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Paragraphia

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Definition

Paragraphia is the use of unintended phonemes, syllables, or words during writing attempts (Davis 2014; Papathanasiou, Coppens & Potagas 2013; Patterson & Chapey 2008). Written errors can be similar to spoken errors (i.e., paraphasias). The more commonly used term for these spelling errors is *agraphia*. The term *dysgraphia* also may be used. Paragraphic errors can include substitution of a semantically related word, such as *man* for *woman* (associated by similarity) or *house* for *dog* (associated by frequent co-occurrences in written language); phonemic errors such as *pite* for *pipe*; or creation of a nonsense word such as *dindle* for *banana*. Paragraphia can be a symptom in several adult neurological conditions such as aphasia and dementia. For specific neuro-anatomical descriptions, see agraphia.

Cross-References

- ▶ [Agraphia](#)
- ▶ [Aphasia](#)
- ▶ [Neologism](#)
- ▶ [Paragrammatism](#)
- ▶ [Paraphasia](#)
- ▶ [Phonemic Paraphasia](#)
- ▶ [Semantic Paraphasia](#)
- ▶ [Wernicke's Aphasia](#)

References

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- Papathanasiou, I., Coppens, P., & Potagas, C. (2013). *Aphasia and related neurogenic communication disorders*. Burlington: Jones and Bartlett Learning.
- Patterson, J., & Chapey, R. (2008). Assessment of language disorders in adults. In R. Chapey (Ed.), *Language intervention strategies in aphasia and related neurogenic communication disorders* (5th ed., p. 109). Philadelphia: Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.