

# Worksheet 1:

## How dementia affects the ability of a person to communicate

### Alzheimer's disease

As time passes, a person with Alzheimer's disease will often have more difficulty with:

- understanding and following everyday conversation
- maintaining focus and keeping attention in noisy environments
- word finding, vocal pitch and volume, continuity and pace of speech
- social interactions – they may ask 'inappropriate' questions and/or have difficulty identifying with another person's point of view

Notes

### Vascular disease

A person with vascular disease may experience a mixture of communication difficulties depending on the area of neurological impairment. Some symptoms might include:

- difficulties with using facial muscles needed for speech
- mood disturbances
- possible decline in motivation to interact

Notes

### Lewy Body disease

A person with Lewy Body disease may experience some of the following:

- possible slowing down of processing thoughts and ideas
- potential physical difficulties with speech muscles
- reduced eye contact and slowness in gestures
- hypomimia (loss or reduction of facial expressions)

Notes

## Fronto-temporal disease

A person with Fronto-temporal disease may:

- make socially and/or culturally inappropriate comments and statements
- swear and/or use sexually explicit language
- have difficulty with word finding
- have difficulty forming fluid sentences – often with sentences getting shorter
- develop echolalia – repetition of another person’s spoken words, and may have difficulty with producing their own speech
- have increasing difficulties with auditory comprehension

Notes