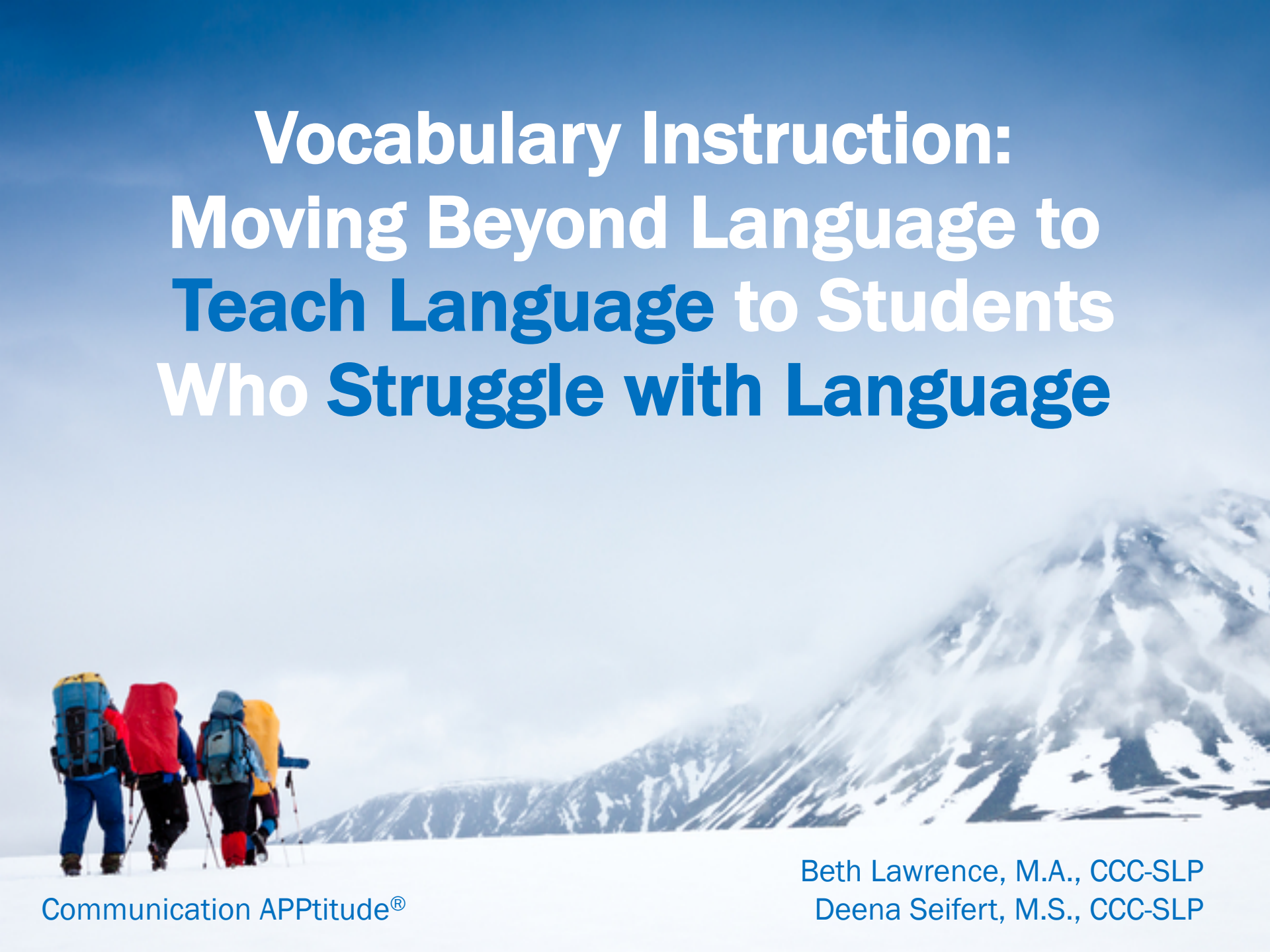
Vocabulary Instruction: Moving Beyond Language to Teach Language to Students Who Struggle with Language



Communication APPtitude®

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DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

- Beth Lawrence and Deena Seifert are speech-language pathologists and Co-Founders of Communication APPtitude LLC. They have created *InferCabulary Pro*, a web-based vocabulary app, and *InferCabulary* and *WordQuations*, iPad apps. They financially benefit from the sales of these apps. The concepts presented in today's course are concepts on which the apps were developed.

