

Dysphasia/Aphasia Facts and Tips

Definition: Dysphasia (or aphasia) is a condition that affects the ability to produce and understand spoken language. Dysphasia can also cause reading, writing, and gesturing impairments. Consequently, students with dysphasia often have difficulty with verbal communication.

What your symptoms of dysphasia/aphasia may be:

- You may struggle to find words
- You may speak slowly or with great difficulty
- You may sometimes omit small words, such as articles and prepositions
- You may sometimes make grammatical errors
- You may sometimes mix up word order
- You may sometimes substitute words or sounds or use nonsensical words
- You may sometimes speak fluently but without meaning
- You may struggle to understand speech
- You may sometimes give incorrect answers to simple questions
- You may have difficulty understanding complex grammar
- You may have difficulty understanding fast speech
- You may sometimes misinterpret meaning (for instance, taking figurative language literally)
- You may lack awareness of errors
- You may have difficulty with memory
- You may have a short attention span

How to help in the classroom:

- Minimize distractions when in the classroom or when studying (put away phone, etc.)
- Ask your instructor for extra time, without interruption, to express yourself verbally
- Use of flashcards to build vocabulary
- Use alternative methods of communication whenever possible (ask your instructor about this)
- Repeat and explain concepts, directions, and expectations back to your instructor during office hours to check for comprehension

Technology (sometimes available through DSP):

- Text-to-speech tools: Kurzweil
- Recording device: Sonocent or Smartpen