



## ***Therapy Handbook 4***

### ***Functional Scripts***



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## **Therapy Approach 4 – Functional Scripts**

**(Goldberg et al, 2012; Youmans et al, 2011)**

**Stimuli:** Functional, personally relevant topics. Wording agreed together. Limited to 3-4 sentences.

**Script Development:** Develop three scripts to work on. Scripts are typically developed face-to-face, before practicing them in EVA Park. **Please see the Appendix for Script Development materials including goal setting.**

**In an initial face-to-face session:**

1. **Have a conversation about interests:** Encourage the client to tell a narrative (story) that is **personally meaningful** and that could be **told in more than one situation**, for example, as part of getting to know someone, or to reach out and connect with others. The story could be about things they have done, places they have been to, and/or things that have happened in their lives. To encourage the client to make his/her own choice, it is best to leave the instructions as open as possible. Many clients will not find it hard to select a story, but some may need prompting. For these, the therapist could suggest they think about:
  - things that have happened to them
  - things that they have done
  - events or places that they have been that were memorable for some reason
  - things that have happened to other people, maybe to a family member or a friend
  - information about themselves that they would share with someone else, e.g. hobbies, interests, career/jobs, places lived, travels, family, friends, places they like to visit and why.
2. **Situations:** Support the client to think of situations where they would like to be more communicative. Use the support materials in the Appendix to help.

3. **Develop 3-4 sentences** around the narrative (depending on severity of aphasia).

These may be monologue scripts or dialogues with the therapist as the conversation partner.

An example of a monologue script about someone's interests may look like this:

