

# Frequently Asked Questions



**Q: Will I always have Aphasia?**

**A: Yes. Aphasia is something you live with.**

**Q: Is Aphasia the same for everyone?**

**A: No. Aphasia affects everyone differently. It depends on where the brain has been affected and the severity of the damage to the brain.**

**Q: Does Aphasia change? Does Aphasia get better or worse?**

**A: For most people with Aphasia, communication gets better over time. Be patient. There are good days and bad days.**

**Q: Do other people with Aphasia feel frustrated? Do your family and friends feel frustrated?**

**A: It is normal to feel frustrated. Sometimes people do not understand Aphasia. Aphasia affects relationships. It takes two people to communicate. There are strategies for people with Aphasia and their communication partners.**

**Q: Can Aphasia be cured by surgery?**

**A: No, there is no surgery to cure Aphasia.**

# What is Aphasia?

Aphasia is a language impairment following a stroke, brain injury, or brain illness.

Aphasia can affect speaking, reading, writing and understanding.

Aphasia is a communication difficulty. It does not affect thinking or intellect. Aphasia affects everyone differently.

People with Aphasia know more than they can say.



Injury to language areas of the brain



Communication Problem = Aphasia

## Words of Encouragement



Learn to laugh.  
Everyday can be different.  
Progress will take time.

It is normal to have mood swings after a stroke. Talk to your Doctor.

**ARTC runs Aphasia Conversation Groups.**

**Contact us for more information.**

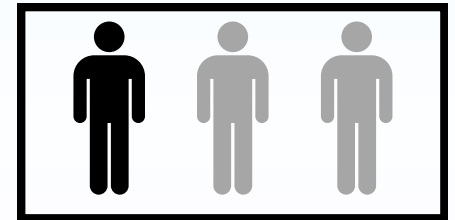
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# APHASIA

## You are not alone!



- 1 in 3 stroke survivors have Aphasia.
- Approximately 166,000 Canadians live with Aphasia.

Only 5.7% of people in Ontario know about Aphasia.



Brochure Created By  
**ARTC Brain Crusaders**  
Aphasia Advocacy Group

My intelligence is intact. I know what I am thinking but I can't say it.

If you believe, you can achieve!

I need more time to communicate. It is harder to communicate when I am tired.

I matter.

I have survived and I am stronger.

It takes time to realize what Aphasia means and to spell it! - I still have my sense of humour.

When I had a stroke, I thought my life was finished. But I realize that my life is totally different. Life is not finished.

It helps when people speak slowly and clearly.



I communicate differently, but what matters is that I get the message out.