

The Gang at Just Jake's



Aphasia and Social Networking

[Click here to find out how to begin on Twitter](#)

Social Networking on the internet is a very big part of life for many people in the world. Communicating on line poses both challenges and exciting opportunities for people with aphasia. Many can do this independently. Others will need help. The social networking sites allow people across town, cities, and countries to find each other and tell each other about their lives. People with aphasia have a lot to share. Perhaps you will try to access one or two of these networks soon. If you belong to an aphasia group, there may be others who are already doing this, and who can help you get started.

Do You Twitter?

www.twitter.com

People on Twitter write very short notes that others who “follow” them can read. You can also follow people and see what they say. People on Twitter can also join a Twitter group, called a Twibe. Speaking of Aphasia invites you to join our Aphasia Twibe. If you are already on Twitter, look for us at twib.es/D9P



Twitter lingo:

“Tweet”: one 170 character message

“Tweeps”: the folks you follow

“Twibe”: a Twitter group

Do You Facebook?

Facebook began as a social network to help students on college campuses get to know each other. It has now expanded to include over 200 million people all over the world. It is free, like the other social networks. You begin by entering some information about yourself. This creates your profile. You have a “wall”; people can write on your wall, you can post messages or pictures or videos on your wall. People you want to be your “friends” become part of your social network. You stay in touch with them by clicking on their photos. You can also join Facebook groups. Speaking of Aphasia has one called, “Living Successfully With Aphasia”. We invite you to join if you are on Facebook, or when you sign up.

[*Click here to find out more about how to join facebook*](#)

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Facts about Facebook:

Your profile is public so be sure to give only the information you want others to see.

You can send messages privately to friends on Facebook, or post them publicly on the wall.

Do You Skype?

Skype is a software application you download from the internet. You can then make telephone calls on your computer to others who also have Skype. For people with aphasia, the best part is the video connection. You do need to have a tiny video camcorder attached to your computer. Some computers have a camcorder already built in. You can purchase one for about \$25-\$50 at computer stores or Amazon.com. Make sure it is the right one for your computer! When people with aphasia can see each other, communication is easier. You can talk with one person, or more than one person at a time. Speaking of Aphasia will be starting up some Skype groups in the fall. Let us know if you are interested!

[Click here to go to the Skype Welcome page. Then click on Download. Find your computer \(Windows or Mac\) on the right side. Download the file and you are in!](#)



Facts about Skype:

You and the person you are calling must both be on the computer for Skype calls.

You must have a videocam attached to your computer to see people, and to have them see you.

You must have your audio card set up properly to hear.

The Skype website helps you with the set-up, but it can be a little tricky. Get help; it's worth it!

All video skype calls are free.