

Speech vs Language

What is SPEECH?

Speech is the verbal act of communicating. Speech consists of three things:

- **Articulation:** the ability to coordinate your vocal folds, tongue, lips, etc. to produce speech sounds
- **Voice:** The act of passing air from the lungs, through your vocal folds, to produce sound
- **Fluency:** the rhythm of speech.

A **speech disorder** describes difficulties in any one of these areas. For example:

- Difficulty producing a certain sound
- A chronic hoarse voice
- A stutter/stammer



What is LANGUAGE?

Language is a symbolic system made up of socially shared rules. English is made up of spoken and written words as well as gestures such as waving 'hello.'

A **language disorder** can describe difficulties with:

- Understanding what words mean
- Putting words together (e.g. 'I like dogs' vs 'I dogs like')
- Making new words (e.g. friend, unfriend)
- Adapting language to different social situations (e.g. 'Whats up?' with friends vs 'Hello, how are you?' with teacher.)