- We have a financial relationship with *Brookes Publishing Company*, who markets our apps.

- We have a financial agreement with *Academic Therapy Publications* to market The Test of Semantic Reasoning.

WELCOME!

Participants will:

- Compare breadth and depth of vocabulary
- Identify five methods for effective vocabulary instruction
- Create InferCabulary and WordQuations lessons

RESEARCH

For longer classes, we usually spend more time talking about vocabulary research. Due to time constraints, see our handout for sources of great vocabulary research.

Our website:

www.CommunicationAPPtitude.com

will have handouts and a copy of this PowerPoint.

WHY IS VOCABULARY IMPORTANT?

- 2/3 of students in the U.S. struggle with reading comprehension and vocabulary is the building block for comprehension.

- Students need to understand **97-98%** of the words in a given text independently to comprehend text.*

- It's one of the 5 major components of reading.**

*Gillett, Temple & Crawford, 2004
**Reading First (Title I, Part B, Subpart 1), 2000 National Reading Panel

BREADTH AND DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE

OWNS it ← **Depth**

KNOWS it

Breadth

DEFINES it

- Must know 97-98% of words read to comprehend (Hu & Nation, 2000)
- Need 10-12 exposures to understand the nuances of words (Nation, 2001)

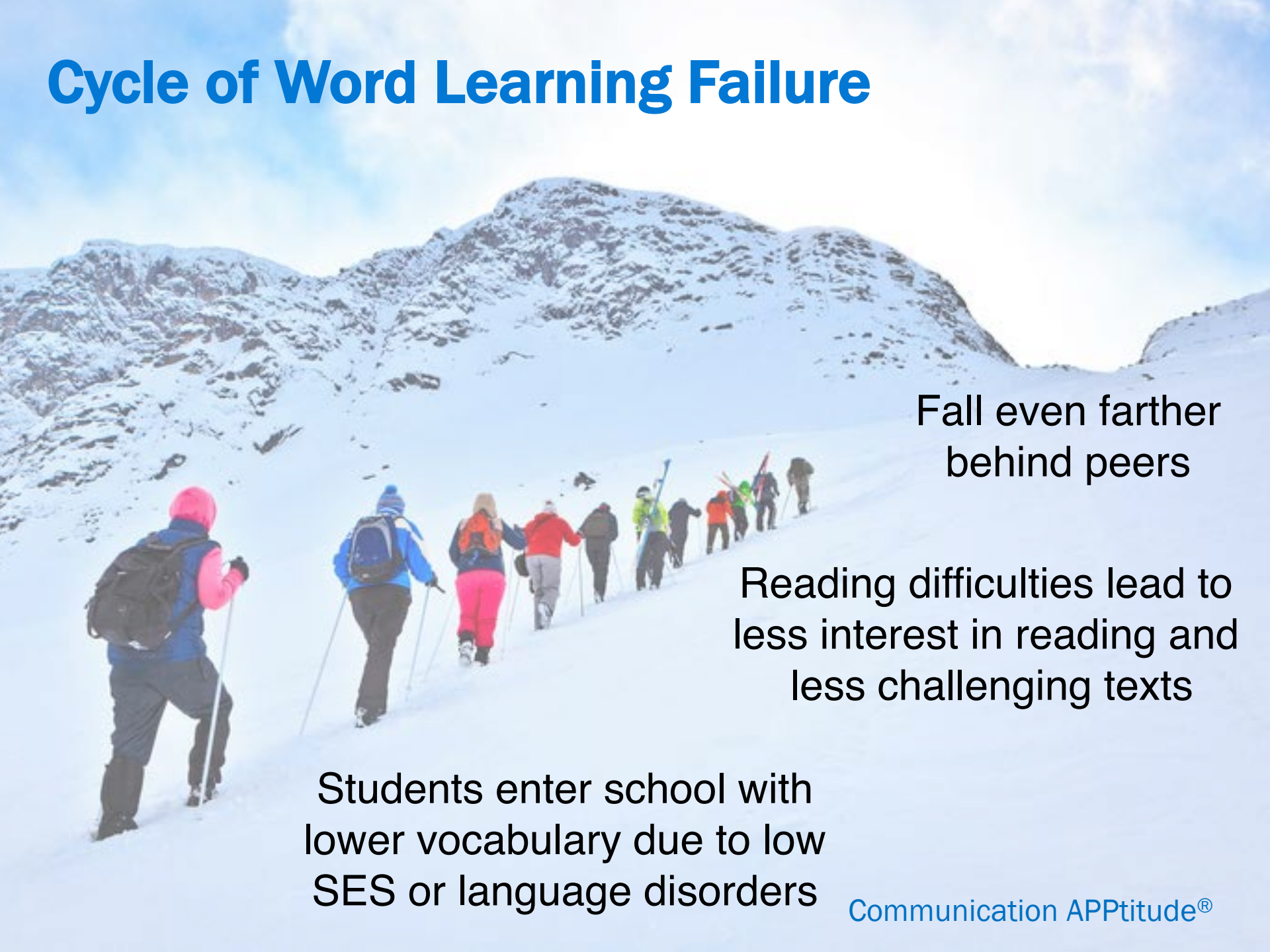
THE PROBLEM

Using language to teach language to students who struggle with language…

WHY DO KIDS STRUGGLE?

