



Building healthier lives

UHB is a no smoking Trust

Dysphasia is caused by damage to parts of the brain that process language. This can affect talking, understanding, reading and writing. This can happen due to a stroke, head injury, brain tumour, or other neurological illness.

Receptive dysphasia may result in:

- Difficulty understanding instructions, conversations and questions
- Difficulty reading
- Giving responses unrelated to the question

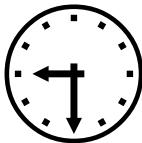
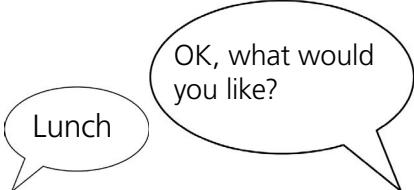
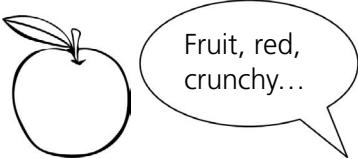
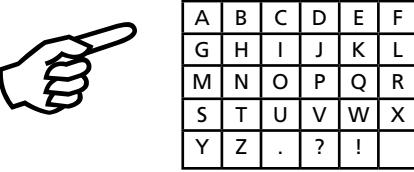
Expressive dysphasia may result in:

- Difficulty finding words
- Difficulty with writing
- Using the wrong word e.g. table instead of chair
- Saying words that are not real e.g. 'fep'
- Having limited spoken language
- Producing 'flowing' sentences that are difficult to follow and don't make sense

Strategies for the listener

- **Minimise distractions** – reduce background noise
- Encourage the person to **take their time**
- Ask the person if they would like you to finish their sentences for them, and avoid this if they don't want you to
- **Be honest** if you don't understand - encourage them to try again
- If you know what they are trying to say, **give the person the first sound** of the word or provide a category e.g. 'you cook with it'
- **Offer choices** and ask yes/no questions
- If you did not understand something, **ask clarifying questions**, e.g. "were you telling me about..."
- Let them know which part you **did** understand and ask them to try the rest again
- **Encourage using strategies** from this leaflet or a speech and language therapist

Strategies for the person with dysphasia

• Take your time	
• Say key words first	
• Try describing the word	
• Use gesture and communication aids	
• Use writing or drawing to get your message across	
• Let others know how to help	
• If becoming frustrated, take a break and try again later	

These are general strategies – a speech and language therapist can provide individual advice.

If the person has receptive dysphasia, when speaking to them:

- **Speak in shorter sentences** at a steady pace
- **Try not to change topics** suddenly – say a key word first
- **Use gesture** and point to objects in your immediate environment
- **Write key words down or use pictures**
- **Offer processing time** after speaking, and if not understood, **shorten** the phrase and **repeat** it

How did we do?

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Accessibility

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