








If Talking is Tough....

Because of the RIGHT words NOT coming....

YOU:

- Say words  as you can or wish to!
- **Set the scene:** Use a noun phrase to start turn + pause (acknowledgment by partner) + phrase relating to noun phrase, usually with **general meaning words**
 - Example: “carrots” (gesture “peeling”) + “I can do it”
 - Perfect grammar isn’t the focus →  speed of communication,  need for repair  perception of “incompetence”
 -  likely to **find a word** if there is  grammar effort
- Use **general meaning words** to  speed, + specifics with:

- **Gestures**  , **body movements**  , **facial**

expressions



- **General words** = “do”, “thing”, “it”, “these”, “one”, “other one”
- **Setting the Stage: Gesture** in the same plane to keep your turn and connect ideas.
 - **Reset the Stage: Maintain eye contact, drop hand & reraise hand to restart for a correction**

☐ **Share a signal** with partner to let them know when you want their help with finding a word

- Allows **YOU** to start the repair

☐ **Say a close word (See Semantic Feature Analysis)**

- category
- another word in the same category
- function or use
- association
- location
- an opposite
- a physical feature
- any kind of description

THEN.....

- Type it (Ex: “fast in air”) into **Google** to do an image search



- Use Alexa/Siri
 - See Instructions




☐ Imitate your communication partner's **speech** patterns, **facial expressions**, **posture**

- **Borrow** words from what partner says as a “jumping off point”
- Helps “**gain the floor**”

☐  Check in to make sure your message got through:

○ Say: **Got it? OK?**

○ Repeat  what was **NOT** understood

○ Go slowly 

If spelling is a strength 

☐ Use a Text-to-Speech app to type in **Full word** or **Part word**

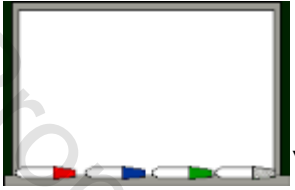
▪ Text-to-Speech 

▪ Messenger 

▪ Verbally (tablet ONLY) 




□ Type or Write **Full word** or **Part word** (on paper , on

markerboard )

- THEN have YOU or your communication partner read it

□  : Type 1st few letters of a word to find the word or a picture of the word

□ Use a **visual alphabet board**  to point to letters if writing or typing is a **challenge**.


- See Alphabet Board



If spelling is a Challenge ...

☐ Use Pictures  to help

• Emojis 

• Take, Find & Download, & Save  pictures on your phone  to tell about an event or topics

▪ These can include screenshots , maps



, clocks



, calendars



▪ Best if high-context

- Environmental context
- Personal relevancy
- Clarity (a clear action is depicted)
- **Include:** who, what, where, when.....

▪ Make an album  for a **topic** or **event** and store your pictures there.

• You can even create a video  from the

album  if that helps!



- Get Free version of Snap & Core First



(tablet or desktop)

- See Instructions

- Use FREE visual creation apps

- **Pro:** Create stories, add text & marking onto your pictures.

- **Con:** Can take a bit to learn how to use them.

- Pic Collage 

- See Instructions

- Canva Stories 

- See Instructions

- Google drawings 

- Make a **communication binder** with...

