

# Symbolic Functions

They are specific to humans and are the result of higher nervous activity.<sup>[1]</sup>

## Distribution of symbolic functions <sup>[1]</sup>

### Phatic function

These include the ability to speak, read, write, calculate and think in abstract terms including semantics (the meaning of words).

### Gnostic functions

They are the result of a higher synthesis of sensory perception. They make it possible to recognize objects by sight, hearing and touch.

### Practical functions

It includes the ability to perform more complex purposeful movements

## Symbolic functions and hemispheric dominance<sup>[1]</sup>

### Dominant Hemisphere

It is primarily responsible for phatic, less practical and least Gnostic functions. The dominant hemisphere mainly provides the following functions:

- Speech
- Reading
- Writing
- Counting
- Comprehension and repetition (words, sentences)
- Logical and analytical thinking

### Non-dominant hemisphere

It ensures visual and spatial perception, behavior and orientation in the contralateral half of space. The majority of the population has a non-dominant right hemisphere, so this hemisphere will ensure the perception of the left half of space. Furthermore, the non-dominant hemisphere adds an affective and emotional component to speech.

## Links

### Related articles

- Disorders of symbolic functions
- Speech disorders

### Reference

1. AMBLER, Zdeněk. *Základy neurologie*. 6. edition. Galén, 2006. 0 pp. ISBN 80-7262-433-4is.