



# WAYS TO AID LANGUAGE

Brittney Skrupky, BA

Graduate Clinician

University of Washington

Speech and Hearing Sciences



# Communication Changes

- Language and thinking
- What are your areas of *strength*?
- What areas are more *difficult* for you?



# Multiple Modalities

FACIAL EXPRESSION



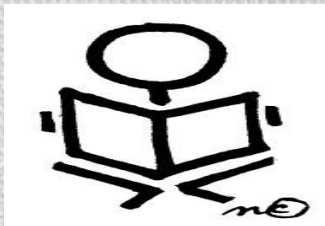
WRITING



DRAWING



READING



MESSAGE

COMMUNICATION  
NOTEBOOK



SPEAKING



GESTURES





# Challenging Scenarios

- Restaurants
- Social events
- New introductions/strangers
- With family and friends
- Phone conversations
- Appointments: doctor, dentist, optometrist
- Pharmacy



# Strategies:

- Multiple Modalities
- Pre-written phrases/questions
- Change the environment
- Ask communication partner to modify their style



## Multiple Modalities:

- Use facial expression, body language, gestures, read, write, draw, have a communication notebook/small notepad with pictures, words, or phrases that you use often.
- For example, you could have a picture of your family to start conversation, a medications list that is hard for you to remember/say, have a print-out of a map/cities, etc.



## Pre-written phrases/questions:

- Write phrases for others to read, or to help cue your own speech.
- For example, if you have difficulty on the phone, you could write out phrases you want to ask that person in particular.
- You could make questions or comments for when you meet new people.
- You could have questions/phrases when you are in loud environments, or when you are talking to someone you know is hard of hearing.



## Change the environment:

- Turn off distracting things around you- the tv, radio.
- Could move to a quieter room.
- Sit yourself closer to the person you are speaking with.
- Make sure that you and your communication partner are facing each other, not turning other directions or talking across the room.



## Ask the communication partner to modify their style:

- Tell them to slow down.
- Tell them to please be patient.
- Ask them to write key words.
- Ask them to rephrase/repeat.
- Ask them to say one thing at a time, etc.

## To the communication partners:

- Do NOT pretend to understand. Tell them what you do understand, what you don't.
- Use multiple modalities.
- Use simple sentences that are more direct.
- Check-in to make sure that they understand you.
- Encourage all communication.



## Key Points:

- Know your areas of strength and areas that are more difficult.
- Develop back-up plans if there is a breakdown in communication.
- Use multiple modalities, pre-written phrases/questions, change the environment, and ask the communication partner to modify their style.



**THANK YOU!!!!!!**







# **THE FUTURE OF COMMUNICATION**

**Using Technology to Aid  
Language**



# COMMON CHALLENGES WITH...

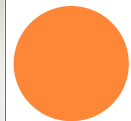
- Speaking
- Talking on the phone
- Reading
- Writing





# SPEAKING

- HUGE array of available speech generating devices...





# USING YOUR PHONE...

- With Smart Phones, like BlackBerry, iPhone or Android, you can download “applications” that assist with communication:
  - Proloquo2Go
  - Lingraphica
  - iAugComm
  - MyTalkTools
  - AutoVerbal PRO
  - Locabulary





# CELL PHONE “APPS”, PROGRAMS, SOFTWARE





# TALKING ON THE PHONE

- TTY (Text Telephone)-a device that allows you to type your message to be read over the phone to the other end
- TRS (Telecommunications Relay System)-allows people without a TTY keyboard to relay their message through a phone operator





# TALKING ON THE COMPUTER OR PHONE

- Skype allows you to talk face-to-face with person on the other end





# READING

- Kindle
- AudioBooks or Books-on-Tape
- Reading on your computer





# KINDLE

- Hand-held, electronic device that allow you to download as many books, magazines or newspapers as you'd like
- They have the option of reading the text aloud as you follow along



# AUDIOBOOKS OR BOOKS-ON-TAPE

- Have the book read aloud to you...
  - Discs that can be rented and listened to
  - Download books onto your computer, iPad or smart phone





# READING ON YOUR COMPUTER

- Many computers have the ability to read aloud the content on your screen with *text-to-speech*
  - “Universal Access” (Mac) or “Narrator” (Windows) allow you to turn this option on/off
- Browse-A-Loud is a program designed to help read and navigate material on web-sites



# WRITING ON YOUR COMPUTER

- Programs available to facilitate with writing:
  - Voice/speech recognition will type as you talk
  - Word and grammar prediction will complete your utterances
  - Spell Check





# VOICE/SPEECH RECOGNITION

- For some individuals typing is a challenge because of physical difficulties
- Voice/speech recognition makes it possible for you to talk while the computer types what you say
  - Dragon NaturallySpeak (purchase or download)
  - e-Speaking (download)
  - ViaVoice (purchase or download)



# VOICE/SPEECH RECOGNITION





# WORD OR GRAMMAR PREDICTION

- Spelling and forming sentences can be a challenge because of language difficulties
- Word or grammar prediction will help complete the words and sentences you type
  - Aurora Suite
  - Co:Writer SOLO
  - WordQ



