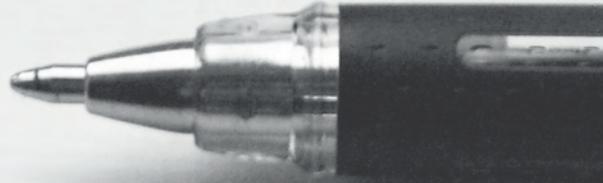


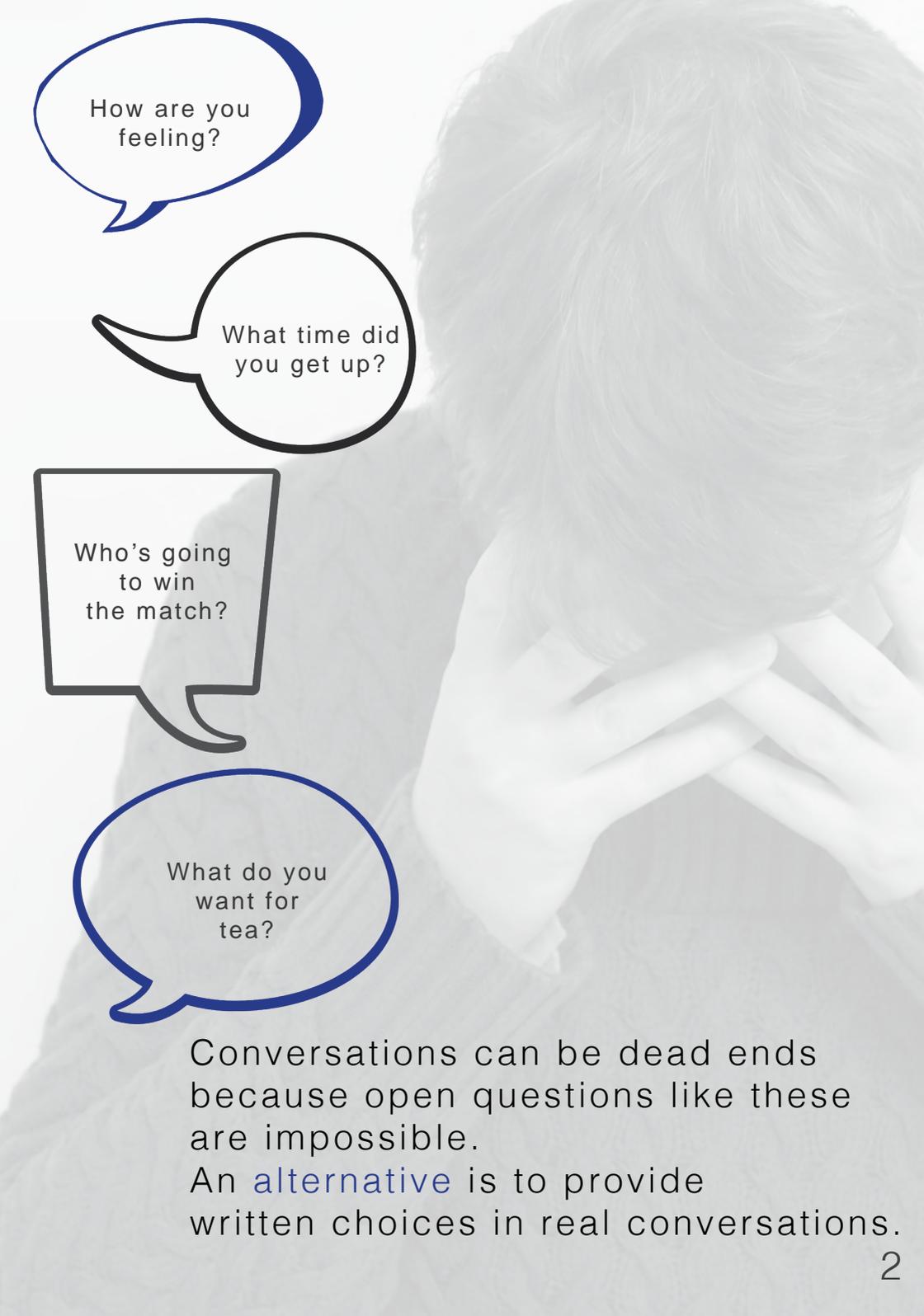
WRITTEN
CHOICE
COMMUNICATION
GUIDE





What is
written choice
communication?

Written choice
communication is a
method that
enables people
to relate to others
in everyday life
despite lack of speech
or unclear speech.



How are you feeling?

What time did you get up?

Who's going to win the match?

What do you want for tea?

