

Communication changes due to a right hemisphere stroke

People who have a right hemisphere stroke may experience changes in their thinking (cognition) or in communication (reading, writing, listening, speaking). These changes are called a cognitive-communication disorder. Everyone is different. Changes may occur in one or all of the following areas.

Cognition

Being able to pay attention to, and remember, what you read and hear.
Understanding what other people are feeling, thinking, or planning to do next.
Problem solving, organising and monitoring yourself to be able to say or do things that are appropriate in a particular moment.

Linguistic

Understanding or using language that is a bit more complex, such as reading a novel, understanding that there might be more than one meaning, following along in a group conversation, or summarising a movie.
Reading or putting thoughts together in words with ease and in a reasonable amount of time.

Extralinguistic

Using gestures, facial expressions or body language in the way you always used to, and in a way that would be appropriate in the moment based on whom you are speaking to and what the topic of conversation is.
Noticing and understanding the meaning of other peoples facial expressions.

Paralinguistic

Noticing and understanding when someone is angry, happy, or frustrated based on the way they speak (speaking fast, slow, loudly or with a higher pitch). Being able to change your speech to show what you are feeling or thinking, or that you are making a point or asking a question.



Effective communication

Bringing together cognitive, linguistic, extralinguistic and paralinguistic skills to make sense of, produce, and change communication so that it is appropriate in a particular situation.