APHASIA REHABILITATION

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An Auditory and Verbal Task Hierarchy

By

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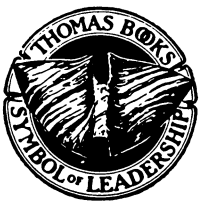

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INTRODUCTION

This clinician's manual for the treatment of the aphasic adult contains a selection of treatment tasks for the two primary communicative modalities—auditory processing and verbal expression. The manual is divided into two major sections (auditory and verbal) with each section containing activities presented in a task hierarchy.

The manual was developed primarily for clinicians' use. It is both extensive and comprehensive in that stimulus material for all levels of aphasic involvement (from marked to mild) is contained within each task hierarchy. It is portable and efficient; a score sheet and all necessary materials are contained within the manual.

Although this manual is written with the aphasic adult in mind, selected tasks are also appropriate for apractic and dysarthric patients and those who are cognitively impaired. Suggestions for specific application are included in each section.

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SECTION ONE

AUDITORY PROCESSING

Cauliflower
McDonald's Hamburgers
Horseradish
Howard Hughes
Monaco
Nantucket
The Dinner
Michael Malloy

INTRODUCTION

This section of the manual is focused on drills designed to strengthen the auditory processing modality. The treatment tasks developed and selected for this section include:

1. Tasks requiring single unit processing.
   a. Identification of objects named
   b. Answering yes-no questions
2. Tasks requiring two unit processing.
   a. Identification of objects named
   b. Identification of objects described
   c. Following two unit commands
   d. Answering yes-no questions
3. Tasks requiring three unit processing.
   a. Identification of objects named
   b. Following three unit commands
   c. Answering yes-no questions
4. Tasks requiring multiple unit processing.
   a. Answering yes-no questions containing comparatives, temporal relations, spatial relations, and if-then situations
   b. Following multiple unit commands
5. Paragraph comprehension.

These treatment tasks were selected to strengthen auditory processing deficits of retention, sequencing, slow rise time, intermittent auditory imperception, reduced information capacity, noise buildup, and shifting ability. The treatment tasks are presented in a task hierarchy, first introducing single units of information and progressing to multiple units of information, thus strengthening the aphasic adults' potential capacity for processing auditory information.

The following variables were considered when establishing this task hierarchy:

1. *Length of Stimuli.* The number of words in the stimuli, including small functor words as well as the number of substantive units contained in the stimuli, were considered in the stimuli development and placement in the hierarchy.
2. *Semantic complexity of stimuli.* A stimuli's use in the English language was considered an important factor. High frequency words are known to be easier to process than low frequency words.
3. *Syntactic complexity of stimuli.* Treatment tasks were developed and selected with syntactic structures in mind. Such structures include