



[Home](#) → [Health Topics](#) → Speech and Communication Disorders

URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/speechandcommunicationdisorders.html>

## Speech and Communication Disorders

**Also called:** Communication disorders

Many disorders can affect our ability to speak and communicate. They range from saying sounds incorrectly to being completely unable to speak or understand speech. Causes include:

- Hearing disorders and deafness [<https://medlineplus.gov/hearingdisordersanddeafness.html>]
- Voice problems [<https://medlineplus.gov/voicedisorders.html>] , such as dysphonia or those caused by cleft lip or palate [<https://medlineplus.gov/cleftlipandpalate.html>]
- Speech problems like stuttering [<https://medlineplus.gov/stuttering.html>]
- Developmental disabilities [<https://medlineplus.gov/developmentaldisabilities.html>]
- Learning disabilities [<https://medlineplus.gov/learningdisabilities.html>]
- Autism spectrum disorder [<https://medlineplus.gov/autismspectrumdisorder.html>]
- Brain injury [<https://medlineplus.gov/traumaticbraininjury.html>]
- Stroke [<https://medlineplus.gov/stroke.html>]


Some speech and communication problems may be genetic. Often, no one knows the causes. By first grade, about 5% of children [<https://medlineplus.gov/speechandlanguageproblemsinchildren.html>] have noticeable speech disorders. Speech and language therapy can help.

*NIH: National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders*


### Start Here

- Speech and Language Impairments [<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/speechlanguage/>]  
(Center for Parent Information and Resources)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/lenguaje/>]
- Voice, Speech, and Language [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/voice-speech-and-language>]  
 (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)


### Living With

- Assistive Devices for People with Hearing, Voice, Speech, or Language Disorders  
[<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/assistive-devices-people-hearing-voice-speech-or-language-disorders>]  
 (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)






### Related Issues

- Speech to Speech Relay Service [<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/speech-speech-relay-service>]  
(Federal Communications Commission)
- Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) [<https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs>]  
(Federal Communications Commission)
- Telecommunications Relay Services [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/telecomm>]  
 (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)



## Specifics

- Aphasia vs. Apraxia [<https://www.stroke.org/en/about-stroke/effects-of-stroke/communication-and-aphasia/stroke-and-aphasia/aphasia-vs-apraxia>] (American Stroke Association)
- Apraxia of Speech [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/apraxia-speech>]  
 (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)  
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/es/espanol/apraxia-speech>]



## Genetics

- 22q13.3 deletion syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/22q133-deletion-syndrome>]  
 (National Library of Medicine)
- 47,XXX syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/47xyy-syndrome>]  
 (National Library of Medicine)
- Epilepsy-aphasia spectrum: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/epilepsy-aphasia-spectrum>]  
 (National Library of Medicine)
- PURA syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/pura-syndrome>]  
 (National Library of Medicine)
- Triple X syndrome: MedlinePlus Genetics [<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/condition/triple-x-syndrome>]  
 (National Library of Medicine)

## Statistics and Research

- Quick Statistics about Voice, Speech, and Language [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/statistics/quick-statistics-voice-speech-language>]  (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)
- Sound Check: Tracking Voice, Speech, and Breathing for Health [<https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2024/08/sound-check>]  
 (National Institutes of Health)  
Also in Spanish [<https://salud.nih.gov/recursos-de-salud/nih-noticias-de-salud/prueba-de-sonido>]

## Clinical Trials


- ClinicalTrials.gov: Communication Disorders [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Communication+Disorders%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Language Disorders [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Language+Disorders%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)
- ClinicalTrials.gov: Speech Disorders [<https://clinicaltrials.gov/search?cond=%22Speech+Disorders%22&aggFilters=status:not%20rec>]  (National Institutes of Health)

## Journal Articles



### References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Supporting Communication Access of People With Communication Disabilities and Communication Differences... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40742753>]
- Article: Mental Healthcare Services for Persons With Communication Disorders: Experiences of Mental... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40709903>]
- Article: Glucocorticoid use in paediatric posterior fossa tumour surgery and the occurrence... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40643729>]
- Speech and Communication Disorders -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Communication+Disorders%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+OR+%22Speech+Disorders%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

## Reference Desk

- Glossary [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/glossary>]  (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)

## Find an Expert

- Directory of Organizations [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/directory>]  (National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders)
- National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov>] 

## Teenagers

- Speech Problems [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/speech-disorders.html>] (Nemours Foundation)

## Patient Handouts

- Apraxia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007472.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007472.htm>]
- Dysarthria [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007470.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/007470.htm>]
- Phonological disorder [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001541.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001541.htm>]
- Selective mutism [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001546.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/001546.htm>]
- Speech impairment in adults [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003204.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)  
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/003204.htm>]



## MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

- Apraxia [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007472.htm>]
- Communicating with someone with dysarthria [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000033.htm>]
- Dysarthria [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007470.htm>]
- Phonological disorder [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001541.htm>]
- Selective mutism [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/001546.htm>]
- Speech impairment in adults [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/003204.htm>]

## Related Health Topics

Aphasia [<https://medlineplus.gov/aphasia.html>]

Hearing Disorders and Deafness [<https://medlineplus.gov/hearingdisordersanddeafness.html>]

Learning Disabilities [<https://medlineplus.gov/learningdisabilities.html>]

Speech and Language Problems in Children [<https://medlineplus.gov/speechandlanguageproblemsinchildren.html>]

Stuttering [<https://medlineplus.gov/stuttering.html>]

Voice Disorders [<https://medlineplus.gov/voicedisorders.html>]

## National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Speech and Communication Disorders* is the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders [<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/>]

## Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English

[<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/speechandcommunicationdisorders.html>] on *Speech and Communication Disorders*

MedlinePlus links to health information from the National Institutes of Health and other federal government agencies.

MedlinePlus also links to health information from non-government Web sites. See our **disclaimer**

[<https://medlineplus.gov/disclaimers.html>] about external links and our quality guidelines

[<https://medlineplus.gov/criteria.html>] .

The information on this site should not be used as a substitute for professional medical care or advice. Contact a health care provider if you have questions about your health.

[Learn how to cite this page](#)