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
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| 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 |