



5 Early Speech Signs of Alzheimer's – Stay Alert!

Description

[Dementia affects ten million individuals](#) globally each year, a number that continues to rise. In the UK, around one million people currently live with dementia, and projections suggest this figure will reach 1.6 million by 2050, as highlighted by the Alzheimer's Society and various studies.

Alzheimer's disease, the primary cause of dementia, results in cognitive decline and memory loss due to the brain's malfunctioning processes, progressively worsening over time. Detecting Alzheimer's in its early stages can facilitate appropriate medical attention and support for patients and caregivers.

Understanding language modifications can offer insight into early Alzheimer's symptoms. Speech-related changes, such as pauses, hesitations, and vague expressions, are prominent indicators of cognitive decline. Individuals may struggle to recall specific words, resorting to general terms or circular descriptions to convey their message.

Moreover, using words in improper contexts or substituting them for related terms can signify early Alzheimer's symptoms. Tasks may be discussed rather than executed, and individuals may exhibit reduced lexical diversity, often relying on common words instead of varied vocabulary. Difficulties in word retrieval or categorization may also surface as the disease progresses.

While aging is a significant Alzheimer's risk factor, early-onset cases can occur in younger individuals. Consistent and worsening language-related challenges could indicate Alzheimer's onset, emphasizing the importance of prompt recognition, especially for high-risk groups like individuals with Down Syndrome.

Dr. Sarah Curtis, a Doctoral Candidate at Nottingham Trent University, specializes in language use in Down Syndrome and Alzheimer's Disease. This insightful piece, originating from [The Conversation](#) and under a Creative Commons license, sheds light on the crucial role of speech analysis in early Alzheimer's detection.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Dementia** /dɪ'menʃə/ (noun): A chronic or persistent disorder of the mental processes caused by brain disease or injury characterized by memory disorders personality changes and impaired reasoning.
2. **Cognitive** /'kɒɡ.nɪ.tɪv/ (adjective): Relating to the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought experience and the senses.
3. **Projections** /prə'dʒɛk.jənz/ (noun): An estimate or forecast of a future situation or trend based on a study of present ones.
4. **Facilitate** /fə'sɪl.ɪ.teɪt/ (verb): To make an action or process easy or easier.
5. **Lexical** /'lɛk.sɪ.kəl/ (adjective): Relating to the words or the vocabulary of a language.
6. **Retrieval** /rɪ'triː.vəl/ (noun): The process of getting something back from somewhere.



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What is the estimated number of individuals globally affected by dementia each year?
Option: 5 million
Option: 10 million
Option: 15 million
Option: 20 million
2. What is the projected number of people living with dementia in the UK by 2050?
Option: 800,000
Option: 1.2 million
Option: 1.4 million
Option: 1.6 million
3. Which organization highlighted the projected figures for dementia cases in the UK by 2050?
Option: World Health Organization
Option: Alzheimer's Association
Option: Tata Group
Option: Alzheimer's Society
4. What is a prominent indicator of cognitive decline related to Alzheimer's disease?
Option: Physical clumsiness
Option: Speech-related changes
Option: Loss of taste sensation
Option: Heightened sense of smell
5. What can the use of words in improper contexts or substitution signify in early Alzheimer's symptoms?
Option: Improved memory
Option: Normal cognitive functioning
Option: Memory loss
Option: Early Alzheimer's symptoms
6. Who specializes in language use in Down Syndrome and Alzheimer's Disease at Nottingham Trent University?



- Option: Dr. Sarah Curtis
- Option: Prof. John Smith
- Option: Dr. Emily Brown
- Option: Dr. Michael Johnson

True-False

- 7. Dementia affects five million individuals globally each year.
- 8. Alzheimer's disease primarily affects physical abilities rather than cognitive functions.
- 9. Reduced lexical diversity can be a sign of early Alzheimer's symptoms.
- 10. Individuals with Down Syndrome are not considered a high-risk group for developing Alzheimer's.
- 11. Dr. Sarah Curtis is affiliated with the Alzheimer's Association.
- 12. Early recognition of language-related challenges in individuals can help in Alzheimer's detection.

