

Speech Pathologist Practise Areas:

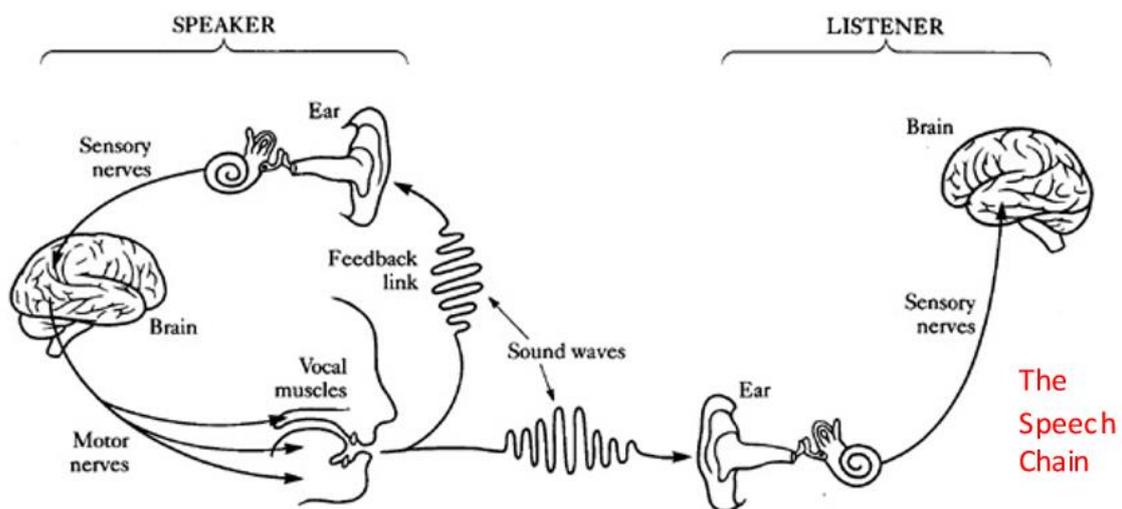
- Speech
- Swallowing
- Fluency
- Articulation
- Voice
- Language
- Multi-modal

Speech Pathologists are trained to assess and treat communication disabilities. We need Speech Pathologists so that humans can learn to communicate and be understood.

Speech Definition: “a verbal means of communicating”

Language Definition: “language is a complex and dynamic system of conventional symbols that are used in various modes for thought and communication.”

Communication Definition: “a process participants use to exchange information and ideas, needs and desires.” “An active process that involves encoding, transmitting and decoding – it involves a sender and receiver.”



Communication is LINGUISTIC and EXTRALINGUISTIC:

- Linguistic – speaking and listening, writing and reading, signing
- Extra-linguistic – (Paralinguistic, Metalinguistic, Non-linguistic)
 - Paralinguistic Features – intonation, emphasis, speed, rate of delivery, pause and hesitation. (these are SUPRASEGMENTAL DEVICES: they change form and meaning of a sentence by applying different tones/emphasis/expression across the sentence – e.g. “she’s wearing that” can be a statement or question depending on emphasis.
 - Metalinguistic Features – the ability to talk about language
 - Non-linguistic Features – gestures, body posture, facial expressions, eye contact, etc.

Essential difference between human and animal language:

Humans can produce and understand indefinitely large numbers of utterances (past, present, future statements), with meanings never encountered before (e.g. language is creative, new sentences can be created that are understandable), by combining a finite number of vocabulary items in a rule governed way (structure dependent).

Humans	Animals
Utterances – can refer to past, present	Only talk in present tense
Can follow syntactic structure	No understanding of grammar
Develop increasingly good comprehension	Comprehension based on repetition
Acquire language without training	Route learning, unable to be creative
Can recognise & reject ill-formed sentences	Make no judgements on language
Asks many questions	Cannot ask frequent questions
Spontaneous use of language	Use language only when needing something

Unique about Language:

- Arbitrary – the absence of any natural or necessary connection between a word's meaning and its sound or form.
- Discrete – not continuous, infinite words
- Productive – used to get a result
- Meaningful – used to make meaning
- Displacement – talk about things that are temporarily/physically displaced, e.g. what happened yesterday (the use of memory)
- Rule governed – the way language is used to make sense