

# Speech Language Pathology aka Speech Therapy in USA

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# About Me

## □ Education:

- 5-year degree in Speech and Language Therapy from Herzen State Pedagogic University of Russia, Saint-Petersburg (2004)
- Post baccalaureate coursework at California State University, Los Angeles (2009)
- Graduate coursework at Nova Southeastern University, Florida (2014)

## □ Work Experience:

- Early Intervention in private practice (<https://loriani.com/>)
- School-based therapy (LAUSD)
- Rehabilitation with adults

# Who Are Speech-Language Pathologists and What Do They Do?

*Speech-language pathologists*, also called *SLPs*, are experts in communication (verbal, non-verbal, written).

SLPs treat many types of communication and swallowing problems. These include problems with:

- ▶ Speech sounds—how we say sounds and put sounds together into words. Other words for these problems are articulation or phonological disorders, apraxia of speech, or dysarthria.
- ▶ Language—how well we understand what we hear or read and how we use words to tell others what we are thinking. In adults this problem may be called aphasia.

# What Do They Do? (continued)

- ▶ Literacy—how well we read and write. People with speech and language disorders may also have trouble reading, spelling, and writing.
- ▶ Social communication—how well we follow rules, like taking turns, how to talk to different people, or how close to stand to someone when talking. This is also called *pragmatics*.
- ▶ Cognitive-communication—how well our minds work. Problems may involve memory, attention, problem solving, organization, and other thinking skills.
- ▶ Feeding and swallowing—how well we suck, chew, and swallow food and liquid. A swallowing disorder may lead to poor nutrition, weight loss, and other health problems. This is also called *dysphagia*.

# What Do They Do? (continued)

- ▶ Voice—how our voices sound. We may sound hoarse, lose our voices easily, talk too loudly or through our noses, or be unable to make sounds.
- ▶ Fluency—also called *stuttering*, is how well speech flows. Someone who stutters may repeat sounds, like t-t-t-table, use "um" or "uh," or pause a lot when talking. Many young children will go through a time when they stutter, but most outgrow it.
- ▶ Accent Reduction - changing the way people speak.

# Where do SLPs work?

SLPs work with people of all ages, from babies to adults:

- ▶ Private practices
- ▶ Physicians' offices
- ▶ Hospitals
- ▶ Schools
- ▶ Colleges and universities
- ▶ Rehabilitation centers, long-term and residential health care facilities

# History

Speech pathology began to get recognition in the 1920s when the American Academy of Speech Correction was formed in 1926. It began to develop over the next twenty years as speech therapy approaches became more widespread. At this time WWII was going on, and soldiers were returning home with brain injuries. This was becoming a concern, so it was speech pathology researchers who worked with them through therapy.

In 1952, the American Speech and Language and Hearing Association was established.

In the 1960's a distinction between speech disorders and language disorders was recognized (currently has 284 employees at the National Office).

# How to Become a SLP?

- ▶ Bachelor's Degree
- ▶ Master's Degree/PhD

Coursework consists mainly of physiology, neurophysiology, phonetics, typical vs atypical development, etc. and may take up to 7 years of full time studying and practicum. First year - clinical fellowship.

- ▶ National Exam
- ▶ State License (Dual Licensure)
- ▶ Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology (CCC-SLP) from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association



# How to Become a SLP/A?

- ▶ AA degree or a BA degree
- ▶ State License

Possible national exam and ASHA certification in the nearest future.

Not all states utilize SLP/A's. Some states have speech aides who help SLPs with paperwork and material preparation.

SLP/A's only treat and conduct screenings and are supervised by SLPs.

# Maintaining State License and CCC Challenges

- For Speech Language Pathologists:  
24 CEUs for every two years
- For Speech Language Pathology Assistants:  
12 CEUs for every two years

## Challenges:

- Student Loans
- Legalities
- Workload

# Salary \$\$\$

SLPs make between 42,555 and \$329,633 according to salary.com.

In Los Angeles, SLPs in the private practice make \$100 - 650 or more for 1 session (typically 50 minutes).

SLPAs salary ranges from \$25 - 50 per session/hour.

Questions???

*Thanks for your participation!*