- Kids are not reading as much or have reading disabilities
- Not everyone is using instruction that incorporates best practices
- Students have limited exposures to words in a variety of contexts
- Learning words is a neurological process

Cycle of Word Learning Failure



Fall even farther behind peers

Reading difficulties lead to less interest in reading and less challenging texts

Students enter school with lower vocabulary due to low SES or language disorders

BEST PRACTICES IN VOCABULARY

1. Active engagement
2. Multiple contexts
3. Using visuals
4. Morphology (parts of words)
5. Semantics (graphic organizers)
6. Kinesthetic (drama)
7. Repetition

TWO VOCABULARY METHODS

InferCabulary	WordQuations
nouns and adjectives	verbs
uses Semantic Reasoning	formula for determining subtle meanings of verb synonyms
higher order vocabulary skills	character motivation and verb choices in writing

WordQuations®

Using features of verbs to understand verb synonyms

Examples of glance from *Number the Stars* by Lois Lowry

"Her mother shook her head quickly, and **glanced** at the open window covered only by the sheer curtain. Annemarie understood."

"Another man arrived: an old man, bearded. Quietly he went to the living room and sat down, saying nothing to the others, who only **glanced** at him."

"Annemarie did instantly as she was told. The basket. The packet, at the bottom. She covered it with a napkin. Then some wrapped cheese. An apple. She **glanced** around the kitchen saw some bread and added that. The basket was full."

