

## Using the Picture Communication Charts

Picture Communication Charts can be a useful way to communicate many basic needs when you have difficulties with spoken communication. Charts can be made for basic vocabulary or be made about specific categories or subjects.

Sit with, or opposite the individual you are trying to communicate with and ask them to point to the relevant pictures. The listener can ask questions or elaborate on the picture to try understand the message that the individual wants to deliver. The individual can nod or shake their head to clarify the listener understands the message. If the individual uses gesture or sign, this can further increase the intelligibility of the message.

If the individual has difficulty pointing, the listener can point to each picture in turn until the individual gives them a sign (a head nod or eye blink) that they are pointing to the appropriate picture.

Eye scanning is another way picture charts or symbols can be used if the individual with communication difficulties cannot talk, or access the pictures through pointing (see our Total Communication PDF in the Download Section of the [icommunicate website](http://www.icommunicatetherapy.com)).

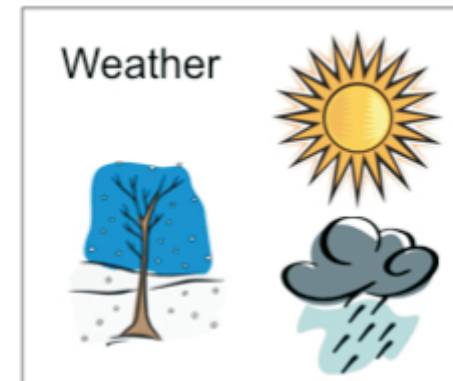
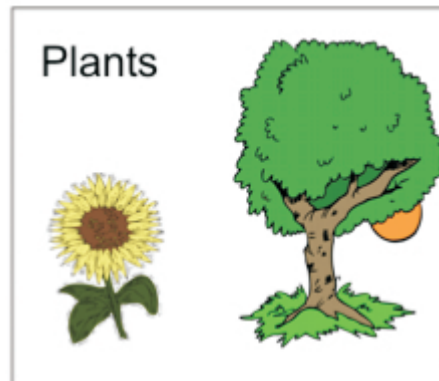
If the individual still has intact reading skills a chart with words and letters may be more appropriate and offer more options than pictures.

Picture Charts are not perfect but provide a quick way to express common words, requests or needs. Making a book containing variations of these charts for different dialogue or occasions can be a useful and portable tool for communication.

For those individuals with good cognitive abilities, they should also consider some hi-tech communication solutions such as electronic communication devices with voice output. These can now be linked with specially mounted switches or eye-gaze technology for those individuals who have physical limitations.

### **Categories communication page Chart**

These categories can be used to cue the listener into the context of the conversation. For instance if the listener does not know what the communicator wants to say and they point to weather, then the listener at least knows the context of the conversation through a system of guess work or discussion may be able to get the message that the communicator is trying to put forward.





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To learn more about Stroke/CVA, aids and strategies to enhance communication, speech and cognition, you can read about and purchase books on our website [www.icommunicatetherapy.com](http://www.icommunicatetherapy.com). Click this link to see our online Resource Centre

***Book Shop***

### **Suggested reading:**

**Living With Stroke: A Guide for Families** by Richard C Senelick and Karla Dougherty

**Brain, Heal Thyself: A Caregiver's New Approach to Recovery from Stroke, Aneurysm, And Traumatic Brain Injuries** by Madonna Siles and Lawrence J. Beuret

**Peeling the Onion: Reversing the Ravages of Stroke** by Robin Robinson

**The Stroke Recovery Book: A Guide for Patients and Families** by Kip Burkman, Bob Hoganmiller, and David Jenkins

**Life After Stroke: The Guide to Recovering Your Health and Preventing Another Stroke** by Joel Stein, Julie K. Silver, and Elizabeth Pegg Frates

**After Stroke** by David M. Hinds

**Family Guide to Surviving Stroke & Communications Disorders** by Dennis C. Tanner

**Stronger After Stroke: Your Roadmap to Recovery** by Peter G. Levine

**Rewire Your Brain, Rewire Your Life: A Handbook for Stroke Survivors & Their Caregivers** by Bob Guns

**Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation** by Joel Stein

**My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey** by Jill Bolte Taylor

**Talking About Aphasia: Living With Loss of Language After Stroke** by Susie Parr, Sally Byng, Sue Gilpin, and Chris Ireland

**Aphasia Inside Out** by Susie Parr, Judith Duchan, and Carole Pound

**Aphasiology: Disorders and Clinical Practice** (2nd Edition) by G. Albyn Davis

**Aphasia Therapy Workshop: Current Approaches to Aphasia Therapy-- Principles and Applications** by Jacqueline Stark, Nadine Martin, and Ruth Fink

**Beyond Aphasia: Therapies For Living With Communication Disability** by Carole Pound, Susie Parr, Jayne Lindsay, and Celia Woolf

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