# WORD OR GRAMMAR PREDICTION

Word Pi

- 1 Prediction
- 2 Price
- 3 Processor
- 4 Program
- 5 Problems
- 6 Properties
- 7 Produces
- 8 President
- 9 Pretty

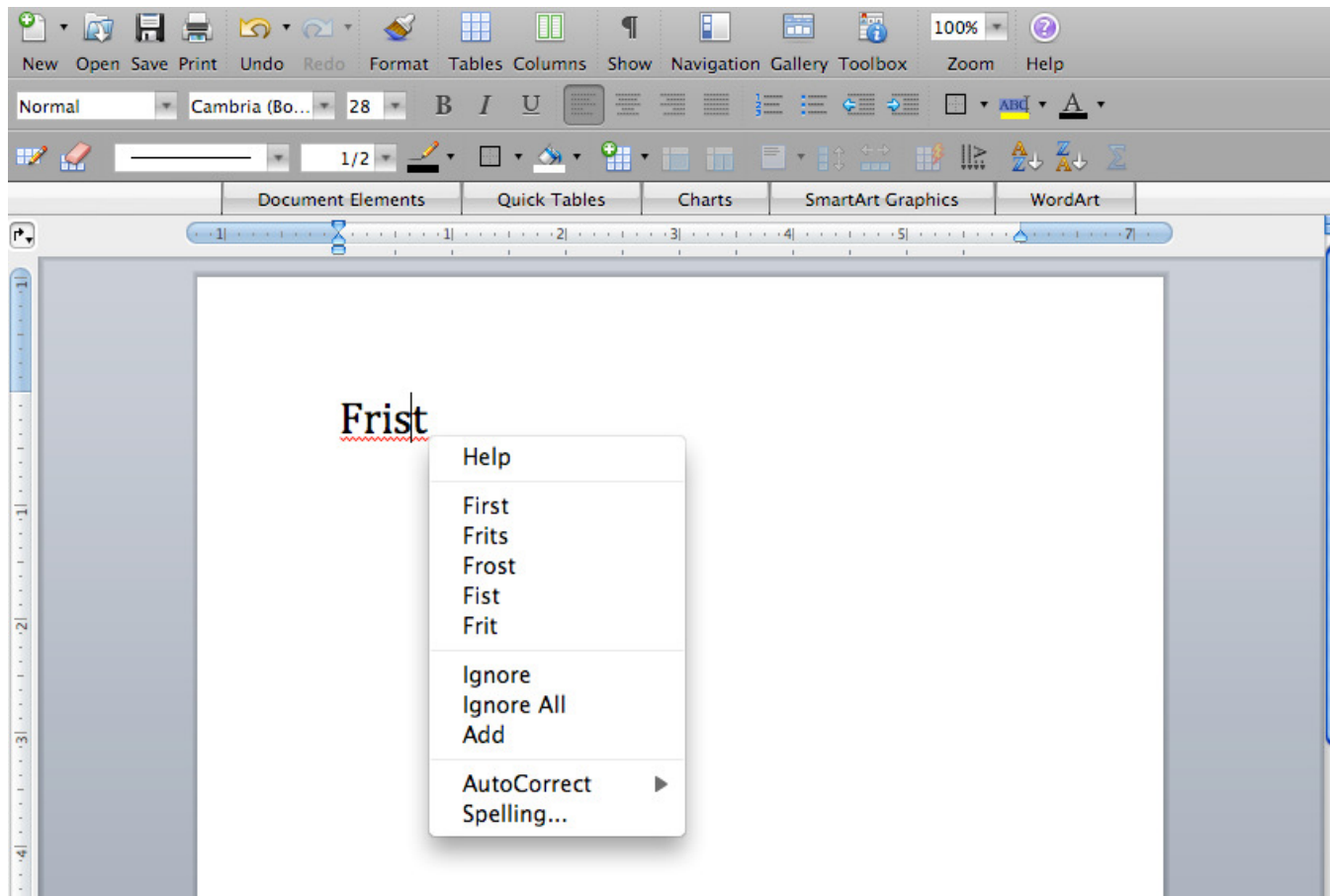
The screenshot shows a Microsoft Word window titled "Document1 - Microsoft Word". The ribbon includes File, Edit, View, Insert, Format, Tools, Table, Window, Help, Adobe PDF, and Acrobat Comments. The font is Times New Roman, size 12. A ClarioRead Plus V5 toolbar is overlaid on the document, containing icons for Scan, Play, Stop, Font, Spacing, H'phones, Check, Predict, Save, Extras, Settings, Help, and Close. The document text reads: "When I was grocery shopping last weekend, I followed a precise list of items I new I needed in order to stay within bud". Below the text is a list box with the following items: "F1 budget", "F2", "F3", "F4", and "F5". The status bar at the bottom shows "Draw" and "AutoShapes".





# SPELL CHECK

- Comes with most computers
- Automatically corrects commonly misspelled words
- Underlines uncommon words that are spelled wrong



# ON-LINE SUPPORT GROUPS

- Using your computer, you can search and join support groups to communicate with other individuals more frequently and from all around the country
- StrokeChatters is a private AOL chat room that started this all
- Go to [www.StrokeAssociation.org](http://www.StrokeAssociation.org) and type *Stroke Support Groups* into the search box to find others or start your own





# Questions or Comments

?

