

Speech vs. Language.

What's the Difference?

Created by the Speech-Language Pathology Team at the School District of Onalaska

LANGUAGE

is a system of patterns and symbols used to communicate. It includes spoken, written, and/or signed communication systems.

- Language is both **expressive** (e.g. speaking, writing, signing) and **receptive** (listening, reading, watching).
- There are **three main components** of language, which are:
 1. **Form** - *phonology* (the study of the patterns of sounds), *morphology* (the study of how words are formed and their internal structure), and *syntax* (the arrangement of words in a specific order).
 2. **Content** - *semantics* (the meaning of words, phrases, and sentences)
 3. **Use** - *pragmatics* (the study of how context contributes to meaning - i.e. social language skills).

SPEECH

is how we say sounds and words. It includes:

Articulation

- How we make speech sounds using the mouth, lips, and tongue.

Voice

- How we use our vocal folds and breath to make sounds.

Fluency

- The smoothness, rate, and effort used in speech production.

References:

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). Language in brief. ASHA. <https://www.asha.org/Practice-Portal/Clinical-Topics/Spoken-Language-Disorders/Language-In-Brief/>

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. (n.d.). What is Speech? What is Language? ASHA. <https://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/speech-and-language/srsItd=AfmBOOpTp2zrXnC6WVbgy7HkSBwU8KnPEO t94DintwALi3Our9O685WC>