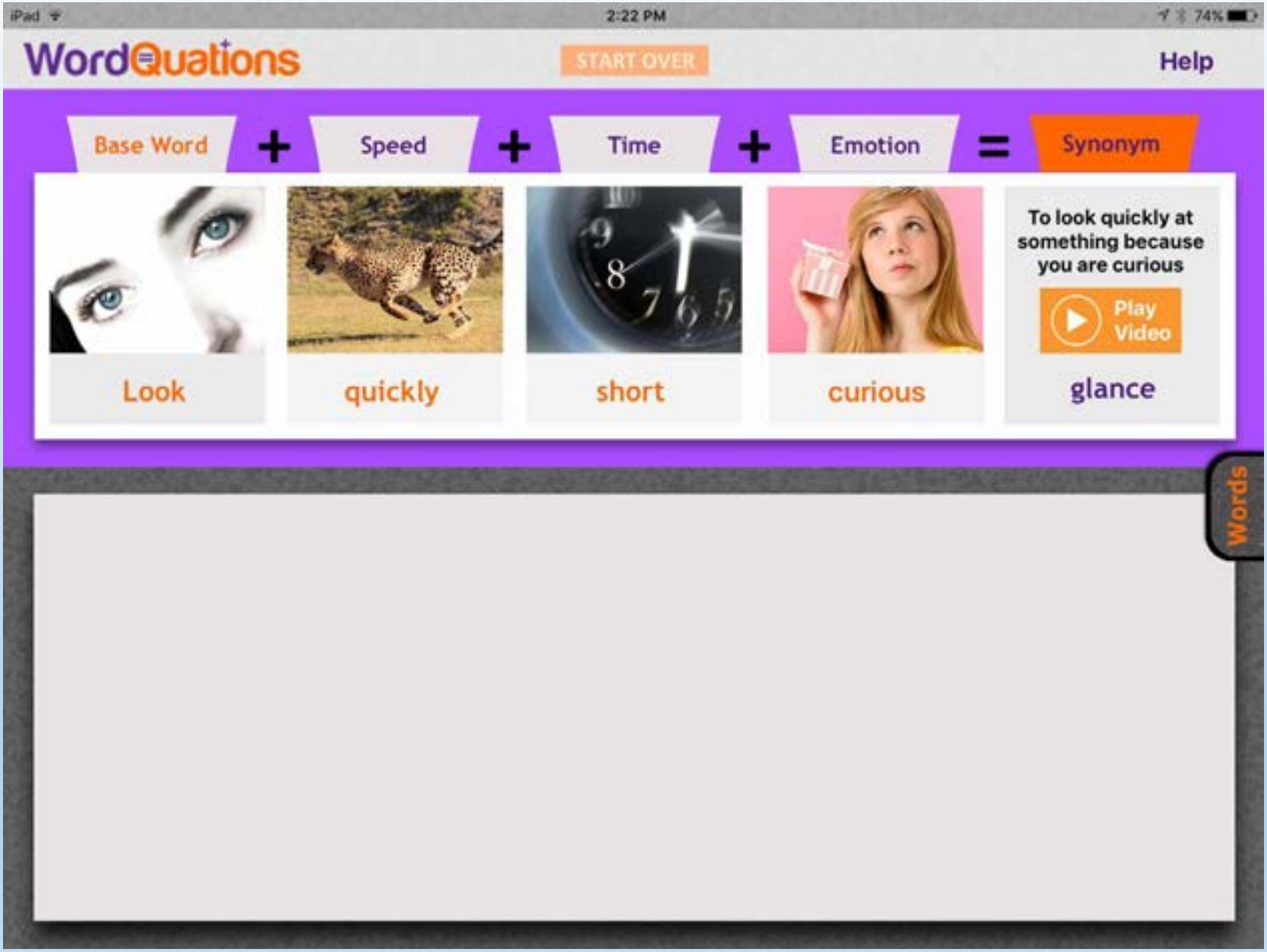
WordQuations®

Break down the synonym into an equation

glance =

Base word + speed + degree + emotion or motive

look + quickly + short + curious / hurried / unimportant



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Now for a little practice

WordQuations®

Base Word	Speed	Quality	Motive \ Emotion	Synonym
walk	slowly	gently powerfully	to explore Feeling relaxed	**meander**
talk	quickly	Loudly quietly	worried confused oblivious	**babble**
touch	slowly	gently powerfully	to comfort show love greet	**embrace**
look	quickly	short	anger	**flash**

