

Semantic Feature Analysis: Quick Guide

For family and carers

What is Semantic Feature Analysis?

Semantic Feature Analysis is a therapy for word finding difficulties. The person with aphasia describes a hard-to-name item or action using a set of prompts about the meaning of the word. This can help the word come and also teaches the speaker to talk around the word if they are struggling to find it.

How to do it (step-by-step)

1. Show the picture/object to the person. Don't say the word yet.
2. If they have difficulty naming it, use the prompts on a Semantic Feature Analysis chart to describe the word in different ways. You can also find the prompts on page 2.
3. Give the person lots of time to think and to answer. Write their answers on the chart as you go. Accept any way of answering, for example speaking, writing, drawing, pointing, gesturing. If this is difficult for the person, try the following cues:
 - Give two choices: e.g. "Do you find it in the kitchen or the garden?"
 - Ask a yes/no question: "Is it a drink or an animal?"
 - Give a phrase for them to complete: "You drink it from a ____."
 - Encourage them to write, draw; or gesture the answer to each question.
4. After they have answered all of most of the questions on the chart, ask: "What is it called?"
5. If the word still won't come, give the person some of the following cues to help them:
 - A phrase for them to complete, e.g. "I ground the beans to make a strong cup of black"
 - Say the first sound of the word for them
 - Write out the first letter or the full word
 - If none of these help, say the word for them to repeat with you.
6. Once the person has found or repeated the word, summarise it for them in a full sentence. For example, "Yes, the word is coffee! Coffee is the hot, black drink that tastes bitter and gives you energy". Alternatively, the person can come up with their own sentence about the word.

SFA prompts for things / nouns

- Group: What kind of thing is it?
- Use: What do you use it for?
- Action: What does it do / what do you do with it?
- Properties: What does it look/feel/smell/taste like?
- Location: Where do you find or keep it?
- Association: What does it go with / what does it make you think of?

SFA prompts for actions / verbs

- Who usually does this?
- Why do you do this?
- What body part or tool is used?
- Where does it happen?
- When or how often?
- What happens after this action?

Practice plan

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GROUP

What kind is it?

USE

What is it for?

ACTION

What does it do?

**PROPERTIES**

Describe it (size, colour, parts)

LOCATION

Where do you find/keep it?

ASSOCIATION

What does it go with / remind you of?

GROUP

What kind is it?

USE

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ACTION

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SUBJECT

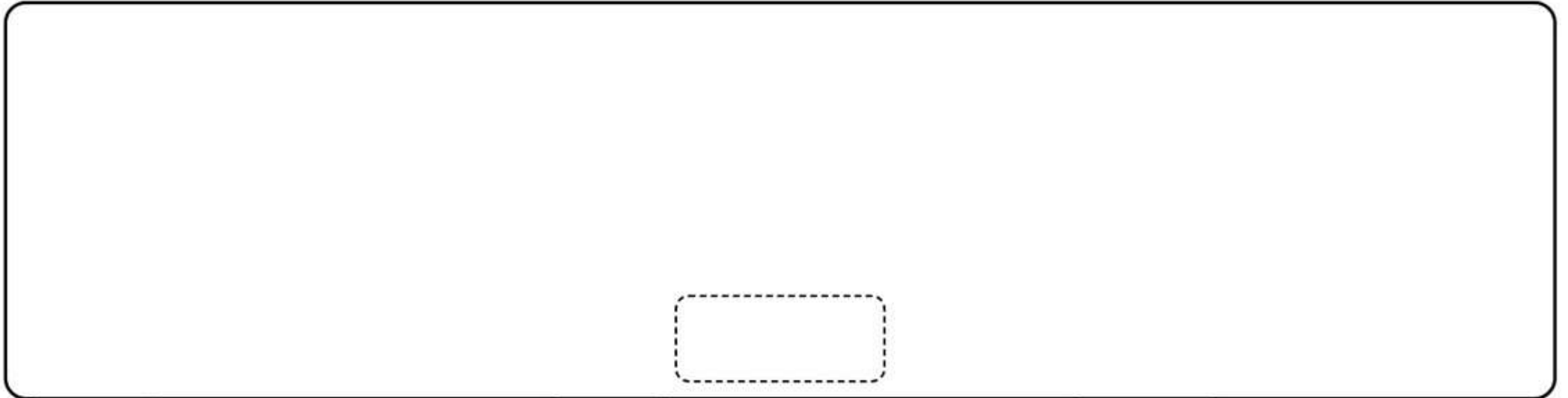
Who usually does this?

**PURPOSE**

Why does this happen?

**HOW**

What body part/tool? How is it done?

**PROPERTIES**

What does it look/sound/feel like?

**LOCATION**

Where does this happen?

**ASSOCIATION**

What does it make you think of? Related actions?

