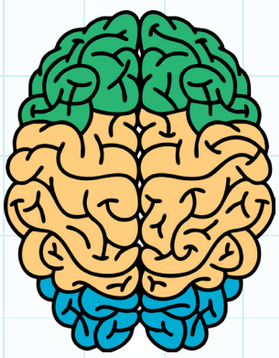
How We Communicate

TWO HALVES, ONE BRAIN

The brain has two hemispheres that work together to support communication. The **left hemisphere** is responsible for language: comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. The **right hemisphere** manages social communication, like understanding humor and facial expressions. Both hemispheres include "motor areas" that control the strength and coordination of the speech muscles. Damage to these areas of the brain can lead to uncoordinated speech **(apraxia)** or imprecise or slurred-sounding speech **(dysarthria).** Both hemispheres also manage executive functions that are important for communication – like attention, impulse control, and memory.

Left Hemisphere

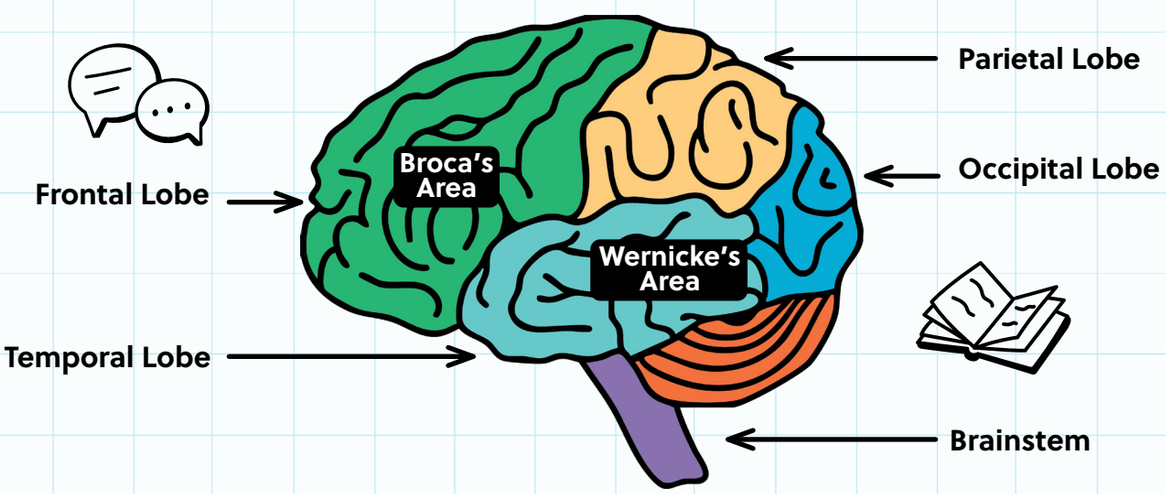
- Spoken Language
- Number Skills
- Scientific Functions
- Written Language
- Reasoning



Right Hemisphere

- Music
- Spatial Orientation
- Artistic Function
- Hearing
- Insight

THE BRAIN & LANGUAGE



Broca's Area

Broca's Area is in the left frontal lobe. It controls "expressive language," like speaking and writing. Damage to Broca's area can cause non-fluent aphasia, which makes speech effortful and limited, though comprehension remains intact.

Wernicke's Area

Wernicke's area is in the left temporal lobe. It controls "receptive language," like listening and reading comprehension. Damage here can cause fluent aphasia, where speech flows fluently but the words sound nonsensical and comprehension is impaired.