Gap-Fill

- 13. The estimated number of individuals affected by dementia globally each year is _____ million.
- 14. The UK is projected to have _____ million people living with dementia by 2050.
- 16. Detection of Alzheimer's in its early stages can facilitate _____ medical attention and support for patients and caregivers.
- 17. Using words in improper contexts can signify early Alzheimer's _____.
- 18. Individuals with Down Syndrome are considered a _____ group for developing Alzheimer's.



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. 10 million 2. 1.6 million 3. Alzheimer's Society 4. Speech-related changes 5. Early Alzheimer's symptoms 6. Dr. Sarah Curtis

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. 10 14. 1.6 16. appropriate 17. symptoms 18. high-risk

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What term is used to describe extremely large scales of measurement in space?

Option: Projections

Option: Cognitive

Option: Astronomical

Option: Dementia

2. Which field of study focuses on the origin and development of the universe?

Option: Interstellar

Option: Cosmology

Option: Lexical

Option: Traverse

3. What is the name of the vast region of space where the Sun's influence dominates?

Option: Anomalies

Option: Heliosphere

Option: Influenced

Option: Intricate

4. What term describes the process of changing from one state to another?

Option: Distributions

Option: Transitioning

Option: Facilitate

Option: Retrieval

5. Which word best describes something that is complex and advanced?



- Option: Artifacts
- Option: Mesmerizing
- Option: Sophisticated
- Option: Technological

6. What term refers to estimates or predictions based on present data and trends?

- Option: Cognitive
- Option: Projections
- Option: Incorporation
- Option: Insight

7. Which term means to completely change something in a fundamental way?

- Option: Revolutionize
- Option: Butchering
- Option: Catalog
- Option: Dementia

8. What word describes things that deviate from what is standard normal or expected?

- Option: Celestial
- Option: Anomalies
- Option: Crimson
- Option: Spectacle

9. Which term means to make an action or process easier and more efficient?

- Option: Interstellar
- Option: Facilitate
- Option: Influenced
- Option: Intricate

10. Which term relates to the vocabulary of a language or field of study?

- Option: Heliosphere
- Option: Lexical
- Option: Retrieval
- Option: Traverse

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. _____ is a term for a decline in mental ability severe enough to interfere with daily life.



12. The artist spent weeks creating the _____ design in the stained glass window.
13. You can use this software to _____ lost data from your computer.
14. The documentary showed the cruel practice of animal _____ in some regions.
15. Her music was deeply _____ by the sounds of nature.
16. The library has an extensive _____ of rare books and manuscripts.
17. The quick _____ of information is crucial in emergency situations.
18. The latest software update includes several _____ to improve performance.
19. The company is planning the _____ of new technologies into their product line.
20. _____ abilities decline in patients suffering from advanced dementia.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The aurora borealis is a beautiful natural that lights up the night sky.
22. Astronomers study objects in the sphere such as stars planets and galaxies.
23. As the sun set the sky turned a vibrant shade of .
24. The meteor shower was a breathtaking in the clear night sky.
25. The dance performance was so that the audience was captivated throughout.
26. Archaeologists discovered ancient that provided insights into early human civilization.
27. The company invested heavily in advancements to stay competitive in the market.
28. The science fiction movie explored the idea of travel beyond our solar system.
29. Art often cultural and social norms reflecting the values of a society.
30. The statistics class focused on analyzing data to draw meaningful conclusions.



Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Astronomical 2. Cosmology 3. Heliosphere 4. Transitioning 5. Sophisticated 6. Projections
7. Revolutionize 8. Anomalies 9. Facilitate 10. Lexical

Gap-Fill: 11. Dementia 12. intricate 13. retrieve 14. butchering 15. influenced 16. catalog 17. retrieval
18. enhancements 19. incorporation 20. Cognitive

Matching sentence: 1. phenomenon 2. celestial 3. crimson 4. spectacle 5. mesmerizing 6. artifacts
7. technological 8. interstellar 9. influences 10. distributions

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL5

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