

# APHASIA HOME SUPPORT GUIDE

## Home Practice Guides: Gestural Facilitation of Naming

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### Principles

- A therapy method combining gesture and verbal training to improve word-finding difficulty in aphasia patients (Raymer et al., 2012).
- Gesture training can activate the left hemisphere's Broca's area—the same neural system involved in language processing—thereby facilitating word retrieval (Bernardis & Gentilucci, 2006).

### 1 Target Audience

- Mild to moderate aphasia patients / Non-fluent aphasia patients
- Patients presenting with phonemic paraphasia (Yousefi et al., 2014)

### 2 Materials

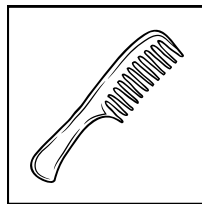
- Practice pictures / actual objects (common items for which patients are unable to provide the correct names)

Practice Materials



### 3 Steps

#### 1 Demonstration

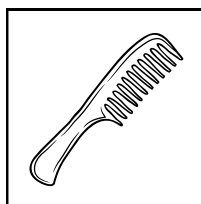


This is a comb.



- Show the patient the practice picture and simultaneously demonstrate **saying the target word** with its corresponding **gesture**.
- E.g., Hold a picture of a comb, say "**This is a comb**," and perform a **combing gesture**.

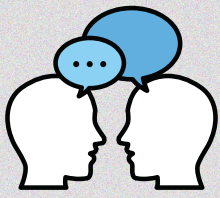
#### 2 Gesture Imitation



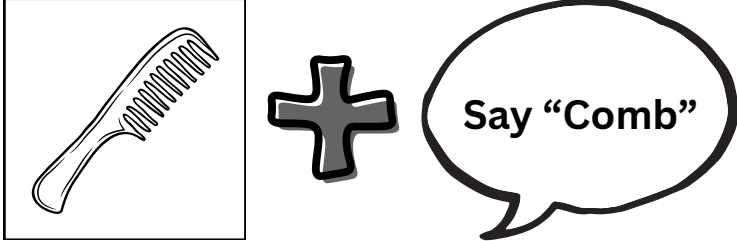
Copy me.



- Demonstrate the gesture again (e.g., the combing action) and ask the patient to imitate it: "**Copy me.**"
- If the patient needs help, the carer can **physically guide** them to perform the correct gesture




**3 Word Imitation**



- The carer **says the target word again** and asks the patient to **repeat, "Say comb"**.

**4 Gesture and Word Imitation**



- The carer says **the target word, demonstrates the gesture**, then asks the patient to **imitate both**, "Copy me and say 'comb!'"
- The patient should be encouraged to express the target word using speech and/or the gesture.

### \*\*\*Tips

- >> The patient's acceptance of gesture practice may be influenced by cultural factors (Yousefi et al., 2014).
- >> Other language exercises should be avoided during gesture practice sessions (Raymer et al., 2012).

③ The information provided is for reference purposes only. For professional management or to learn more, please contact a speech and language therapist.

**Reference(s)**

- BERNARDIS, P., & GENTILUCCI, M. (2006). SPEECH AND GESTURE SHARE THE SAME COMMUNICATION SYSTEM. NEUROPSYCHOLOGIA, 44(2), 178-190. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1016/J.NEUROPSYCHOLOGIA.2005.11.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuropsychologia.2005.11.002)
- RAYMER, A. M., MCHOSE, B., SMITH, K. G., IMAN, L., AMBROSE, A., & CASSELTON, C. (2012). CONTRASTING EFFECTS OF ERRORLESS NAMING TREATMENT AND GESTURAL FACILITATION FOR WORD RETRIEVAL IN APHASIA. NEUROPSYCHOLOGY REHABILITATION, 22(2), 235-266. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1080/09602011.2011.618306](https://doi.org/10.1080/09602011.2011.618306)
- YOUSEFI, A., YADEGARI, F., & BAKHSHI, E. (2014). THE EFFECT OF GESTURAL FACILITATION TREATMENT ON WORD RETRIEVAL IN PATIENTS WITH APHASIA. SPEECH AND LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY, 1(4), 34-41.

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