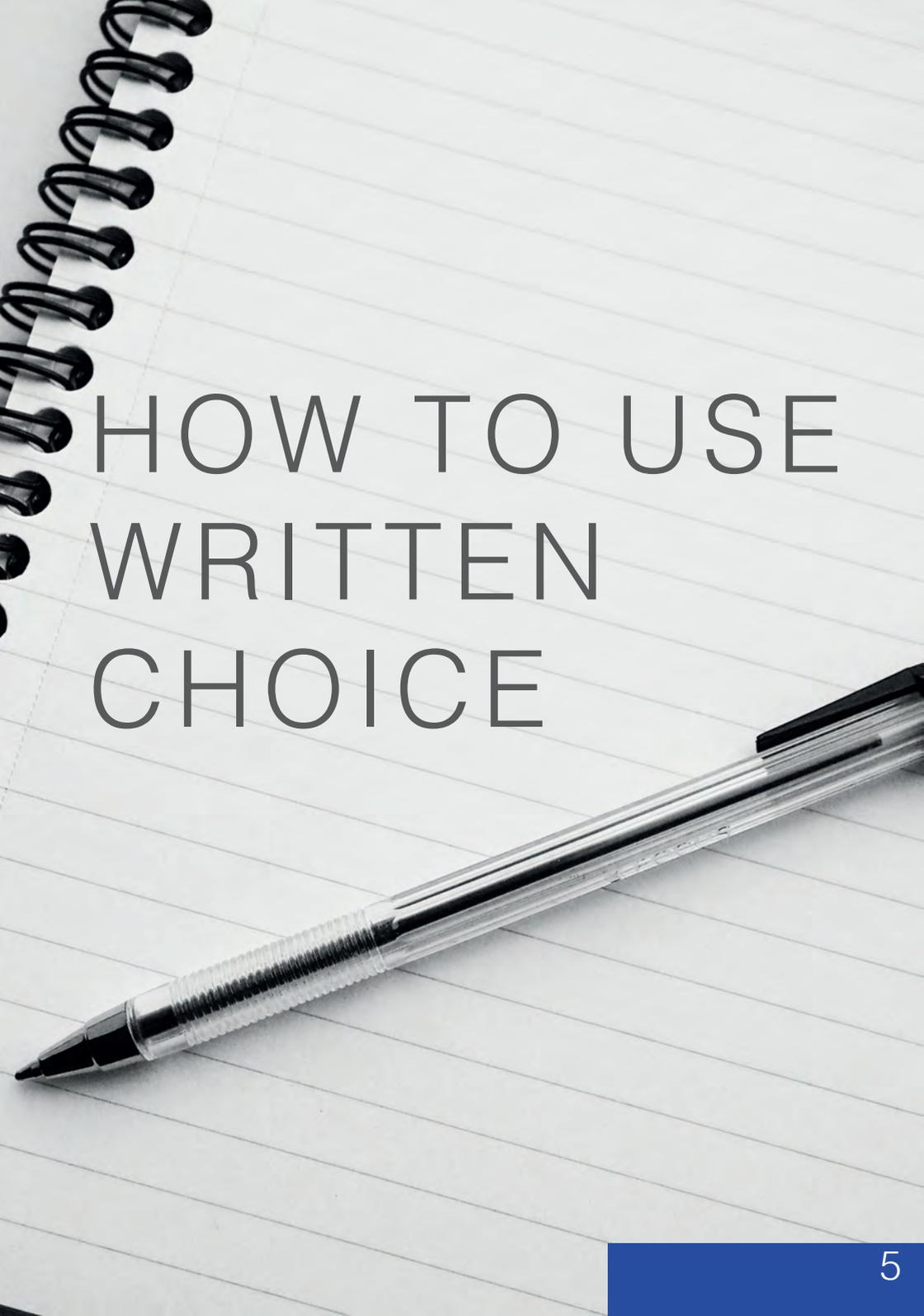
Conversations can be dead ends because open questions like these are impossible. An **alternative** is to provide written choices in real conversations.

An alternative
is to provide
written
choices in
real
conversations

Written choice uses strengths such as:

- world knowledge
- people knowledge
- everyday knowledge
- recognition of words or pictures



A black and white photograph of a spiral-bound notebook with lined pages. A clear, retractable ballpoint pen lies diagonally across the bottom right of the page. The text 'HOW TO USE WRITTEN CHOICE' is printed in a large, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the page.

HOW TO USE WRITTEN CHOICE



The speaking partner writes the topic.



The partner then asks a starter question to stimulate conversation.



The partner anticipates possible responses and writes these in the form of word choice lists or rating scales.



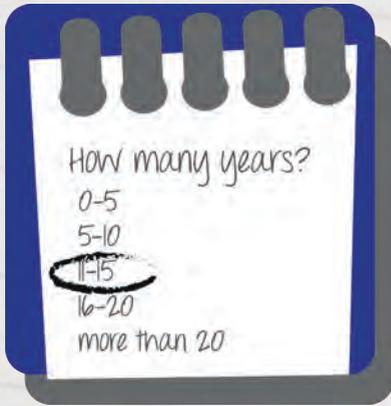
The person answers by pointing or marking their answers with a pen.



