


# Do's and Don'ts: Communicating with a Person Who Has Alzheimer's Disease

People with Alzheimer's may struggle to find the right word when speaking and may forget what they were saying. Remember to be patient. Here are some do's and don'ts to keep in mind.



Do	Don't
 Make eye contact and use the person's name.	 Exclude the person from conversations.
 Listen and be open to the person's concerns.	 Speak with an angry or tense tone.
 Allow extra time for the person to respond.	 Talk about the person as if they are not there.
 Try using different words if the person doesn't understand what you say the first time.	 Interrupt or argue with the person.
 Ask yes or no questions: "Would you like some tea?" rather than "What would you like to drink?"	 Ask the person whether they remember something or someone.

To learn more about communication and behavior changes in Alzheimer's disease, visit [www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers-communication](http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers-communication).