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Circumlocution is a communication disorder that happens primarily to people with traumatic brain injury. People with this condition have a form of aphasia and tend to use a lot more words than most people or say things in an unexpected way. They may struggle to make clear points.

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In conversation, this may look like, “There are four adults present who have a valid driver’s license & are unobliged” instead of saying, “One of us can pick up dinner if they’re not delivering.” People with circumlocution often give others a sense of “red flags” or being “off.”

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A person with circumlocution often gets accused of making excuses or being a coward because they don't always have the ability to directly state a point. Not stating the point can be seen as evasive and not taking a firm stance.

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Like many communication disorders, dysregulation can exacerbate circumlocution and cause it to be much worse. Being “flustered” can lead to even more lengthy, atypical, round-about language. Please consider if someone’s communication is “off,” they may need patience and time.

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