

Ian Marshall

Living with Aphasia

Living with Aphasia

What is it like to have Aphasia?

What is it like to not be able to say the word that you can see in your mind?

Living with Aphasia

It is frustrating

It can be upsetting

It can be funny

Living with Aphasia

When I first had my stroke, it felt like my head was full of cotton wool – for about a year

I had to learn words for everyday items all over again – things like cup, plate

Living with Aphasia

I got words mixed up – and still do

Sometimes, I say the exact opposite to what I think I have said

I do massage therapy for a living

One day what I thought I said to a client was

“I really like to help people”

But what I actually said was

“I really like to hurt people”

Living with Aphasia

I am a road cyclist

When I am on my bike, my thoughts are clear

So I tried talking into a hand held dicta-phone
when I was riding my bike

All we got was the sound of the wind with
some muttering in the background

It's a Thing

My special word is thing
When I can't say the word,
When I can't think of anything
I call it a thing

It's a Thing

It's a Thing

Something

Everything

Anything

It's a thing

Everything is.....**a thing**

When I can't say the word.....

I say.....

It's a Thing

It's a thing

That is the puzzle

And it's a puzzle to the person I am talking
to

It's not a puzzle to me

I know what I mean

It's a Thing

It's.....**a thing**

You know..... **that thing**

It's such a good word.....**thing**

It covers everything

Everything is**a thing**

It's a Thing

When I can't say the word

When I can't think of anything

I call it**a thing**

You know what I mean

It's a Thing

By George.....I've got it

It's a thing

So how do I solve the puzzle of

the thing

for the person I am talking to?

It's a Thing

I could show them **the thing**

But I can't find **the thing**

I could find another word for **the thing**

But the only word I can think of.....

is that it is

a thing

It's a Thing

I could describe it

But my brain is stuck on.....

It's a thing

My brain is a puzzle

But sometimes the pieces of my brain
don't come together

It's a Thing

That is the puzzle

How to put the puzzle together

I need to think of some more things

Something

Everything

Anything

It's a Thing

But no

It all comes back to

It's a thing

It seems such a simple thing

You know what I mean

It's a thing

Living with Aphasia

I have belonged to the Gavel Club for 3 years
Before my strokes I would never have given a
speech

Now I am confident in standing up in front of
people

And I have made new friends