

## Glossary of Speech Pathology related Terms

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**Articulation-** the manner in which speech sounds are produced; how speech sounds are made

**Aphasia-** Loss of language abilities due to brain damage, usually on the left side of the brain where most people have their “language centers”

**Apraxia of speech-** a motor speech disorder in which individuals have problems saying sounds, syllables, and words due to brain-based difficulty planning and coordinating the muscle movements necessary for speech

**Auditory processing-** the series of actions necessary to understand and remember information including attention, memory, discrimination, sequencing and conceptualization (making a mental image)

**Augmentative Communication-** a device or other materials that “adds to” or helps a person communicate

**Basic skills-** the skills that a student must use repeatedly to complete a more complex task, including elementary reading, mathematics, and communication competencies

**Circumlocution-** The use of unnecessarily wordy and indirect language to avoid getting to the point

**Cognition-** the process of thought which allows one to gain knowledge; it includes the acts of thinking, understanding, remembering, recognizing, abstracting, and applying the new knowledge to other situations (generalizing)

**Communication-** the sending and receiving of messages, in humans, communication is generally either visual (reading, writing, sign language), auditory (listening, speaking) or tactile (Braille)

**Developmental-** measuring skills in the chronological order that they should be mastered (e.g., children master drawing a circle at a younger age than drawing a diamond)

**Difference:** distinct or different variations of a language, especially as a person is acquiring a second language

**Disorder:** impairment; atypical speech/language usage as compared to a person that is the same age

**Dysarthria-** A speech disorder associated with muscle weakness, which could be from paralysis of certain muscle groups or paresis (weakness due to brain damage)

**Dysfluency-** speech that is marked by part or whole word repetitions or overly long pauses; stuttering



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**Dysphagia-** difficulty swallowing

**Echolalia-** an imitation of words or phrases in a way that is usually not meaningful and can interfere with communication

**Expressive language-** the ability to communicate using words verbally (speech) or visually (writing)

**Feeding disorder-** problems with gathering food and getting ready to suck, chew, or swallow it

**Fluency-** the rhythm of speech

**Forms of Language** include the types of sentences used (declarative, interrogatory, imperative, exclamatory) and the method of sharing the information (e.g., conversation, letter, briefing, speech)

**Functions of Language** include its purpose, its use, and what it does

**Generalize-** the ability to learn a skill under one set of conditions and use it later under a different set of conditions

**Hearing impairment-** an impairment in the function of the ear, the nerves which send messages to the brain, or the brain itself, which affects the way sound is processed. The impairment can range from a slight loss to total loss

**Inner Language-** the language of thinking necessary to give meaning to one's experiences; self-talk; reasoning

**Language-** the understanding and usage of verbal symbols to convey thoughts, feelings, and perceptions according to socially shared rules. Language may be auditory (listening/speaking), visual (reading/writing), or tactile (Braille)

**Language Sample-** A collection of utterances (words, sentences) that can be in the form of a personal story, sequencing events, describing, explaining or others

**Mean Length of Utterance-** The average sentence length, usually taken from a language sample; it is not just the number of words, but the number of morphemes

**Morpheme-** Words or parts of words that have meaning

**Non-verbal Language-** meaning given to physical gestures and facial expressions

**Organization-** being able to put pieces of information together into a whole picture



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**Perseveration-** Repetition of the same word behavior or thought, especially when it is interfering with functionality

**Phonics-** relationships between written letters and their spoken sounds

**Phoneme-** a speech sound

**Phonological awareness-** awareness of individual sounds in spoken words as well as how those sounds go together and how they can be changed to make new words

**Phonology-** the sound system of a language, different languages have different sound systems

**Phonological Process Disorder-** involves patterns of sound errors. For example, substituting all sounds made in the back of the mouth like "k" and "g" for those in the front of the mouth like "t" and "d" (e.g., saying "tup" for "cup" or "das" for "gas")

**Pragmatics-** the social appropriateness of one's language; being able to use language in a functional way (e.g., to get one's needs met)

**Prosody-** A collective speech term related to *intonation*, *rhythm*, and *vocal stress* in speech

**Receptive language-** the ability to apply meaning to information that one hears, sees, or feels

**Sequencing-** the ability to remember in order what has been heard, seen or felt

**Semantics-** relating to the meaning of words; vocabulary

**Speech-** the verbal means of communicating; the expressive mode of language; speech is affected by articulation, fluency, and vocal quality

**Speech Intelligibility-** This is how well a person's speech can be understood

**Syntax-** the arrangement of words in a sentence to convey meaning (e.g., "Can I go?" vs. "I can go".)

**Tangential-** expressions or responses characterized by a tendency to digress from an original topic of conversation, in which a common word connects two unrelated thoughts

**Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)-** An assault on the brain that causes mild to severe injury

**Voice-** the use of the vocal folds and breathing to produce sound

**Vocal disorder-** a problem in one of the three characteristics of voice production: quality (hoarse, nasal); pitch (too high or too low); or intensity (loudness)

