

APHASIA HOME SUPPORT GUIDE

Home Practice Guides: Response Elaboration Training

Principles

- A therapy method targeting the expansion of utterance length and content by using open-ended questions to help patients improve word retrieval and gradually build longer, more complete sentences more independently (Kearns, 1985).

1 Target Audience

- Patients with **mild to moderate** or **non-fluent** aphasia (Bunker, Nessler, & Vambaugh, 2019).
- Patients who can produce single words or short phrases, but whose sentences are incomplete.

2 Materials


- Training pictures (featuring a clear subject and action; simple backgrounds are ideal).
- Wh-question visual prompt card



3 Steps


1

What is happening?



→

Woman
Park

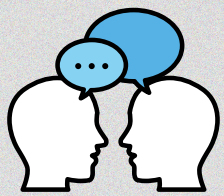


- Show a picture, e.g., "A girl running in the park".
- Ask the patient: "What is happening in this picture?"
- The carer notes the number of content words in the patient's response. E.g., "Woman... park" counts as two words.

2

"Yes! The woman is running in the park."

- The carer repeats the patient's answer, gives positive feedback, and expands it into a full sentence.
- E.g., "Yes! The woman is running in the park."



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3

When is the woman running in the park?

邊個	幾時	邊度	做咩



morning



- If the patient did not mention key elements, the carer can show the "**Wh-question visual prompt card**" and use a question to elicit details.
 - E.g., "When is the woman running in the park?"
- If the patient's response is unrelated or there is no response, the carer **gives the answer** and asks the patient to **repeat** it.
 - E.g., "In the morning."
- If the patient cannot repeat it, they should not be forced.

4

"Now read the whole sentence."

who	what-doing	where	when
woman	run	park	morning



- Combine the words/phrases from the patient's and carer's answers into a full sentence. Ask the patient to **read the complete sentence aloud**.
 - E.g., "Now read the whole sentence."
 - If the patient cannot read it, **write** the sentence down as a visual prompt.
 - If the patient still cannot manage, say the sentence and ask them to **repeat** it.
 - E.g., "Say, 'The woman is running in the park in the morning.'"
 - If the patient cannot repeat it, they should not be forced.
- * You can gradually transition to **using photos from daily life (including family photos)** for practice.

***Tips

- The primary goal is to expand sentences by repeating the patient's response and then extending and enriching its content. There is **no single "correct answer"**, and the patient's responses should not be strictly prescribed.
- Frequent **affirmation and praise** are essential to encourage patients to spontaneously produce more words.

① The information provided is for reference purposes only. For professional management or to learn more, please contact a speech and language therapist.

Reference(s)

- BUNKER, L. D., ET AL. (2019). EFFECT SIZE BENCHMARKS FOR RET. *AJSLP*, 28(1S), 247-258.
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- WAMBAUGH, J. L., WRIGHT, S., & NESSLER, C. (2012). MODIFIED RESPONSE ELABORATION TRAINING: A SYSTEMATIC EXTENSION WITH REPLICATIONS. *APHASIOLOGY*, 26(12), 1407-1439.

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