

# How Positive and Negative Emotions Affect Naming Pictures for People with Aphasia

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People with aphasia can feel negative emotions when communicating.

People with aphasia can have a hard time finding words.

Naming objects measures how well someone can find words.

Sometimes emotions make it hard to find words.



## How we did the study:

We used **POSITIVE**, **NEUTRAL**, and **NEGATIVE** words.

The words were matched with pictures.

People were asked to name the pictures.

We measured how **accurate** people were when they named the pictures.

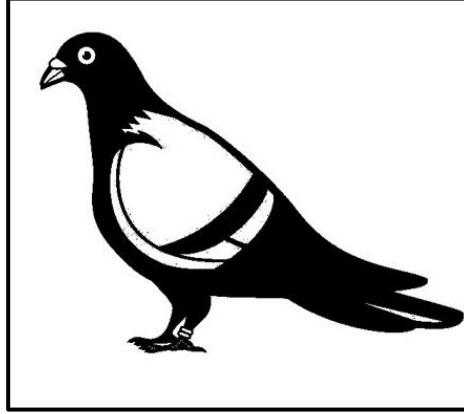
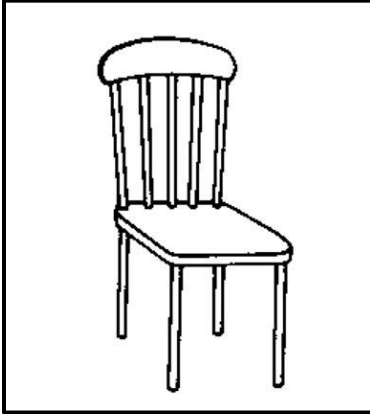


We also measured how **fast** they named the pictures. Participants used **one word** to describe each picture.

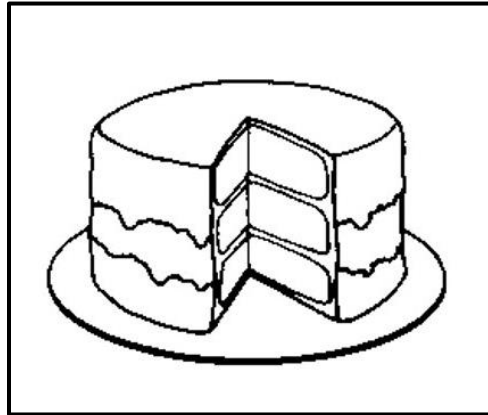
Participants tried to name each picture **as fast as they could**.

## Example pictures:

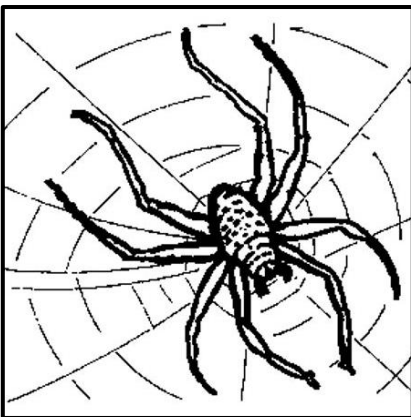
### 1. Neutral pictures



### 2. Positive pictures



### 3. Negative pictures



## Effects on Naming:

### Positive Pictures vs. Neutral Pictures

- People with aphasia were **a little less accurate** when naming positive pictures.
- People with aphasia were **a little slower** when naming positive pictures.



### Negative Pictures vs. Neutral Pictures

- People with aphasia were **a lot less accurate** when naming negative pictures.
- People with aphasia were **a lot slower** when naming negative pictures.



## Conclusion:

When people feel negative emotions about a picture, it is harder to name the picture.

Negative emotions can distract the brain from naming.

Sometimes positive emotions can also distract the brain from naming.

## How does this affect **YOU**?

- Strong emotions can make it **harder** for you to find words.
  - Like feeling frustrated, angry, embarrassed, sad, anxious, or insecure.



**frustrated**



**embarrassed**



**mad**



**anxious**



**insecure**



**sad**

- **Use strategies** to adjust your emotions.
  - Like breathing exercises, taking a break, telling jokes, or telling your communication partner about aphasia.
- Adjusting your emotions can help you focus on finding words.

## For Communication Partners

- Communication partners should be aware that when emotions are high, people with aphasia may have a harder time coming up with the words they want to say.
- You can help your friend with aphasia communicate better by facilitating calm communication environments and listening intently.
  - Ex. Smile more and say things like, “I’m here for you!”
- You can learn Supported Conversation for PWA (SCA™) developed by Aphasia Institute of Toronto.



*Adapted for people with aphasia by Calla Hunt, Natalie Heinig, and Abigail Jensen*