



# Let's Talk

## Thinking and Behavior Problems From Stroke

“My aunt's stroke didn't affect her speech, but we all can see that she is different. She doesn't think she has any problems, but now she makes mistakes in writing checks. Her house is messy and disorganized. When she tried to cook dinner for the family, she didn't make the recipe right.”

—Cristina

### Have You Had a Stroke?

A stroke comes from bleeding or a blood clot in the brain. Strokes can cause problems that you don't know about until you leave the hospital. These may come from a stroke on the right side of your brain.

Some of these problems include:

- Having a hard time concentrating and staying organized
- Not seeing things on your left side, called left-sided neglect
- Not doing things at home or work as well as you used to
- Behaving the wrong way in public. For example, you may laugh during a sad moment or say the wrong thing.

You may also have some weakness on the left side of your body. Sometimes you can have problems talking and swallowing, too.

### How Can Speech-Language Pathologists Help?

Speech-language pathologists, or SLPs, work with people who have speech, language, thinking, and swallowing problems. SLPs work in hospitals, clinics, private offices, and nursing homes, and can even come to your home.

Your SLP will ask you questions about the problems you are having. A family member, friend, or coworker can also provide helpful information. Your SLP will test how well you read or listen to short paragraphs, do simple math, or write.

#### Fast facts

- People with strokes can have thinking and behavior problems.
- These problems can come from a stroke on the right side of the brain.
- Speech-language pathologists can help.



## Thinking and Behavior Problems From Stroke

### Will Treatment Make a Difference?

Your SLP will help you understand why you are having problems. The SLP can work with you to get better. The SLP can also show your family, friends, or coworkers how to help you. You may learn:

- Ways to make sure you look to the left side. This will help you with reading, dressing, and other daily activities.
- How to double-check yourself. This is very important when you are handling money or writing checks.
- New ways to remember things and stay organized
- How to judge your behavior in different situations

“The SLP taught my aunt to find the left margin of a page when she reads. Now she uses a calculator to add numbers and asks someone to double-check her work. She writes things down so she can remember them better. She and her SLP wrote out the steps in preparing a meal so she could cook Sunday dinner without forgetting something. She is still not the way she was before the stroke, but she is doing much better.”

—Cristina

### A stroke can change your life. Help is available.

To learn more about stroke or to find an SLP near you who has been certified by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), visit [www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org) or call 800-638-8255 or TTY-301-296-5650.

My SLP's name is

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Appointment

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Compliments of  
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA)  
and