False

Aphasia affects over 2.5–4 million people in the U.S., and nearly 180,000 new cases happen each year. It is more common than many people think. Follow stats on aphasia here: aphasia.org/statistics/

Answer Key

5. Which skill is usually affected by aphasia?

Language (speaking, understanding, reading, writing)

Aphasia affects the brain's ability to use language. Some people may also have other symptoms (like weakness or vision problems), but aphasia specifically refers to language changes (e.g., the ability to communicate).

6. True or False: People with aphasia can't understand anything you say.

False

An individual's communication challenges is unique to the cause and location of the brain injury. Even with deficits in comprehension (auditory and reading), many people with aphasia can understand speech, especially simple, clear sentences. Communication supports help maximize interactions! Find out more at: aphasia.org/communication-supports/

7. What is a good way to communicate with someone who has aphasia?

Use short sentences, be patient, and use gestures or pictures

Use short, clear sentences, give time to respond, and use pictures, writing, or gestures to help. It's important to include people with aphasia in conversations. People with aphasia often benefit from seeing your face when you speak. Most importantly, ASK THE PERSON WITH APHASIA WHAT HELPS WITH COMMUNICATION. The best way to learn about aphasia is to listen to the lived experiences of those impacted: aphasia.org/voices-of-aphasia/

Answer Key

8. Which of these is NOT helpful for communicating with someone with aphasia?

Interrupting to finish their sentence

It's tempting to help, but finishing someone's sentence without asking can feel frustrating. It's better to ask, wait, or use other supports. Check out our Ask the Expert webinar series to hear from people with aphasia and those who serve them: aphasia.org/ask-the-expert-webinar-library/

9. True or False: Aphasia can be improved with therapy and support.

True.

Speech-language therapy, practice, and support from family and friends can help many people with aphasia regain language skills or find new ways to communicate. There is no time limit for aphasia recovery. Research is revealing more about recovery and life participation efforts; check out our Research tab on the website: aphasia.org/learn-about-aphasia-research/

10. What is Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA)?

A form of aphasia that gets worse over time due to brain disease

Primary Progressive Aphasia (PPA) is a type of aphasia that happens when parts of the brain controlling language slowly shrink over time. Unlike stroke-related aphasia, PPA progresses gradually and is caused by neurodegenerative diseases, like frontotemporal degeneration or Alzheimer's disease. PPA affects speech and understanding first, and over time may impact other brain functions. Learn more at: aphasia.org/primary-progressive-aphasia/