

# Worksheet 3:

## What dementia is

*'Dementia is a syndrome – usually of a chronic or progressive nature – in which there is deterioration in cognitive function (i.e. the ability to process thought) beyond what might be expected from normal ageing. It affects memory, thinking, orientation, comprehension, calculation, learning capacity, language, and judgement. Consciousness is not affected. The impairment in cognitive function is commonly accompanied, and occasionally preceded, by deterioration in emotional control, social behaviour, or motivation.'*  
(World Health Organization, 2019)

Dementia is progressive, which means the symptoms will gradually get worse. People may lose their ability to work, undertake personal and daily activities, maintain social relationships and live independently.

How fast dementia progresses will depend on the person and what type of dementia they have. Each person is unique and will experience dementia in their own way.

Diseases causing dementia are incurable and life-limiting.

Approximately 850,000 people are living with dementia in the UK. Of these, approximately 42,000 people are under the age of 65.

**Think of examples to illustrate the day-to-day impact on the person with dementia:**

**Memory:**

**Thinking:**

**Orientation:**

**Comprehension:**

**Calculation:**

**Learning capacity:**

**Language:**

**Judgement:**