

# word retrieval goals for speech therapy

**word retrieval goals for speech therapy** are essential components in the treatment of individuals facing challenges with language and communication. These goals focus on improving the ability to recall and use the correct words during speech, which can be affected by various conditions such as aphasia, developmental language disorders, or neurological impairments. Effective word retrieval strategies and targeted therapy can significantly enhance expressive language skills, enabling clearer and more confident communication. This article explores the significance of word retrieval goals in speech therapy, outlines common challenges faced by clients, and discusses practical goal-setting approaches. Additionally, it covers therapeutic techniques and measurable objectives that speech-language pathologists (SLPs) use to support clients in overcoming word-finding difficulties. The following sections provide a comprehensive overview of word retrieval goals for speech therapy and their role in promoting successful communication outcomes.

- Understanding Word Retrieval Challenges
- Setting Effective Word Retrieval Goals
- Common Word Retrieval Goals in Speech Therapy
- Therapeutic Techniques to Support Word Retrieval
- Measuring Progress and Adjusting Goals

## Understanding Word Retrieval Challenges

Word retrieval refers to the cognitive process involved in recalling and producing the appropriate words during communication. Difficulties in this area can manifest as hesitation, use of vague language, circumlocution, or complete inability to produce the desired word. These challenges may arise from a variety of causes including stroke, traumatic brain injury, developmental delays, or neurodegenerative diseases.

## Causes of Word Retrieval Difficulties

Impairments in word retrieval can stem from neurological damage or developmental issues that affect language processing centers in the brain. Aphasia, often caused by stroke, is a common source of word-finding problems, while developmental language disorder (DLD) can also impact vocabulary access in children. Other causes include dementia, traumatic brain injury, and conditions such as multiple sclerosis, which can disrupt neural pathways involved in language.

## Impact on Communication

Word retrieval deficits significantly reduce the efficiency and clarity of expressive language, impacting

social interactions, academic performance, and overall quality of life. Individuals may become frustrated or avoid speaking, leading to social withdrawal. Addressing these challenges through targeted speech therapy is crucial to restore effective communication abilities.

## Setting Effective Word Retrieval Goals

Establishing clear, measurable, and individualized word retrieval goals is a fundamental step in speech therapy. These goals guide the therapeutic process and provide benchmarks to evaluate client progress over time.

## Characteristics of Effective Goals

Effective word retrieval goals for speech therapy should be specific, attainable, relevant, and time-bound. They must address the unique needs of each client by considering the severity of word-finding difficulties, the client's communication environment, and their personal priorities. Goals that incorporate functional language use tend to yield better engagement and outcomes.

## Collaborative Goal Setting

Goal setting should involve collaboration between the speech-language pathologist, the client, and, when appropriate, family members or caregivers. This ensures that goals are meaningful and aligned with real-life communication demands, increasing motivation and generalization of skills outside the therapy setting.

## Common Word Retrieval Goals in Speech Therapy

Speech therapy targets a range of word retrieval skills depending on the client's needs and diagnosis. Goals may focus on improving accuracy, speed, or strategies to circumvent word-finding difficulties.

## Examples of Word Retrieval Goals

- Increase the ability to retrieve targeted nouns and verbs in structured naming tasks with 80% accuracy.
- Use circumlocution strategies effectively to communicate a word when direct retrieval fails in 4 out of 5 attempts.
- Improve spontaneous word retrieval during conversation to reduce pauses longer than 3 seconds.
- Enhance the use of semantic cues to facilitate retrieval of vocabulary related to daily activities.
- Demonstrate self-monitoring skills to identify and correct word retrieval errors during speech.

## **Functional and Contextual Goals**

Goals often emphasize real-world communication scenarios such as naming objects in the home, participating in conversations, or expressing needs clearly. This functional approach promotes generalization and meaningful improvements in everyday language use.

## **Therapeutic Techniques to Support Word Retrieval**

Various evidence-based techniques and exercises are employed in speech therapy to enhance word retrieval abilities. These methods target underlying cognitive-linguistic processes and encourage the development of compensatory strategies.

### **Semantic Feature Analysis**

This approach involves training clients to describe semantic attributes of a target word, such as category, function, and characteristics, to facilitate recall. Semantic feature analysis strengthens connections within the mental lexicon and improves access to the word.

### **Cued Naming and Phonological Cueing**

Therapists provide phonemic or contextual cues to assist clients in retrieving words. Cued naming techniques help reinforce word forms and can be gradually faded as retrieval improves.

