

COGA Glossary - [based on WAI](#) and [MOOCAP Open Glossary](#)

15 May 2020

Instructions (revised 8/24/2020):

Please add comments next to definitions. This is preferred over editing in the document as this makes it harder for some people to read the current draft. If you would like to add an alternative definition, please:

1. Add “alternative definition” in the document, along with your proposed definition, and
2. Add a comment with the text “added alternative definition.”

+1 in the comments next to definitions you agree with, or are ok with going in as is to the public working draft (“I can live with it for now”).

-1 in the comments if you are not ok with the current draft, and add suggestions in the comments.

At this time we will follow the W3C process of following American spellings and using person first language, such as “People with autism.”

Note: these will get reviewed by the public and can be updated based on feedback.

Comments posted to the COGA list will be added into the document within 24 hours.

Priority 1 definitions: 1st ones to be reviewed in meetings.

Priority 1 - all mentioned in the introduction

Cognitive and Learning Disabilities

-including **Learning Disabilities and Cognitive Disabilities and Specific Learning Disabilities**

Cognitive and learning disabilities affect how people process information. For the purposes of [COGA](#), this definition also includes behavioral and mental health disorders that are not neurological.

Cognitive and learning disabilities can range from impacting specific skills and tasks to many aspects of daily living. They can affect a person's: perception, memory, language, attention, problem solving, and comprehension. These neurological disorders can also impact physical and sensory skills such as impact how well people hear, move, see and speak which rely on processing information. Examples of cognitive and learning disabilities include dyslexia, developmental disabilities, dementia, and brain injuries.
Cognitive and Learning Disabilities

Cognitive and learning disabilities include long-term, short-term, and permanent difficulties relating to cognitive functions, such as:

- Perception, memory and attention;
- Learning and orientation; and
- Visual, verbal or numerical thinking.

Learning disabilities

Learning disabilities involve difficulties processing auditory, tactile, visual, or other sensory information often accompanied by poor working memory. This can affect reading (dyslexia), writing (dysgraphia), processing numbers (dyscalculia), processing auditory information (auditory processing disorder), or spatial and temporal orientation (dyspraxia). [WAI]

Note, learning disabilities are sometimes called “specific learning disabilities/difficulties (SpLD)” in Europe and some other countries, and “perceptual disabilities” in other regions.

Alternative proposal following 11th June call:

Learning Disabilities

Sometimes called “Specific Learning Disabilities/Difficulties (SpLD)” and “perceptual disabilities”

Learning disabilities involve difficulties with processing auditory, tactile or visual, or information, often accompanied by poor working memory, that impact the ability to learn and apply certain skills. These processing problems can interfere with learning basic skills such as reading, writing and/or math. They can also interfere with higher level skills such as organization, time planning, abstract reasoning, long or short term memory and attention. Specific learning disabilities cover a spectrum of conditions which often overlap including dyslexia (reading), dysgraphia (writing), dyscalculia (processing numbers), auditory processing disorder and dyspraxia/developmental coordination disorder (spatial and temporal coordination and orientation)

Memory impairments

Memory impairments involve limited working and short-term memory, missing long-term memory, or limited ability to recall language. Brain injuries, dementia and learning disability are among many different causes of memory impairments.

Working memory is a temporary, short-term memory function that holds information, so that it is available for processing. It is needed for tasks such as copying.

Short-term Memory is the ability to hold information for about 30 seconds. This information can then be lost or moved into long-term memory.

Long-term Memory is the ability to hold information long term, which includes information from personal events, language, and facts.

Abi 31/8/20, working from Lisa’s starter sentence:

Memory impairments are where a person is unable to remember or recall pieces of information or skills that are usually remembered. It can affect

Working memory that holds information while it is processed. For example, we rely on working memory for tasks such as typing in a credit card number.

Short-term Memory that stores information for 30 seconds or longer before it is stored in long-term memory. For example, we rely on short-term memory to remember the location of menu items between web pages.

Long-term Memory that holds information long term, such as information from personal events, language and information. For example, we rely on long-term memory to recall personal contact information.

Intellectual disabilities

Intellectual disabilities involve impairments of intelligence, learning more slowly, or difficulty understanding complex concepts which started before adulthood. Down syndrome is one among many different causes of intellectual disabilities.

