*TAALC 101: Listen Up! Series*

**Lesson 4: AAC: Augmentative and Alternative Communication**

**Learning Objectives**

* Understand the three levels of Aided Communication
* Identify the four critical features of Aided Communication
* Learn how to evaluate student’s communication needs via Feature Matching

**Communication Equation:**



What is the difference between **Augmentative** and **Alternative** Communication?

**Unaided Communication** uses only your body. Give some examples of unaided communication:

**Three Levels of Aided Technology**

* **No Tech**
	+ Non-electronic
	+ Often handmade
* **Low Tech**
	+ Simple Electronics
	+ Battery Operated
	+ Preprogrammed messages
* **High Tech**
	+ Sophisticated Electronics
	+ Allows user generated messages

Give examples/descriptions of each level of **Aided Technology:**

1. No Tech –

1. Low Tech –
2. High Tech -

Give examples/descriptions of the four **critical features** of Aided Communication.

1. **Method of Access:**
2. **Form of Representation:**
3. **Display:**
	1. Form of Display:
	2. Organization of Display:
4. **Type of Output:**

***Fill in the Blank***

1. Moveable pictures, books and boards, and simple eye gaze are examples of a **\_\_\_\_-tech** communication system.
2. **Low-tech** devices can include both single and \_\_\_\_\_ - message devices.
3. **\_\_\_\_\_-tech** devices allow the user to generate their own messages.
4. **Text to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ systems** are high-tech devices that allow the user to create messages which the device then speaks (aka speech generating devices).

**Feature Matching**

Table 1: Feature Matching

| **Method of Access** | **Representations** | **Type of Display** | **Type of Output** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Direct selection | Real objects | Static | Voice |
| Scanning | Photo | Dynamic | Visual |
|   | Iconic pictures |   |   |
|   | Line drawing | **Display Organization** |   |
|   | Print | Visual scene display |   |
|   |   | Grid |   |

**Feature matching** looks at a student’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to determine what kind of system they need.

**References**

Who should be invited to the team when conducting feature matching to select AAC devices?

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