*"I love running but I had a stroke.*

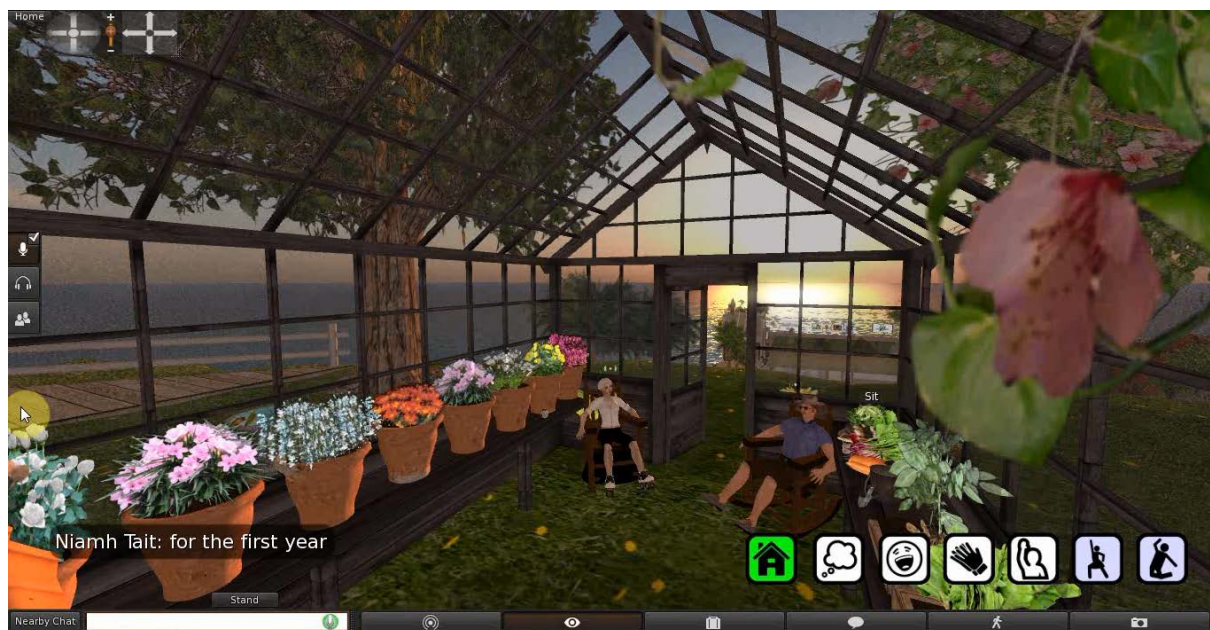
*I was an ultra-marathon runner.*

*I ran the Marathon des Sables across the desert.*

*Since the stroke, I can only run a half-marathon."*

### Therapy: Script Training in world

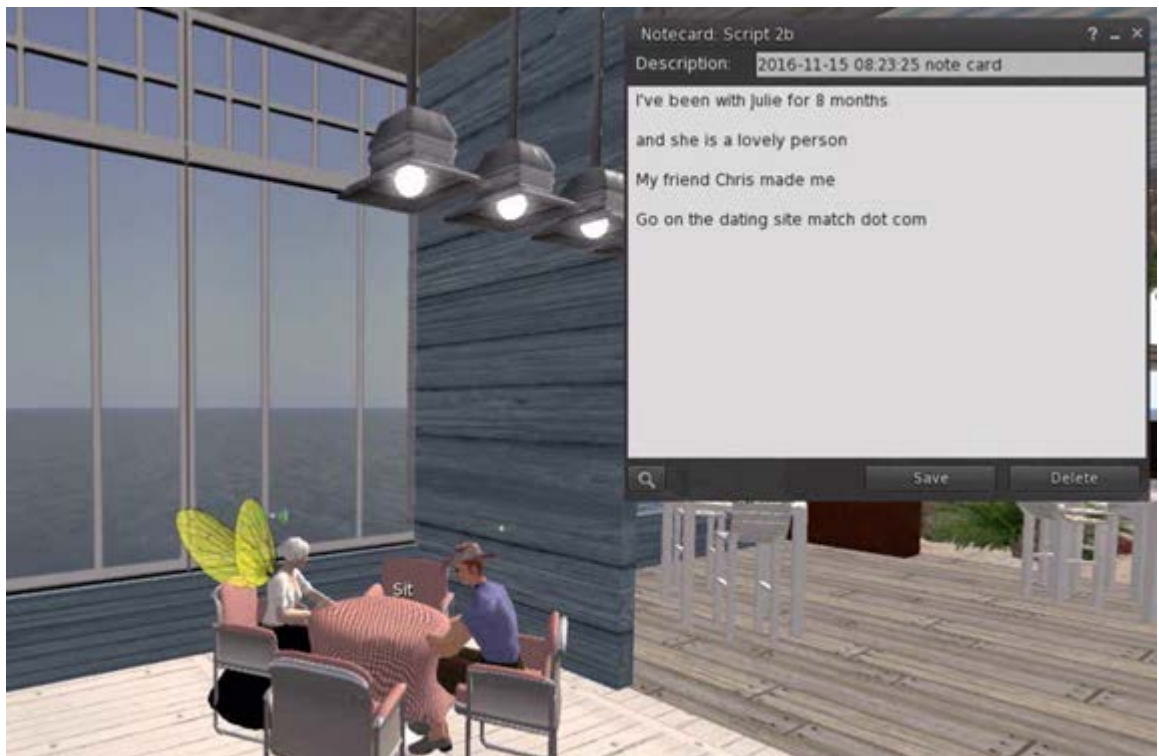
Structure treatment sessions to allow at least three x 10-minute episodes of concentrated script training practice, interspersed with approximately four brief periods of relaxed, open conversation.



1. Work on one phrase at a time.
2. Use a cueing hierarchy: phrase repetition, reading together, client's independent production.
3. Go over 'problem' word(s). Break it down to achieve correct production, then repeat it 5 times, then say the word in the phrase.

4. Have the written phrase available in **'notecards'** function and at the client's home.

The notecards function can be found in the inventory (suitcase). This is what it looks like when its open on the screen:



5. Once the client achieves 10/20 independent productions of a phrase then add the next phrase.
6. The client should carry out home practice for 15 minutes a day. They may use an in-world character to talk to, e.g. Ruby Robot, sitting on the bench by the little pier by the sailing boat.

