

# Supporting Communication for People with Aphasia



## Give it time

Allow plenty of time for conversation, and do not talk too fast. If the person with aphasia is struggling to get their message across, try not to interrupt or talk over them.



## Check their 'yes' and 'no'

Communicating 'yes' and 'no' can be helpful for clearing up confusion. However, some people with aphasia struggle to use these words correctly. Try other methods of communicating "yes" and "no", such as written choices.



## Don't rely solely on speech

Nonverbal communication makes up a huge percentage of our overall communication - use it! Gesture, pointing and facial expressions can all be used to provide clarification of a message.



## Use what you have around you

Photos, leaflets, tickets and real objects can all be used to provide a shared point of focus in conversation. These can be referred to which can help minimise the chance of a communication breakdown.



## Go back to pen & paper

Have pen and paper handy to incorporate alternative ways of communicating. Drawing, writing, or providing written choices to point to can all help to support someone experiencing word-finding difficulties.



## Ask them!

The best way to make sure we support people with aphasia appropriately is to ask them! See what it is that they find most helpful, and try to incorporate this into your conversations.



Want to learn more? Use the QR code for our on-demand  
Ace Centre Learning course on  
Supporting Communication for People with Aphasia  
or visit [acecentre.org.uk/acl-comm](https://acecentre.org.uk/acl-comm)