### **Repetition and Practice**

Repetitive practice and drill exercises help reinforce neural pathways associated with word retrieval. Tasks may include naming pictures, describing actions, or participating in structured conversations to promote retrieval speed and accuracy.

### **Compensatory Strategies Training**

Clients learn alternative ways to communicate when word retrieval fails, such as using gestures, circumlocution, or writing. These strategies reduce communication breakdowns and increase confidence.

## **Measuring Progress and Adjusting Goals**

Continuous assessment is essential to determine the effectiveness of therapy and to modify word retrieval goals as needed. Progress measurement involves both formal and informal evaluation methods.

## **Assessment Tools**

Standardized tests, naming tasks, and language sampling are commonly used to track improvements in word retrieval. Observations during natural conversations also provide valuable insights into functional gains.

## **Data Collection and Documentation**

Therapists document accuracy rates, response times, and use of strategies during sessions. This data guides decisions about when to increase task difficulty or shift focus to new goals.

## **Adjusting Therapy Plans**

As clients meet initial goals, therapy plans are updated to introduce more complex targets or to address residual challenges. Flexibility in goal setting ensures continued progress and maximizes communication outcomes.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What are word retrieval goals in speech therapy?**

Word retrieval goals in speech therapy focus on improving an individual's ability to recall and produce specific words during conversation, enhancing communication effectiveness.

### **Why are word retrieval goals important in speech therapy?**

They help individuals, especially those with aphasia or language delays, to overcome difficulties in finding the right words, thereby improving their expressive language and overall communication skills.

### **Can word retrieval goals be customized for different age groups?**

Yes, word retrieval goals are tailored to the individual's age, language level, and specific needs to ensure appropriate and effective therapy outcomes.

### **What are common techniques used to achieve word retrieval goals?**

Techniques include semantic feature analysis, cueing strategies, repetition exercises, and using visual aids to facilitate word recall.

## How do therapists measure progress in word retrieval goals?

Progress is measured through standardized assessments, observational data during therapy sessions, and improvements in spontaneous conversation and naming tasks.

## Are word retrieval goals only for individuals with aphasia?

No, while common in aphasia therapy, word retrieval goals are also used with children with language delays, individuals with traumatic brain injury, and others experiencing word-finding difficulties.

## How long does it typically take to see improvement in word retrieval skills?

Improvement timelines vary based on the severity of the impairment and consistency of therapy but can range from weeks to several months with regular intervention.

## Can technology support word retrieval goals in speech therapy?

Yes, apps and computer programs can provide interactive exercises and practice opportunities that support word retrieval goals outside of traditional therapy sessions.

## Additional Resources

### 1. *Word Finding Strategies for Aphasia and Related Neurogenic Language Disorders*

This book provides practical strategies and therapy activities designed to improve word retrieval in individuals with aphasia and other neurogenic language disorders. It includes evidence-based approaches and step-by-step instructions for clinicians to help clients overcome word-finding difficulties. The book emphasizes functional communication and generalization of skills to everyday situations.

### 2. *Improving Word Retrieval in Aphasia: A Guide for Speech-Language Pathologists*

Focused on effective interventions for word retrieval deficits, this guide offers comprehensive techniques tailored to various types of aphasia. It integrates research findings with clinical applications to assist speech-language pathologists in designing personalized therapy plans. The text also covers assessment methods and progress monitoring.

### 3. *Word Retrieval in Speech-Language Pathology: Theory and Practice*

This volume explores the cognitive and linguistic processes underlying word retrieval and how impairments affect communication. It bridges the gap between theory and clinical practice by presenting case studies and therapeutic exercises. Speech therapists will find valuable insights into diagnosing and treating word-finding challenges.

### 4. *Targeting Word Retrieval in Pediatric Speech Therapy*

Aimed at speech-language pathologists working with children, this book addresses word retrieval difficulties commonly seen in pediatric populations. It offers age-appropriate activities and games designed to enhance vocabulary access and expressive language skills. The book also discusses developmental considerations and family involvement.

### 5. *Strategies for Successful Word Finding: Techniques for Clinicians*

This resource compiles a variety of strategies to assist clients in overcoming word-finding problems across diverse settings. It emphasizes client-centered approaches and adaptive techniques to improve communication effectiveness. The book includes worksheets, cueing hierarchies, and methods to promote self-monitoring.