WordQuations®

Base Word		Speed		Quantity Time Heaviness Volume Intensity		Motive or Emotion		Synonym
	+		+		+		=	

Low tech method using sticky notes or index cards

WordQuations Demo 2016

Featuring Ian Antal & Sarah Chin, The Simpletons

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InferCabulary®

Using *Semantic Reasoning* Skills to Learn Word Meanings

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The Inspiration

InferCabulary® Method

We devised InferCabulary® as a method
to ***avoid using language***
(the students' primary weakness)
as the ***initial method***
to teach vocabulary meaning
for nouns and adjectives.

InferCabulary® Method

With InferCabulary®, students are exposed to one PowerPoint page containing

- 4-6 images that represent the meaning of each vocabulary term
- in a variety of contexts,
- exposing students to multiple contexts at once.

Prominent

Oblivious

Find Photos

1. Complete the vocabulary rating scale, then focus on words rated #1 and #2.
2. Go to a **photo site** like **Photospin** or **Dreamstime** and type in the vocabulary word. See what images are available.
3. Use **synonyms** for the word to find more pictures.
4. **Download images** or have the student **draw** them on the InferCabulary® template.

Vocabulary Rating Scale

Words	4 I know it well	3 I know it, but can't say what it means	2 I've heard it or seen it, but not sure what it means	1 I've never heard it before
reluctant			✔	
oblivious				✔
prominent			✔	
protrude		✔		

Use words that rate #1 or #2

exasperate (ig-**zas**-pu-reyt)

To irritate or provoke to a high degree; annoy extremely.

exasperated meaning, exasperated definition | English Cobuild dictionary

exasperated | English | Simple Definition | Search

exasperated

English-French | English Definition | English Synonyms

Search also in: Web News Encyclopedia Images

Click on any word, search it, hear it and so much more...

Collins

exasperated

If you describe a person as exasperated, you mean that they are frustrated or angry because of something that is happening or something that another person is doing. **adj** *oft ADJ by/with/at n*

The president was clearly exasperated by the whole saga...

Translation English Cobuild Collins Dictionary

See also: exasperate, exaggerated, exasperating, exasperation

Photo Site

dreamstime.

Subscription until: 18 Nov 01:00 CET | Credits remaining: 6 | Earnings balance: $0.00
Images left: 561 RF | Downloads: 9,653 | Uploads:
Videos left: 0 | Invoices 31 | Unread comments:

Stock Images | Stock Footage | Free Images | Designers area | Contributors area | Resources | Photo map | Blogs!

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exasperated frustrated | All Content | Search

Within results | Save settings | Content filter off on | Royalty Free | Editorial | Exclusive | Only with people

Primary Color: FFFFFF At: 10% | Orientation: Portrait | Landscape | Square | Panorama

Secondary Color: FFFFFF At: 10% | Color: Color | Monochrome | Resolution: -none- Max. -none- Min.

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1,650 images & videos | Best selling | Images: 40 80 200

InferCabulary® Template

WORD: _____

Easy to understand definition:

Copy on our website

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InferCabulary®

A car that won't start

A little brother listening to his brother throw a fit

A business man who dropped all of his papers.

