

Core and fringe vocabulary

We talk about 'core' and 'fringe' words in AAC, but what do we mean?

Core	Fringe
Small number of words that make up 80% of what you say	Very large number of words – only 20% of what you say
Used across all environments, settings and situations	Used across some environments and situations (topic specific)
Increases communication if used	Limits communication if only these are used
Made up from a range of words including verbs, descriptions, etc	Made up from mostly object words (nouns)
E.g. I, go, you, want, need, buy, it, say, help	E.g. tennis, coffee, tv, chair, car, cheese

Most AAC users require a mix of core and fringe vocabulary. Here is an example of what core and fringe vocabulary looks like.

Food