### 6. *Word Retrieval Therapy: Evidence-Based Approaches for Speech-Language Pathologists*

Highlighting research-supported interventions, this book presents multiple therapy models aimed at restoring and compensating for word retrieval deficits. It reviews the latest studies and clinical trials to guide best practices in treatment planning. Clinicians will benefit from detailed protocols and outcome measures.

### 7. *Enhancing Word Finding Skills in Aphasia: Clinical and Practical Perspectives*

This text offers a comprehensive look at aphasia-related word retrieval issues, combining clinical expertise with practical tools. It discusses assessment techniques, individualized treatment options, and ways to measure therapy success. The book also addresses psychosocial factors impacting word retrieval and communication.

### 8. *Word Retrieval and Naming Disorders: Assessment and Intervention*

Focusing on naming impairments, this book provides thorough coverage of assessment tools and intervention strategies for word retrieval disorders. It includes diagnostic guidelines and therapy activities tailored to various neurological conditions. The text is useful for both novice and experienced speech therapists.

### 9. *Facilitating Word Retrieval in Speech Therapy: Techniques and Resources*

This book offers a collection of techniques and resources aimed at improving word retrieval in diverse client populations. It includes cueing techniques, semantic feature analysis, and computerized tools to support therapy. The author emphasizes flexibility and creativity in adapting interventions to individual client needs.

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difficult, yet crucial, task. This important subject is not covered in depth in other clinical methods titles yet is a skill all students and clinicians must master.

**word retrieval goals for speech therapy: Treatment Resource Manual for Speech-Language Pathology, Sixth Edition** Froma P. Roth, Colleen K. Worthington, 2019-10-22  
The thoroughly revised Sixth Edition of the best-selling Treatment Resource Manual for Speech-Language Pathology remains an ideal textbook for clinical methods courses in speech-language pathology, as well as for students entering their clinical practicum or preparing for certification and licensure. It is also a beloved go-to resource for practicing clinicians who need a thorough guide to effective intervention approaches/strategies. This detailed, evidence-based book includes complete coverage of common disorder characteristics, treatment approaches, information on reporting techniques, and patient profiles across a wide range of child and adult client populations. The text is divided into two sections. The first part is focused on preparing for effective intervention, and the second part, the bulk of the book, is devoted to therapy strategies for specific disorders. Each of these chapters features a brief description of the disorder, case examples, specific suggestions for the selection of therapy targets, and sample therapy activities. Each chapter concludes with a set of helpful hints on intervention and a selected list of available therapy materials and resources. New to the Sixth Edition: \* A new chapter on Contemporary Issues including critical thinking, telepractice, simulation technologies, and coding and reimbursement \* New tables on skill development in gesture, feeding, and vision \* New information on therapist effects/therapeutic alliance \* Coverage of emerging techniques for voice disorders and transgender clients \* Expanded information on: \*Childhood Apraxia of Speech \*Cochlear Implants \*Cultural and Linguistic Diversity \*Interprofessional Practice \*Shared Book-Reading \*Traumatic Brain Injury \*Treatment Dosage/Intensity \*Vocabulary Development Key Features: \* Bolded key terms with an end-of-book glossary \* A multitude of case examples, reference tables, charts, figures, and reproducible forms \* Lists of Additional Resources in each chapter Disclaimer: Please note that ancillary content (such as documents, audio, and video, etc.) may not be included as published in the original print version of this book.

**word retrieval goals for speech therapy: Navigating Aphasia** Tessa Ackerman, 2025-07-22  
Navigating Aphasia provides the reader with a starting point for working with people with aphasia; presenting key, practical points to consider in the clinical management of this client group. With a focus on both the language impairment and the consequences of aphasia, this book is packed with easily accessible, applied advice about assessment and therapy from an experienced aphasia clinician. Key sections include: • Understanding aphasia • Clinical management • Assessment • Approaches to therapy • Language and cognition • Living with aphasia. Concluding with an appendix featuring useful books, websites and professional organisations, this is an essential, practical and comprehensive guide for newly qualified and student speech and language therapists, as well as those new to the world of aphasia.