exasperated

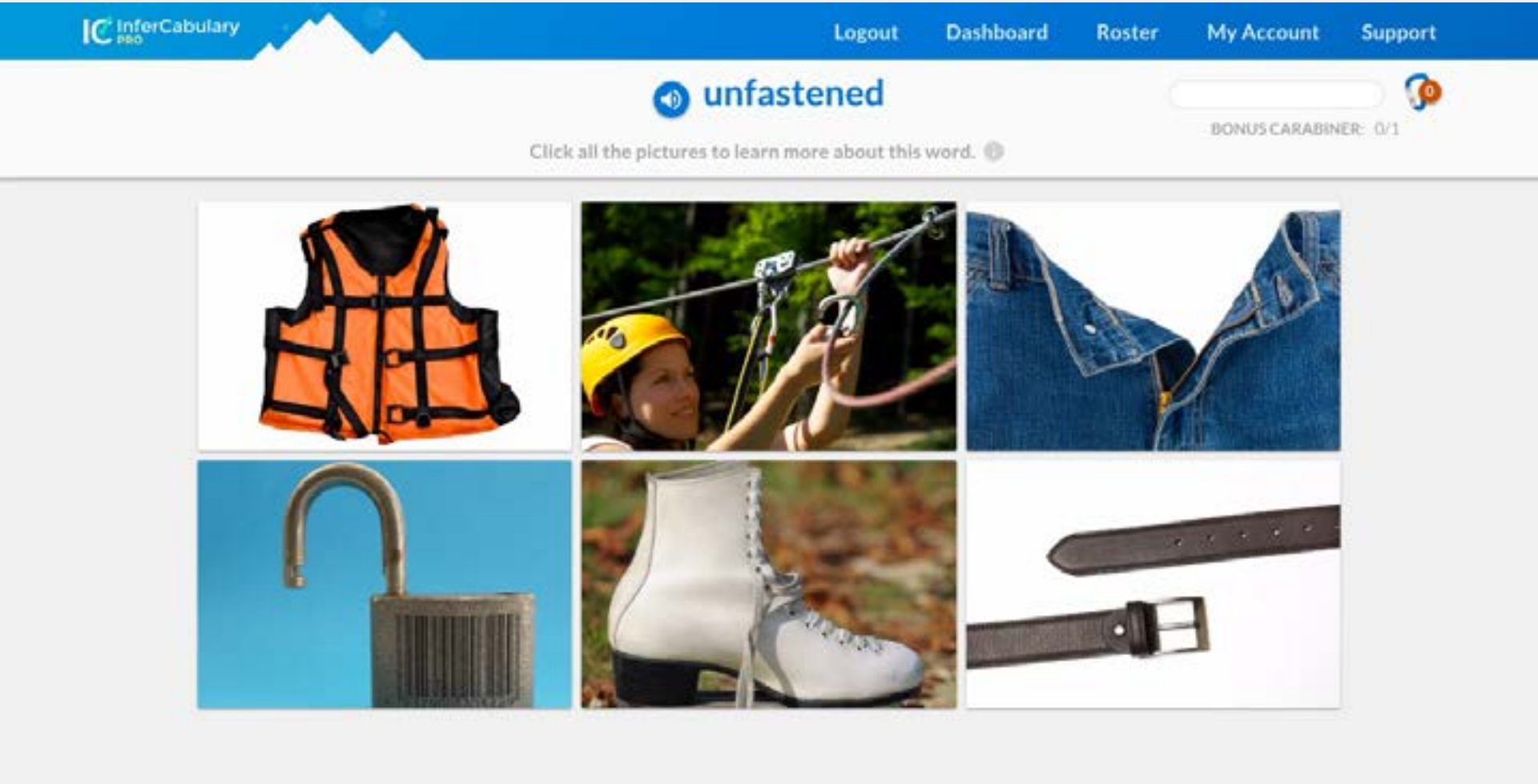
Describes someone who is angry or frustrated with a situation or person

