

Abnormality	Definition	Clinical Example
Loose association	When a client switches from one unrelated topic to another	"I like hotdogs. Come take a look at my houseboat."
Circumstantial thinking	When a person delays getting to the point of a conversation, providing random, tedious, and unnecessary details	When asked about their day, the client provides all the tiny details of everything they did that day.
Tangentiality	Occurs when a person answers a question with indirectly related or unrelated information but never gets to the point of the topic	"I have a date tonight. Do you like dates? I think that all fruit is necessary for good fiber intake. I need to use the restroom."
Concrete thinking	A literal interpretation of ideas or environmental stimuli with a lack of abstract thinking, such as being unable to understand metaphors or analogies	A client who is asked to shower takes their clothes off immediately regardless of where they are.
Neologism	Making up new words that have no meaning to others but make sense to the individual	"I have moxyplams for my tadonxses."
Word salad	The random connection of words without logic	Cab Abu use eat too oh hi.
Clang associations	Connecting words according to sound	Cat bat mat sap lap.
Mutism	The inability to speak	The client does not respond when asked a question.
Perseverating	When someone repeatedly uses the exact words, phrases, and ideas when communicating	A client references the same person over and over again during a session.
Echolalia	The repetition of words that one hears from another person	A client is asked to sit down for dinner and responds, "Dinner, dinner, dinner, I want to go to dinner, dinner, dinner."
Echopraxia	The imitation of the movement of others	The client mimics the movement of the nurse with whatever they do with their body position or limbs.
Catatonia	An abnormality of movement and behaviors	The client is found lying stiff in bed.

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Negativism	Resistance to movement and instructions	The client does not move or respond when another client asks them to.
Stupor	A complete lack of response	The client is conscious but not interacting at all.
Catatonic excitement (or psychomotor agitation)	Excessive and stereotypic movements	The client is pacing, rocking, and grimacing.
Waxy flexibility	When a client allows their limbs to be placed in any position for long periods	The nurse puts the client's hand up in a stop position, and the client does not move it at all.

Table 15.1 Language and Behaviors in Schizophrenia (Hitczenko et al., 2021)