**word retrieval goals for speech therapy: Speech-Language Pathologist's Guide to Home Health Care** Roberta Pierce, 1999-12-13 Roberta B. Pierce has worked extensively with patients of all ages and all types of communication disorders for over thirty years. She has experience in an out-patient rehabilitation center, a rehabilitation hospital, an acute care hospital, and private practice. Since 1975, she has contracted to provide speech-language pathology services to home health agencies. She shares this expertise with clinicians just entering the home health field in the Speech-Language Pathologist's Guide to Home Health Care. This book contains reference materials, patient and family counseling and education materials, and treatment activities that are invaluable for working with the adult neurogenic population in all healthcare settings. Content coverage includes: diagnostics; documentation; counseling the patient and family; treatment procedures; and therapy activities.

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succeed in school. Going beyond the common approach to language disorders in school-age populations, this innovative resource supplements a theoretical understanding of language intervention with a wealth of practical application strategies you can use to improve learning outcomes for children and adolescents with LLD. Well-referenced discussions with real-life examples promote evidence-based practice. Case histories and treatment strategies help you better understand student challenges and develop reliable methods to help them achieve their learning goals. Unique application-based focus combines the conceptual and practical frameworks to better help students achieve academic success. Questions in each chapter encourage critical analysis of intervention methods for a deeper understanding of the beliefs behind them. In-depth coverage of controversial topics challenges your understanding and debunks common myths. Realistic examples and case studies help you bridge theory to practice and apply intervention principles. Margin notes highlight important facts, questions, and vocabulary for quick reference. Key Questions in each chapter put concepts into an appropriate context and help you focus on essential content. Summary Statement and Introductory Thoughts sections provide succinct overviews of chapter content for quick familiarization with complex topics.

**word retrieval goals for speech therapy: Assessment in Speech-Language Pathology** Kenneth G. Shipley, Julie G. McAfee, 2019-10-25 This thoroughly updated sixth edition of the best-selling text *Assessment in Speech-Language Pathology* remains an invaluable resource for instructors, students, and clinicians. The book covers the diagnosis and evaluation of a wide range of communication disorders in adults and children. This one-of-a-kind manual provides a comprehensive package of reference materials, explanations of assessment procedures, practical stimulus suggestions, and hands-on worksheets and screening forms. The highly practical resource is separated into four easy-to-navigate sections: Part I highlights preparatory considerations; Part II includes procedures and materials for obtaining, interpreting, and reporting assessment information; Part III provides materials and suggestions for assessing communicative disorders. Part IV presents a quick-reference section, providing information on hearing considerations and medical diagnoses. This must-have sixth edition reflects the latest research, best practices, and important trends and developments for assessment in speech-language pathology. New to the Sixth Edition: \* Updated content throughout to reflect current research and practice \* New chapter on Selective Mutism \* New section covering the assessment of transgender voice \* Updated Sources of Additional Information in every chapter, with addition of recommended mobile applications for speech-language assessment Key Features: \* Full-color design with images, charts, and illustrations to engage readers and display key concepts \* Each chapter concludes with practical forms, including worksheets, checklists, and additional sources of information \* Glossary of key terms \* Chapter tabs with separate colors for quick and easy access

**word retrieval goals for speech therapy: Goal Setting in Speech-Language Pathology** Casey Taliancich-Klinger, Angela J. Kennedy, Catherine Torrington Eaton, 2023-11-09 *Goal-Setting in Speech-Language Pathology: A Guide to Clinical Reasoning* is the first textbook of its kind on evidence-based clinical decision-making for speech-language pathologists (SLPs). The goal of this text is to fill a pedagogical need for an efficient tool that teaches clinical reasoning to guide treatment planning. There are a number of existing resources in speech-language pathology that describe the how-to of writing goals, but not the clinical decision-making thought process behind the formulation of patient-centered goals. The text strives to address the knowledge gap in clinical learning environments across the scope of learners. Written for graduate-level students in clinical methods courses, it will also be an invaluable resource for novice SLP clinicians. This functional, concise text for clinical coursework or practice explicitly defines the decision-making process used by experienced clinicians from referral to the creation of patient-centered goals. The contents include (1) the purpose for a decision-making framework grounded in both the science of learning and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association's (ASHA) clinical competencies, (2) a description of data used in the clinical reasoning process, (3) presentation and discussion of the framework. Key Features \* Concise and readily accessible, making it easy to integrate into a



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Disclaimer: Please note that ancillary content (such as case study answer keys and and videos) are not be included as published in the original print version of this book.