A student who has a mountain of homework

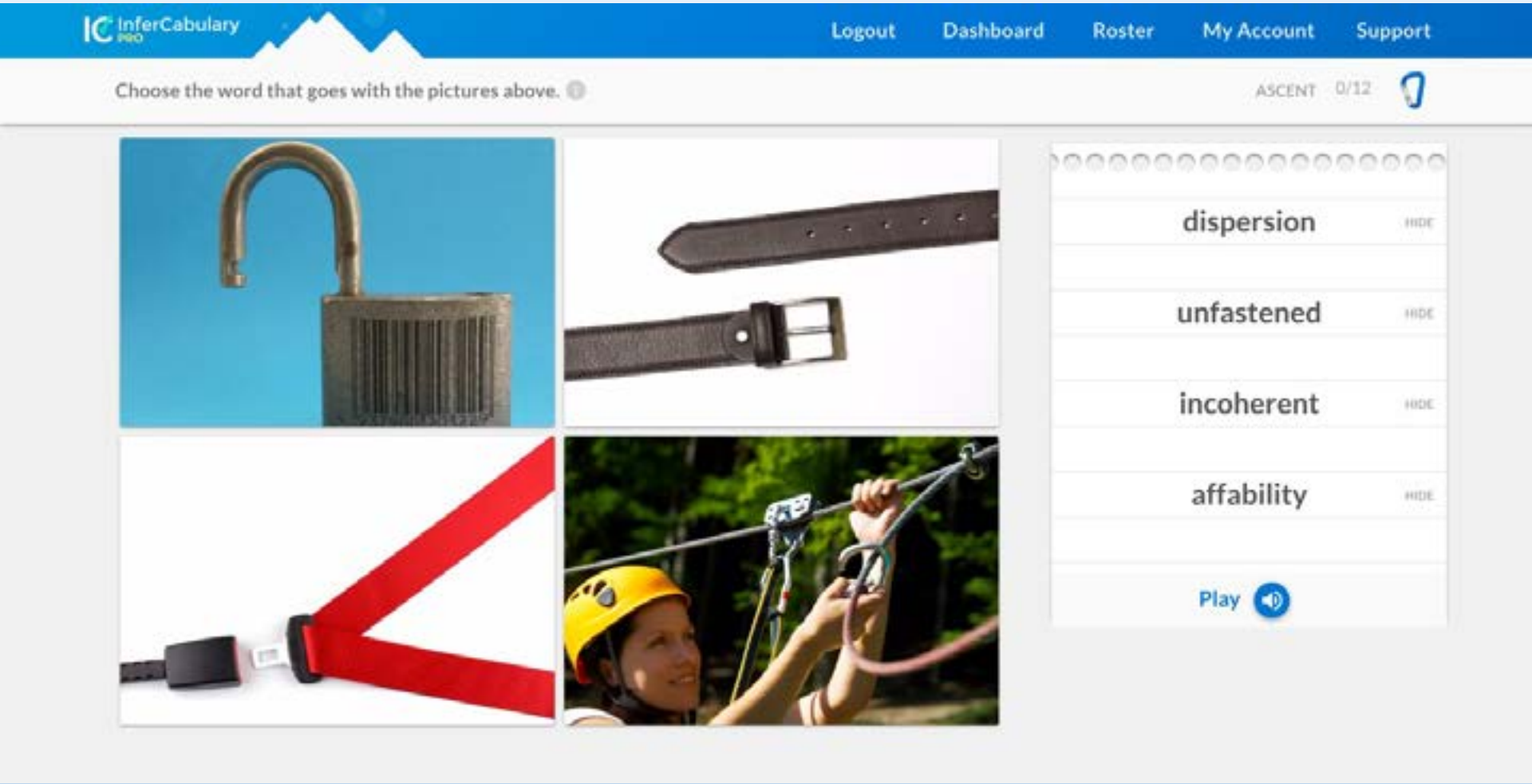
A man whose computer has crashed

InferCabulary iPad App

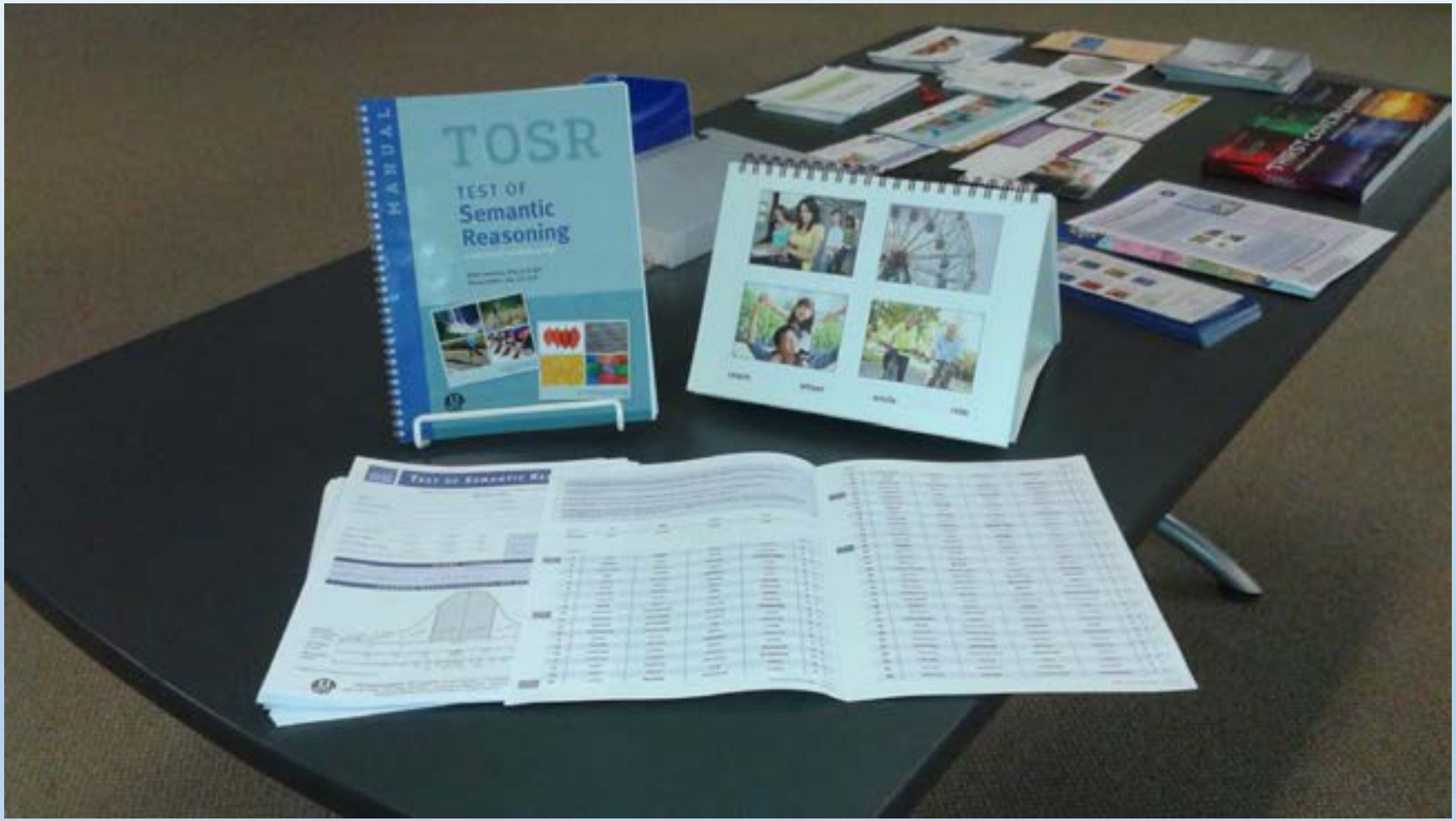
InferCabulary Pro (Base Camp mode)



InferCabulary Pro – The Climb mode



Test of Semantic Reasoning (TOSR)



Academic Therapy Publications

Copies of this presentation, handouts and research at

www.CommunicationAPPtitude.com

InferCabulary Pro

www.InferCabulary.com

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Demonstrations

Come see a demo of our Apps

Brookes Publishing Co.

Booth #1402

Check out our *Test of Semantic Reasoning*

Academic Therapy Publications

Booth #701

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QUESTIONS
ANSWERS