Fill-in-the-Blank Card Protocol

(Word Completion / Contextual Word Retrieval)

Basic

Provide the patient with a sentence missing the final word. The clinician reads the sentence aloud while maintaining the IM beat. The patient supplies the missing word while maintaining synchronous motor movement with the beat (clapping, stepping, tapping).

Examples:

- Drink a glass of _____
- The grass is _____
- The sky is _____
- Open the _____
- Drive the _____

The patient should produce the word on the beat while maintaining synchronization.

Advanced

Increase the complexity of the task by requiring the patient to generate the missing word **without visual cues** while maintaining synchronization with the beat.

Additional difficulty can be introduced by:

- Increasing sentence complexity
- Introducing less predictable sentence endings
- Providing multiple possible answers and asking the patient to select the most appropriate one

Example prompts:

- You wear shoes on your _____
- A bird can _____
- A clock tells _____
- A cat says _____
- You sleep in a _____

If the patient is unable to retrieve the word:

1. Provide a **written cue card** with the answer.
2. Provide **2–3 possible choices** for the patient to select from.
3. Provide the **first sound or first letter** of the target word.

Allow up to **10 seconds for retrieval** before providing cues.

Additional Advanced Variation

Cognitive Flexibility Version

Provide multiple fill-in-the-blank cards and require the patient to **alternate responses** between cards while maintaining synchronization with the beat.

Example:

1. The sky is _____
2. Drink a glass of _____
3. A cat says _____
4. You sleep in a _____

The patient must respond on each beat while maintaining motor synchronization.

Memory + Fill-in-the-Blank (Dual Task)

Provide **3–4 fill-in-the-blank sentences** for the patient to complete during the IM task. After the IM activity, ask the patient to **recall the completed sentences**.

Example:

- The sky is blue
- Drink a glass of water
- Open the door

This adds a **working memory component** to the word retrieval task.