

# DYSARTHRIA

[Home](#) > [Health Hub](#) > [Health Library](#) > [Dysarthria](#)[A-](#) [A](#) [A+](#)  [What is dysarthria?](#)[What are the signs of dysarthria?](#)[What can I do if I have dysarthria?](#)[How can I help someone who has dysarthria?](#)[Download as PDF](#)[Share this Article](#)

## Dysarthria

### What is dysarthria?

Dysarthria is a motor speech disorder caused by damage to the part of the brain that controls speech. The muscles of the mouth, face and respiratory system may become weak, move slowly or not move at all. A Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) can assist with the diagnosis and treatment of dysarthria.

### What are the signs of dysarthria?

- “Slurred” speech (poor pronunciation of words)
- Change in speed during talking, speaking softly or barely able to whisper
- Fast rate of speech with a “mumbling” quality
- Abnormal rhythm while speaking
- Nasal speech (increased airflow through the nose during speech)
- Changes in voice quality (breathiness, weakness)

### What can I do if I have dysarthria?

- Speak slowly using single words, short phrases and sentences.
- Take a breath before you speak and pause frequently.

- Exaggerate lip and tongue movements while speaking.
- Avoid excessive speaking and exercises when you feel tired.
- Emphasize key words rather than always using full sentences.
- Reduce background noise, such as a loud radio or TV.
- Try writing the word down, or using gestures to get your message across.

### How can I help someone who has dysarthria?

- Pay attention to the speaker to help with lip reading.
- Be patient and encourage the person to slow their speech down.
- Ask them to write key words or use pictures, drawings and gestures to explain themselves.
- Clarify to make sure you have understood the speaker correctly.
- Let the speaker know when you have difficulty understanding them.
- Ask the speaker to repeat the part you have not understood.
- If you still don't understand the message, ask yes/no questions or have the speaker write his or her message to you.
- Encourage the use of all relevant speech strategies, reminding the person to go slowly, to use one or two words at a time and pause regularly.

© Copyright 2017 Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi. All rights reserved.

This information is provided by Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi, part of Mubadala Healthcare, and is not intended to replace the medical advice of your doctor or health care provider. Please consult your health care provider for advice about a specific medical condition.

Speak with our Contact Center for assistance

 800 8 2223

 Request An Appointment

[MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS](#) | [MEDIA CENTER](#) | [FAQs](#) | [CAREERS](#)



[Site Map](#) | [Legal](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Social Media Terms Of Use](#)

Copyright © Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi LLC 2018  
MOH: SU21651