Note, intellectual disabilities are sometimes called “learning disabilities” in Europe and some other countries, and “developmental disabilities” in other regions.

Mental health disabilities

Mental health disabilities refer to conditions that disrupt a person's thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others, and daily functioning. This includes anxiety, delirium, depression, paranoia, schizophrenia, and many other disorders. These conditions may cause difficulty focusing on information, processing information, or understanding it. In particular, medication for these disorders may have side effects including blurred vision, hand tremors, and other impairments.

Abi 31/8/20:

Mental Health

Mental health refers to our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. A Mental health impairment/condition generally has some combination of disturbed thoughts, emotions and ability to relate to others that impairs daily functioning. Examples include depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. These conditions may cause difficulty focusing on information, processing information, or understanding it.

Executive Function

Executive function is a set of cognitive processes and skills that help an individual plan, monitor, and execute their behaviors or goals.

Priority 2

Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI)

Mild cognitive impairment is when some people have more memory and processing problems than is normal for their age. MCI is often used when impairments are not a part of typical aging and a person doesn't have a specific diagnosis. MCI may impact a person's ability to concentrate on a task or process new information. There is often a marked feeling of mental fatigue when mental tasks are attempted, and new learning is found to be difficult. This can sometimes develop into other types of cognitive disabilities like dementia.

Multiple sclerosis

Multiple sclerosis causes damage to nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord, and can affect auditory, cognitive, physical, or visual abilities, in particular during relapses.

Neurodiversity

Neurodiversity is a term that refers to the different ways the brain can work and interpret information. It highlights that people naturally think about things differently. People with cognitive and learning disabilities, particularly those with autistic spectrum disorder, may identify as neurodiverse as they regard themselves as part of normal variation in the human population.

Note: Autism (ASD), AD(H)D, Dyslexia, and other cognitive and learning disabilities may also be included in the spectrum of neurodiversity

Proposed Critical Terms

Add terms here you feel are important to add before November.

Easy Read (or Easy Reading)

- I think there was an external suggestion for this too.

Agreed definitions

Age Appropriate Forgetfulness

Sometimes called “age related memory loss”

People with age appropriate forgetfulness have impaired memory issues that can be a normal part of healthy aging. They may take longer to learn new things, forget something but remember it later, or occasionally forget particular words. (This differs from dementia where forgetfulness is due to a disorder and is more pronounced.)

Alternative and Augmentative Communication System

Sometimes referred to as “AAC”

Any method, device or app that can be used to help those who cannot use spoken language and need additional support by means of symbols, images and/or text. For example a screen with symbols that the user can select to speak the appropriate words or add them to a document.

Anxiety Disorders

People who have anxiety disorders struggle with intense and uncontrollable feelings of anxiety, fear, worry, and/or panic. This is more than just feeling worried once in a while. This may last for a long time and can interfere with daily activities, such as concentration and executive functioning.

Attention Deficit (hyperactivity) disorder, AD(H)D

Sometimes called Attention deficit disorder, ADD, and Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, ADHD

Attention deficit (hyperactivity) disorder or **AD(H)D** involves difficulty focusing on a single task, focusing for longer periods, or being easily distracted. It is marked by an ongoing pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity-impulsivity that interferes with functioning or development.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)

Sometimes called “autism,” “Asperger syndrome,” and “pervasive developmental disorder”

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is characterized by some degree of impaired social behavior, communication and language abilities. This may also impact the person’s ability to regulate behavior and attention. Individuals can have a narrow range of interests and activities and they may rely on alternative communication methods. Some individuals may also experience episodes of sensory overload.

Lisa: See neurodiversity for an alternative approach to ASD and other cognitive disabilities.

Brain Injury

Brain injury including Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), are caused by damage to the brain which can lead to long-term impairment of executive function, memory, learning, coordination, speech and emotions as well as other physical and sensory impairments.

Brain injury can have many different causes such as a concussion or stroke, and can happen at any stage of life.

Early Stage Dementia

Common impairments of early stage dementia include memory loss, difficulty concentrating, and struggling to follow a conversation or find the right word. These may appear before a diagnosis of dementia. At this stage, these symptoms are often mild.