- Binder , sheet protectors , dividers 

- Alphabet Board



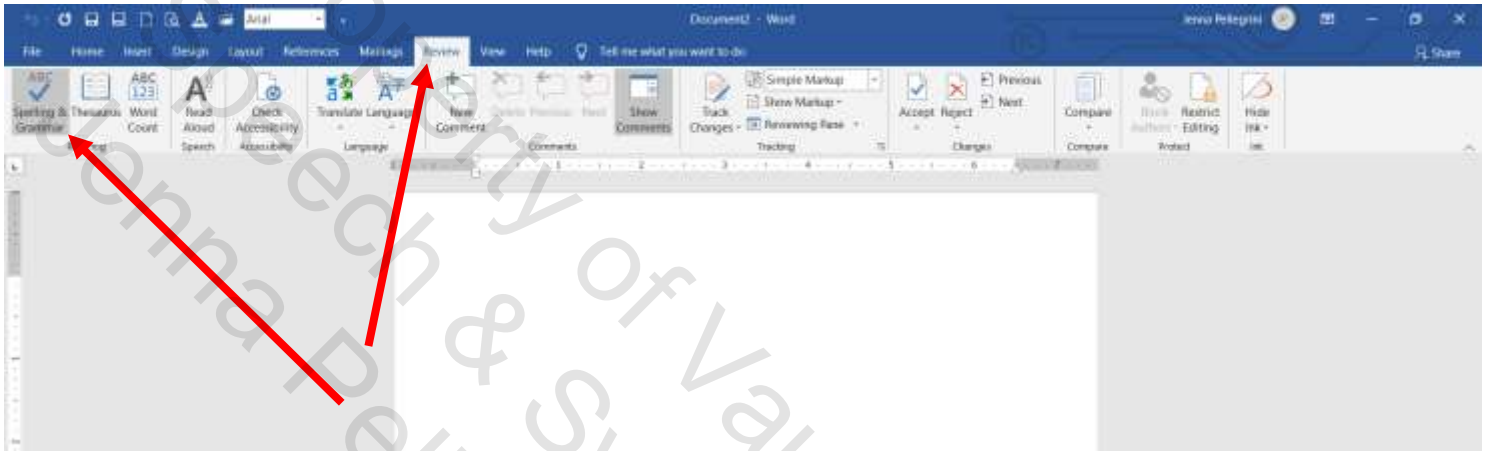
- Paper  & double-sided tape  to attach photos, magazine/newspaper clippings, other materials

- Instant camera 

- Send & receive **pictogram** messages with Tapgram 



- Type **Part Word** in Text-to-Speech app  or Word 
 - Can use **Spell Check** in Word  before typing word in Text-to-Speech app 



YOUR COMMUNICATION PARTNER:

- **Know that YOUR interaction choices** have consequences not only for the success or failure of any repair of misunderstanding or incomplete language but also for the structure of the talk of the speaker with aphasia
- **Be on the lookout for “word search indicators”**
 - Cutoffs, um/uh, pauses, revisions/restarts, negatives (no...), long sounds
 - Moving gaze away
 - Questions: What’s the name of that? How should I say it? Can’t think of the name of it



- If your partner is having difficulty saying a word....
 - **Establish a signal** for them to let you know when they want assistance, or as a way for you to see if they want assistance
 - If you can narrow it down...
 - Give a verbal choice (**the mountains or the beach?**)
 - Or guess the word if they have provided the 1st few sounds or letters, framed as a question (**beeeee---oh beach!!?!?!?**)
 - Ask questions using the Semantic Feature Analysis framework above to get more info—**Is it somewhere we go in the summer?**)
 - Or a visual choice
 - Provide written choices or image choices (search on phone)
- Repeat back or expand on what you understood
 - **Beach! Yes! Let's go to the beach tomorrow! I wonder what we'll see there!**
 - If you repeat back what you understood, that allows your communication partner to repeat only what you did NOT understand---more efficient and more likely to get full message across to you!
- **No quizzing!!!** If your partner's message is conveyed, no need to make them say the word or sentence. **Keep communication going.**



- **X** BEEAAAACCCHHH! Say...”beach” ...together
“beeeacch”

- **Remember**: Question—Answer—Repair format =
Conversation Killer

- Respond to **CONTENT** NOT FORM—perfect grammar is the goal **X**
 - Can offer **SUBTLE suggestion**: (*using partner’s “beach” gesture*) I hope we can have a picnic at the beach (*gesture*).
- Reflect **EMOTIONAL TONE**: *That sounds like it was frustrating!*
- Once your partner is comfortable with communication strategies, **Open-Ended Questions** > **Closed-Ended ones**.

- Be patient
- Do not pretend to understand

