

Share:    

Do's and Don'ts: Communicating With a Person Who Has Alzheimer's Disease

People with Alzheimer's disease may have trouble finding the right words or remembering what they want to say. This can make communication difficult. Use the tips below to better communicate with a person who has Alzheimer's.

Share this infographic:

- [Download a PDF version \(PDF, 733K\).](#)

To share the image, right-click on it and select "save image as" to save the file to your computer. We encourage you to use the hashtag #NIAHealth in your social media posts to connect with people and organizations with similar goals.

Do's and Don'ts: Communicating with a Person Who Has Alzheimer's Disease

People with Alzheimer's may struggle to find the right word when speaking and may forget what they were saying. Remember to be patient. Here are some do's and don'ts to keep in mind.



Do	Don't
 Make eye contact and use the person's name.	 Exclude the person from conversations.
 Listen and be open to the person's concerns.	 Speak with an angry or tense tone.
 Allow extra time for the person to respond.	 Talk about the person as if they are not there.
 Try using different words if the person doesn't understand what you say the first time.	 Interrupt or argue with the person.
 Ask yes or no questions: "Would you like some tea?" rather than "What would you like to drink?"	 Ask the person whether they remember something or someone.

To learn more about communication and behavior changes in Alzheimer's disease, visit www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers-communication.



You may also be interested in

- Reading more about [communication changes in Alzheimer's disease](#)
- Downloading or ordering a tip sheet about [how to deal with agitation, aggression, and sundowning](#)
- Finding out more about [managing personality and behavior changes in Alzheimer's](#)

Read a transcript of the infographic



Last updated: November 28, 2023

[Return to top](#)

Newsletters

Sign up to receive updates and resources delivered to your inbox.

Sign up

nia.nih.gov

An official website of the [National Institutes of Health](#)