

# Hallucinations



## WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

*People with Alzheimer's or dementia might be:*

- having a reaction to medicine
- taking the wrong amount of medicine
- going through changes in the brain due to the disease

People with Alzheimer's or dementia can sometimes hear, see, smell, taste, or feel something that is not really there. They may talk to someone from the past who is no longer in the home or even still alive or is a pretend friend. This can alarm close ones.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### SEE A DOCTOR

- visit the doctor to find out the cause (bring ALL medications with you)
- tell the doctor about every time you think this has happened (keep a log — day, time, and what was going on around the person with Alzheimer's or dementia)

### THINK ABOUT THE CAUSE

- change the possible reason
- if the person doesn't know who is in the mirror, cover the mirror
- if things come out in the dark, turn on the lights or use a nightlight
- if the TV or radio is confusing or scary, turn it off

### BE REASSURING

- say things like "don't worry, I'm here and will take care of you"
- agree, don't argue, about whether what's happening is real... it is real to them
- involve him or her in something pleasant to distract them



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