

## **GLOSSARY**

<https://communicationmatters.org.uk/what-is-aac/glossary/>

A glossary is a list of the difficult words and what they mean.

### **AAC: Augmentative and Alternative Communication**

**AAC** is used to mean many different ways to help someone communicate. It could be simple things like pointing, signing, writing or drawing. It could also be using a special device like a machine that 'speaks' words for you.

### **AAC User**

Someone who uses an AAC way to communicate.

### **Acquired**

A disease or health condition that you have got after you were born.

### **Aided Communication**

Ways to communicate that use equipment like a picture chart, a communication book, a computer or special communication aid.

### **Aphasia**

This is where the parts of your brain which help you speak have been damaged and you can't communicate so well anymore. It may happen if you have a stroke.

## **Apraxia**

This is where you can't get your mouth or tongue to work properly.

## **Asperger syndrome**

Asperger syndrome is a type of autism. People with Asperger syndrome have fewer problems with speech, but may still find it difficult to understand and communicate.

## **Autism spectrum disorders**

It is usually called 'Autism'.

It is a condition that affects people throughout their lives. You are born with it.

It affects people in different ways. Often it affects how people get on with other people. Many people find it difficult to communicate.

## **Brain or head injury**

This can be caused by a road traffic accident, assaults or a fall.

People with a brain injury may have difficulty with:

- Communication
- Speaking
- Remembering things
- Concentrating

## **Brain tumour**

A brain tumour is a growth in the brain. It might be cancer.

It can affect how the brain works.

It can affect how well you can communicate.

## **Cerebral palsy**

Cerebral Palsy is a health condition that people have when they are born.

It affects people in different ways.

Some people with cerebral palsy may have learning disabilities or be deaf.

Speech may be difficult.

## **Complex communication needs**

This is about people who have a lot of complicated health conditions that affect how well they can communicate.

## **Congenital**

This word is used to say that you had the health condition when you were born.

## **Dementia**

This is a health condition that usually affects older people. People have difficulty in remembering things and can be confused.

People with dementia often have problems with communication.

The most common types are Alzheimer's and vascular dementia.

## **Down syndrome**

Down syndrome is also called Down's. It is the most common cause of learning disabilities.

Down's syndrome is not a disease. People with Down's syndrome are not ill.

## **Dysarthria**

Speech that is slurred, slow, and difficult to understand.

## **Dysphagia**

Difficulty in swallowing.

## **Dysphasia**

Partial or complete difficulty in the ability to communicate.

## **Dyspraxia**

Dyspraxia is where someone has difficulty getting the different parts of their body working well together.

People often have difficulty forming words and letters when speaking.

## **Huntington's disease**

This is a disease that affects some people between the ages of 30-50. It affects how your brain works.

It affects how well you can communicate.

## **ISAAC**

The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) is a worldwide organisation that works for AAC users.

## **Laryngectomy**

This is where your voice box has been taken out in an operation in hospital.

## **Learning disability**

This is where people have difficulty in understanding new information or new skills. People may have difficulty living independently.

People are born with a learning disability.

Many people with a learning disability have other physical or emotional disabilities.

## **Locked-in syndrome**

This is where a person loses all ability to speak or move, even though they can still think and know what is going on around them.

## **Motor neurone disease**

This is a disease that causes your muscles to be weak or not work at all.

In most cases it doesn't affect your brain, but it can cause problems with communication.

## **Multiple sclerosis**

This is a disease that can cause problems with seeing, tiredness and difficulty with swallowing.

It can affect people's speech.

## **Parkinson's disease**

This is a disease that usually affects older people. People become slower and may shake.

It can cause problems with speaking.

## **Prion disease**

This is a rare disease that can make your speech slurred, slow, and difficult to understand.

## **Profound and multiple learning difficulties**

People with PMLD will have learning disabilities and physical disabilities.

Most people with PMLD will need to use a wheelchair and will have difficulty with hearing and seeing as well as communication.

## **Spinal injury**

Your spine is made up of all the bones down the middle of your back.

Damage to your spine can affect your ability to move parts of your body.

Damage to your spine can lead to speech that is slurred, slow, and difficult to understand.

## **Stroke**

Stroke is where something has suddenly stopped blood getting to your brain. Part of your brain may be affected.

Stroke often affects your speech.

## **Unaided communication**



Ways to communicate that do not involve using equipment. Speaking, using gestures or signing are unaided communication.

## **Voice Output Communication Aid (VOCA)**

This is a device that speaks for you.

There are many different types of VOCA devices. Some use simple recorded messages. Others are complicated computers that store many different spoken words.