



Response Elaboration Training to improve talking

Goal: To help someone talk in complete sentences.

Steps:

1. Show the person a picture or object. Say, "What can you tell me about this?"
2. Repeat whatever they say and add a couple of words.
3. Ask them to repeat what you said.
4. Follow steps 1-3 several times, each time substituting a different question. Such as:
 - a. What are they doing?
 - b. Where are they going?
 - c. What do we use this for?
 - d. What does this make you think of?

Example 1: Someone working at a more basic level.

- **You** show the person a picture of a family preparing a meal and say "What can you tell me about this picture?"
- **Them:** Points to each person and says "food."
- **You:** Yes, the people are making food. Can you say that?
- **Them:** making food
- **You:** Yes, making food. Where are they?
- **Them:** uh.... House.
- **You:** Yes, they're in the house. You say that.
- **Them:** in the house.
- **You:** We could say, 'in the kitchen.'
- **Them:** In the kitchen.
- **You:** They're making food in the kitchen.
- **Them:** making food in kitchen.

Example 2: Someone working at a higher level.

- You show the person a family photo and say “What can you tell me about this?”
- Them: My kids and grandchildren.
- You: Yes, these are your kids and grandchildren. Can you try saying the whole sentence? ‘These are my kids and grandchildren.’
- Them: These are my kids and grandchildren.
- You: It looks like everyone was having a good time. What was the occasion?
- Them: Brian... high school... done.
- You: It was Brian’s high school graduation?
- Them: Yes.
- You: Try saying ‘Brian’s high school graduation.’
- Them: Brian’s high school graduation.
- You: So you could say, ‘These are my kids and grandchildren. It was Brian’s high school graduation.’
- Them: These are my kids and grandchildren. It was Brian’s high school graduation.
- You: When was this?
- Them: Last year.
- You: Brian graduated high school last year.
- Them: Brian graduated high school last year.
- You: Now pretend we’re just starting. Tell me about this picture again.
- Them: My kids... these are my kids and grandchildren. Last year. Brian graduated high school.

Tip:

If the person you’re working with can’t say anything about the picture or object, offer them a choice to get started.

You: You could say, ‘making food’ or ‘a mother and kids.’

Them: Kids.

You: Good. Watch me and try to say ‘Mother and kids.’

Read the article: <https://eatspeakthink.com/intensive-home-exercise-helped-patient>