**Generalisation:**

1. Where the script is a dialogue, the therapist purposefully varies the responses.
2. In the 4<sup>th</sup> session, the client practises the script with new conversation partners, e.g. a volunteer.
3. Client practises script in different EVA Park settings.
4. To increase or decrease demand, the client could practise carrying out the script with/without background noise.

**Practice:**

- The client can practice with new conversation partners, e.g. chatbot Ruby Robot.
- Practice using the scripts in the real world.
- Recommended home practice is at least 15 minutes per day.

# Appendix

## Face-to-face support materials for Script Development



## Functional Scripts Therapy Goal Planning

Client's name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Therapist \_\_\_\_\_

Do you already know what you would like to work on?





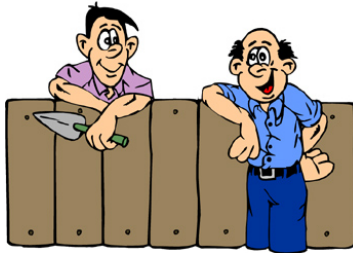
**Family**



**Spouse or partner**

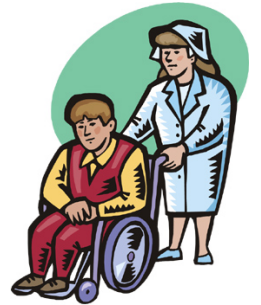


**Friends**



**Neighbours**

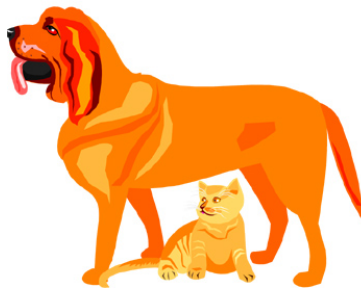
**Who do  
you usually  
talk to?**



**Carers or  
volunteers**



**Work colleagues**



**Pets**









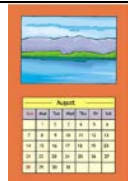



**Other people?**

Notes:



# Talking with friends and family





1. How <b>easy</b> is it to <b>talk</b> with <b>friends</b> and <b>family</b> ?		Easy 	OK 	Difficult 	Not applicable 
Greetings: 'Hello' 'Goodbye' 'How are you?'					
Tell someone about your day					
Chat about a film or TV programme					
Chat about your hobbies or interests e.g. books, music or sport					
Make plans to do things together					
Discuss the news or politics					

Talk about how you are feeling					
Talk to children or grandchildren					
Talk to a pet					
Talking about meals/food/drinks					
Talking about how the other person can help you					
Talking about things the other person does that you don't like					
Other conversations?					

Notes:











# Talking with people you don't know







2. How <b>easy</b> is it to <b>talk</b> with <b>people you don't know</b> ?		Easy 	OK 	Difficult 	Not applicable 
Introduce yourself 'My name is...'					
Make small talk, e.g. about the weather					
Tell someone about your family					
Tell someone about your life or job					
Tell someone about your hobbies or interests					
Tell someone about your stroke					

Ask for information or directions					
Asking questions to get to know them					
Answering the telephone					
Giving other people instructions					
Other conversations?					

Notes:

# Talking with people in the community

3. How <b>easy</b> is it to <b>talk</b> with <b>people in the community</b> ?		Easy 	OK 	Difficult 	Not applicable 
Buy things in the shops					
Order food and drinks					
Buy tickets					
Book an appointment					
Make a complaint					
Join in with a group conversation e.g. at a community or stroke club					

Take part in a religious activity, e.g. say prayers					
Give instructions to a carer or volunteer					
Talk to a health professional, e.g. your doctor					
Make a public speech					
Asking for help, e.g. if lost					
In the bank					
Other situations?					

Notes:

**Are there any activities you would like to do, but are limited by your problems with speaking?**

**What kinds of conversation would you most like to practise?**

1.

2.

3.



## References

Goldberg, S., Haley, K. L. & Jacks, A. (2012). *Script Training and Generalization for People With Aphasia*. American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, 21.

Gina Youmans, G., Youmans, S. R. & Hancock, A. B. (2011). *Script Training Treatment for Adults With Apraxia of Speech*. American Journal of Speech-Language Pathology, 20.