**word retrieval goals for speech therapy: Speech Pathology in Cultural and Linguistic Diversity** Kim Isaac, 2002-01-21 This book explores the intricate relationship between culture and communication before moving on to intercultural health care, including a detailed look at perception of illness and disability. Two chapters on intercultural speech pathology look at clinical practice, including culturally-focussed assessment and management approaches. Interpreter-mediated speech pathology is covered in detail, including an overview of the process of interpreting, debate on professional versus untrained interpreters, discussion of pre-session briefing, a look at potential barriers to the interpretation process and introduction to a collaborative partnership model for working with interpreters. The final chapter explores the author's thoughts on the future directions in research and education in the field of intercultural and interpreter-mediated speech pathology. The book provides a comprehensive and practical insight into intercultural and interpreter-mediated speech pathology. With its easy to read and practical content, it should be of significant use to undergraduate students and qualified speech-language pathologists new to multicultural/multilingual contexts. However, it would also be suitable for experienced clinicians who find themselves tackling the challenges of intercultural speech pathology everyday.

**word retrieval goals for speech therapy: Working with Communication and Swallowing Difficulties in Older Adults** Rebecca Allwood, 2022-06-28 This accessible resource offers valuable guidance for all student and practising speech and language therapists (SLTs) who are working with older people with communication and swallowing difficulties. Chapters provide up-to-date theory on age-related changes alongside practical strategies for clinicians to use in their daily work, from help with mental capacity decisions to supporting older people with good palliative care. Promoting a holistic approach for ageing well, this resource dispels myths that surround the ageing process while detailing the normal physiological and psychological effects of ageing on communication and swallowing, as well as diseases and conditions associated with older age, such as frailty. Illustrated throughout with clinical case studies and helpful photocopyable resources to use in practice, this book is a key part of the tool kit for any speech and language therapist working with older adults.

**word retrieval goals for speech therapy: The Oxford Handbook of Communication Disorders in Neurodegenerative Diseases** , 2025-10-16 This handbook provides a synthesis of current communication disorders research in patients with a range of neurodegenerative conditions. Neurodegeneration is a rapidly evolving area of medical and health research; however, language and communication disorders have received much less attention than the pathophysiological processes of neurodegenerative diseases. This is despite the fact that these disorders are some of the earliest signs of neurodegeneration, and can seriously impact quality of life in people with neurodegenerative disease. The volume examines age-related neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's disease as well as neurodegeneration related to hereditary conditions like Huntington's disease and infectious diseases such as SARS-CoV-2. The chapters review the epidemiology and etiology of each neurodegenerative disease, with a medical overview covering the pathophysiology, clinical features, and prognosis of each condition. The emphasis throughout is on communication disorders associated with each neurodegenerative disease; the discussion includes research findings in the literature, with data from patients used to illustrate speech, hearing, voice, fluency, and language impairments. The book also explores the clinical management of communication disorders by speech-language pathologists. By bringing research and clinical practice together in a single volume, this handbook offers a comprehensive understanding of the impact of neurodegenerative processes on communication.

**word retrieval goals for speech therapy:** *Speech-Language Pathology Assistants* Jennifer A. Ostergren, Margaret Vento-Wilson, 2022-12-29 The third edition of the bestselling *Speech-Language Pathology Assistants: A Resource Manual* is an essential, practical, and easy-to-use resource for SLPAs and SLPA educators and their students. The text defines the roles of SLPAs and their supervisors—offering additional insight into the scope of practice of an SLPA per current American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) recommendations—and includes discussions, strategies, and examples of real-world issues, such as using augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and working with individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Also included within the chapters are important factors and modifications that can enhance the effectiveness of treatment activities. For example, using behavioral principles and incorporating play, literacy, and speech sound remediation into treatment or modifying the clinical interface to enhance group therapy dynamics for children and adults. Initial chapters are devoted to specific aspects of an SLPA's development, such as chapters on ways SLPAs can enhance clinical service through understanding of goals, lesson plans, data collection, and note-writing. Likewise, chapters on professional practice offer insight into ethical problem-solving, presenting a professional image, developing mentoring relationships, working with culturally and linguistically diverse populations, and the use of self-reflection for self-improvement. These chapters are followed by key principles for SLPAs to incorporate in clinical services provided to specific populations and disorders. New to the Third Edition: \* Updated ASHA documents throughout, including references to the new ASHA Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Scope of Practice (2022) and Speech-Language Pathology Code of Conduct (2020) \* New co-author, Margaret Vento-Wilson, brings years of experience in both professional and academic settings and adds a fresh perspective throughout \* Significant updates to Chapter 11 on using behavioral principles \* New contributing authors bringing relevant updates in the field of speech-language pathology *Speech-Language Pathology Assistants: A Resource Manual*, Third Edition is a key resource for enhancing skills and highlighting professional practice issues, for clinical practicum training or future employment. This is a text both SLPAs and SLPA educators will want to have on their bookshelves.

