



Fast Facts about Aphasia and Speakability

What?

- Aphasia, sometimes called Dysphasia, is a loss of communication skills.
- A person with Aphasia often finds that his/her ability to understand, speak, read or write is affected, yet their intellect remains intact.
- A person with Aphasia will have problems in answering the telephone, watching television or listening to the radio. This often results in frustration, social isolation and a breakdown in close relationships. Many will lose their job and suffer financial hardship as a result.

Why?

- Aphasia is caused by damage to the language centres of the brain.

How?

- Aphasia occurs, most commonly, after a stroke, brain injury (e.g. resulting from a blow to the head) or other neurological condition (e.g. brain tumour, brain infection or a degenerative neurological condition).

Who?

- An estimated 250,000 people in the UK have Aphasia.
- 20,000 people each year, in the UK, will develop Aphasia.
- Many of them are under retirement age.

What is Speakability?

Founded in 1979, Speakability is the national charity that:

- Supports people living with Aphasia through its information service and national network of self-help groups.
- Campaigns and influences individuals, organisations and statutory bodies in order to improve services for people living with Aphasia.
- Raises funds to support these aims.

What does Speakability do?

- Runs an '**Information and Telephone Helpline Service**'.
- Supports a network of **self-help groups** around the country. The groups provide opportunities for mutual support, social activities and friendship.
- Runs activities and events for people with Aphasia and their carers.
- Produces a range of **publications and videos** for people with Aphasia, their carers and healthcare professionals such as speech and language therapists.
- Organises lectures, training workshops and conferences on supporting people with Aphasia.
- **Shares expertise** about Aphasia with other organisations that provide advice and support to people with other disabilities.

Helpline:

Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm on Tel: 080 8808 9572 (24 hour answerphone)

Group Information:

Contact: Speakability on Tel: 080 8808 9572 (24 hour answerphone)

Trustees:

E Hodgkins (Chair)
D Moir

N Brittain
C Beard

P Dann
P Wyatt

D Playford
R Matthewson

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