I have aphasia.

Take your time
It may take a while to get the words out.

Let people know what works best for you
Do you want a question asked in multiple ways or repeated? Let them know.

Use assistive devices
Bring photos, diagrams, pen and paper or other helpful tools.

Frustration is OK
Don’t blame yourself if you get stuck or stumble over your words. Be patient with yourself as you learn what works.

I need to communicate with someone who has aphasia.

Keep it simple
Speak in short, simple sentences.

Be patient
Allow plenty of time for a response. Talk with the person who has aphasia, not for him or her.

Remove distractions
Turn off radios and TVs and focus on the person with aphasia.

Be creative
Try writing, gesturing, drawing pictures or using devices such as smartphones and tablets.

Confirm
Repeat what you think they said or meant.

Facts about people with aphasia:

1. They communicate differently but are as smart as they were before they developed aphasia.
2. Their hearing is usually fine, so speaking loudly doesn’t help.
3. Their condition means you’ll have to communicate differently with them.

Learn more at stroke.org/Aphasia