Rating scales are particularly useful for questions such as “How much....?” or “How long.....?” or “How sore..?”



The partner responds to the answer, inserts his or her own opinion when appropriate, and asks a subsequent question based on the previous exchange.



Another choice list is written.



Turns continue until the non-speaking person signals the topic is exhausted or a natural opportunity to change the topic arises.



This becomes easier with practice.



Written
choice can
be used to
express:

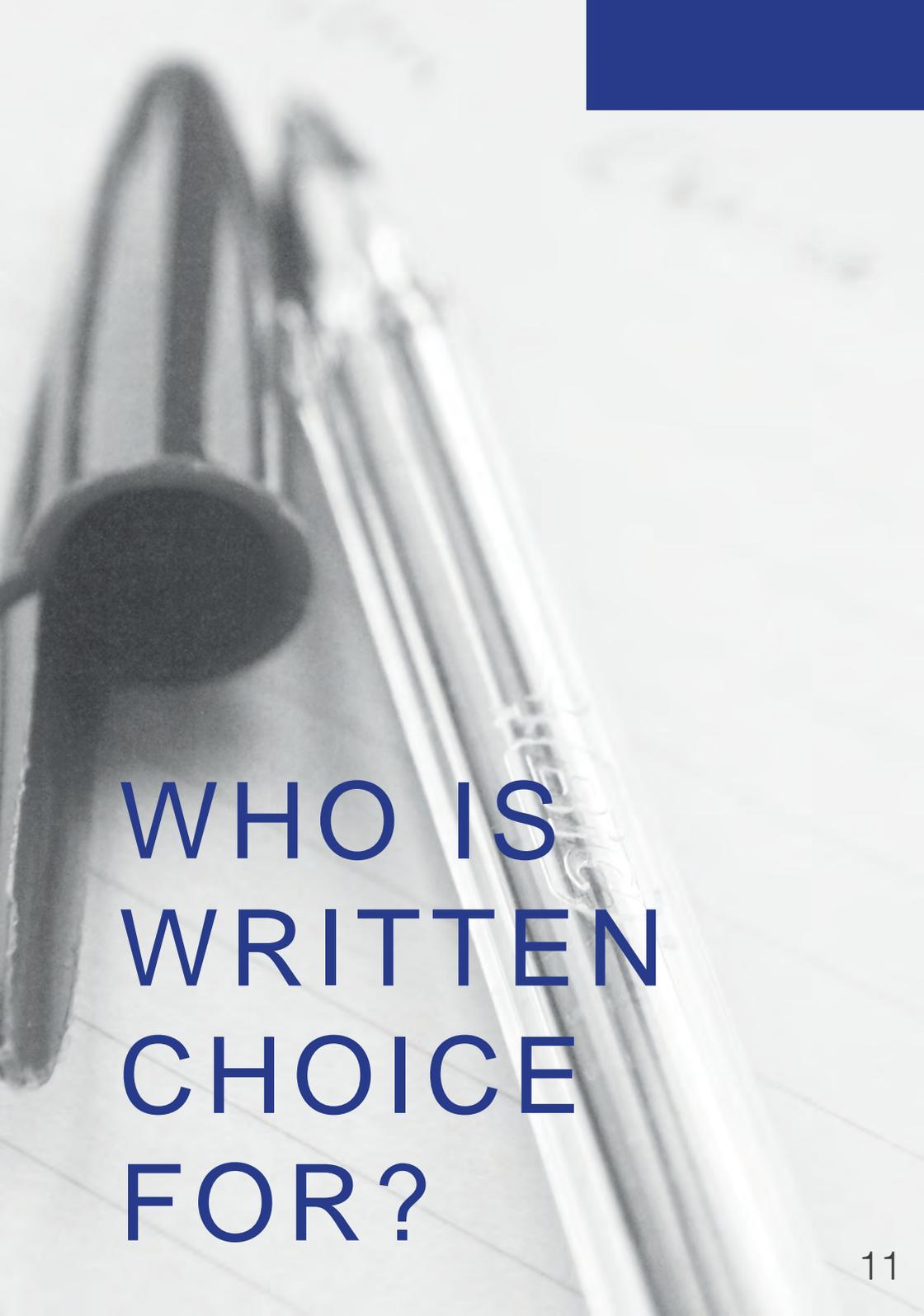
opinions

needs and
wants

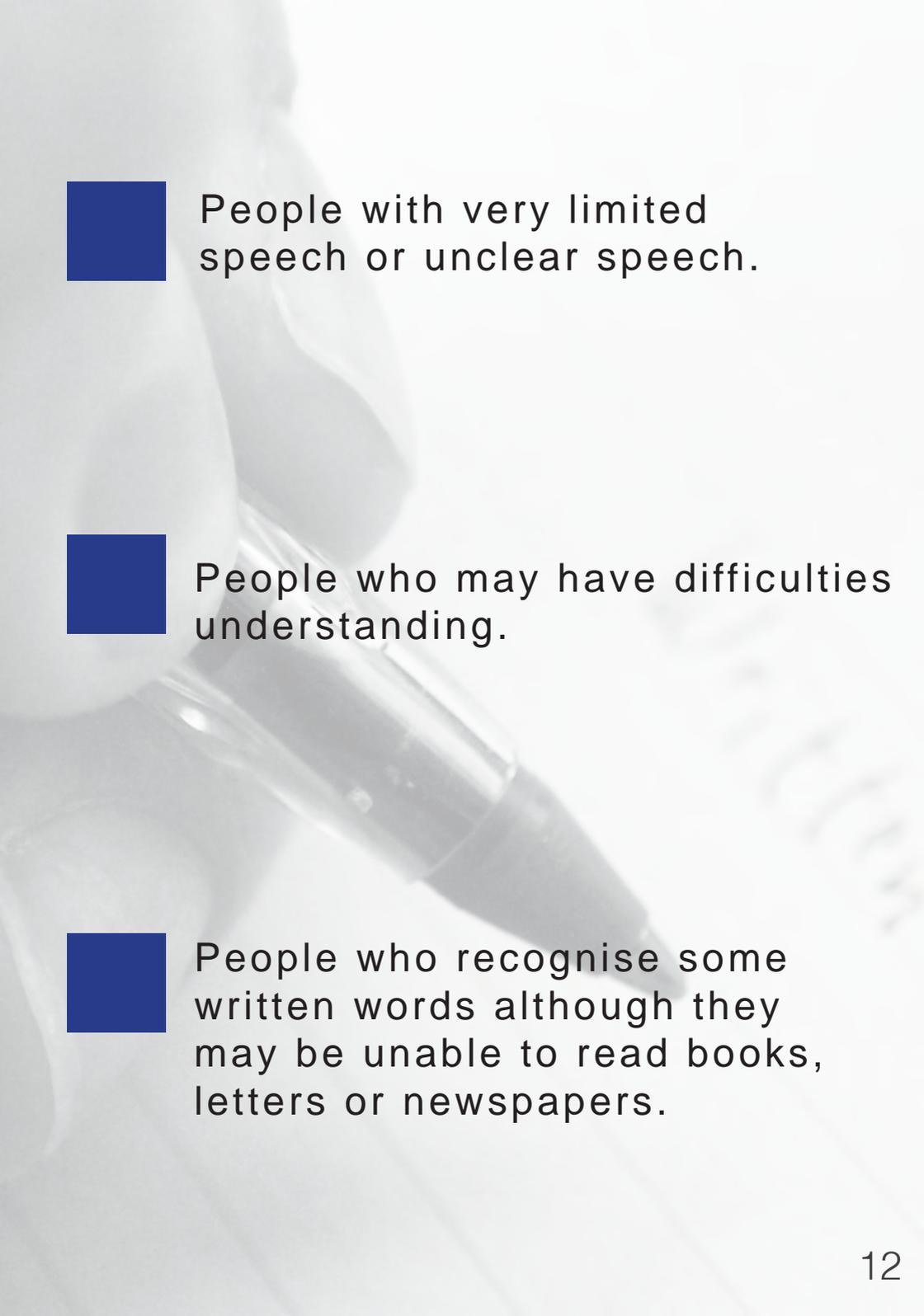
information



It allows “social closeness” or put another way, it allows people to really connect.



**WHO IS
WRITTEN
CHOICE
FOR?**

A background image showing a hand holding a pen, writing on a document. The image is in grayscale and slightly blurred.

■ People with very limited speech or unclear speech.

■ People who may have difficulties understanding.

■ People who recognise some written words although they may be unable to read books, letters or newspapers.



Examples of written choice

What would you like
for dinner?

Dinner?

Fish

Chicken

Lamb

Pizza

Something
else?

Did you enjoy the film?



What time did you get up?

How much do you want to give for the wedding present?

£

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 (more)

Helpful hints



Always have a pen and paper available. A clip board can also be really helpful.



The person may start to speak along with making written choice. If there is a mis-match between what the person says and what they select, go with the written choice as a starting point and double-check.

It can be useful to keep records of conversations in a book or file. The person may be able to re-use these for future conversations.

Destroy any confidential conversations.

Research findings



Written choice increases the number of turns people take.

Written choice increases the amount people say about a topic.

Written choice increases how much communication partners understand.

Written choice increases the accuracy of responses from people with aphasia.



Food for thought:

- How will this help?
- Who else needs to know?
- How to make a start?

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