**word retrieval goals for speech therapy:** Mosby's Review Questions for the Speech-Language Pathology PRAXIS Examination E-Book Dennis M. Ruscello, Mosby, 2009-12-03 With approximately 1,400 practice questions – more than any other exam review – this book provides the most complete, reliable preparation available for the PRAXIS II subject assessment examination. Review questions can be selected to match the style and question distribution of the real exam to familiarize you with the examination experience and help you build test-taking confidence. This title includes additional digital media when purchased in print format. For this digital book edition, media content is not included.

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authors, highly regarded clinicians and researchers from diverse professional groups, contribute an impressive breadth of knowledge to explain and demystify APD. This text will be useful to students of speech language pathology and audiology, as well as professionals in those fields.

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**word retrieval goals for speech therapy: Cognitive Communication Disorders, Fourth Edition** Michael L. Kimbarow, Sarah E. Wallace, 2023-10-06 The fourth edition of Cognitive Communication Disorders is an essential text for graduate speech-language pathology courses on cognitively-based communication disorders. It provides vital information on the cognitive foundations of communication (attention, memory, and executive function). The book provides readers with a comprehensive theoretical and applied review of how deficits in these core cognitive abilities manifest in right hemisphere brain damage, dementia, primary progressive aphasia, concussion, and traumatic brain injury. Case studies illustrate principles of clinical management, and figures and tables facilitate understanding of neurobehavioral correlates, differential diagnoses, and other critical clinical information. New to the Fourth Edition \* New co-editor, Sarah E. Wallace \* A new chapter on working with underserved populations \* Chapters now begin with learning objectives for an educational frame of reference for students before new material is presented \* A glossary makes it easy to find definitions of all of the book's key terminology \* Updated and expanded evidence-based information on assessment and treatment of cognitive communication deficits \* Updated case studies addressing assessment and treatment of individuals with cognitive communication disorders with attention to underserved clinical populations The international roster of returning and new contributors includes Maya Albin, Margaret Lehman Blake, Jessica A. Brown, Mariana Christodoulou Devledian, Fofi Constantinidou, Petrea L. Cornwell, Heather Dial, Eduardo Europa, Kathryn Y. Hardin, Maya Henry, Ronelle Heweston, Kelly Knollman-Porter, Nidhi Mahendra, Katy H. O'Brien, Mary H. Purdy, Sarah N. Villard, Sarah E. Wallace, and Catherine Wiseman-Hakes. Please note that ancillary content (such as documents, audio, and video, etc.) may not be included as published in the original print version of this book.

**word retrieval goals for speech therapy: Trouble Talking** Daniel R. Boone, 2018-06-07 The ability to speak is an important part of human interaction. In this book, a glimpse into the lived realities of 37 adults and 3 children with communication disorders whose humanism is somewhat compromised by their speech, language, or voice disorders is offered in humorous and heartbreaking detail. The patient's struggle to communicate is often matched by their listeners, who are struggling to understand. Stories are presented of patients treated in medical settings for such problems as aphasia, dementia, Parkinson's disease (PD), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and other CNS diseases, apraxia, and head trauma. Other stories look at people who were treated in university clinics for such disorders as cerebral palsy and stuttering. The last few stories look at speech/voice treatment for a transgender woman, the loss of voice in a young man in a state penitentiary, and finally a humorous story of a pilot with left hemiplegia flying the author. Seasoned specialist Daniel Boone does not offer therapy suggestions for either the SLP or the patient's family or friends to try. Rather, for anyone with a communication disorder, he strongly recommends that such patients should seek the guidance and therapy of an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist (SLP). The SLP determines what to do in therapy and practice. The stories illustrate the struggles of those who cannot always make their listeners understand. They may only be able to repeat the same phrase over and over. They may not be able to articulate words clearly enough to be

understood. They may give bizarre, confusing answers to everyday questions. Taken together, they also illustrate the difficulties listeners, those who wish to understand, have in trying to make heads or tails of the intended communication. Ultimately, this work provides a sensitive look at the various disorders people have, their attempts to overcome them, the treatments that might be available, and the actions listeners can take in making communication easier and more productive.

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