Circumlocution: Thinking around the word

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| What is Circumlocution? | When someone presents with word-finding difficulties, we generally ask them to work on ‘circumlocution’.  Circumlocution means ‘talking around the word’ – not saying the word you want to say, but saying what it looks like, what it does, describing something without saying the name. |
| Let’s look at an example | If you wanted to think of the word ‘tree’, you could use this process:   * Location: outside, garden, park, orchard * Colour: brown, green, orange, yellow * Association: fruit, plants, leaves, bark, paper * Use: paper, wood, charcoal, building material, instrument * Action: sways in the wind * Category: plants |
| What if I use this strategy and still can’t generate the word? | Don’t worry - you may be able to say a similar word that may prompt your conversation partner into guessing what you mean. |
| How should I practice circumlocution? | You can practice this strategy with everyday objects i.e.   * Describing items within a room at home * Describing items from a magazine or book   Always try and practice when you have plenty of time and somewhere quiet so you can concentrate. |
| Mind-map words you find difficult | Target Word |