

Functional Categories of Immediate Echolalia

Category	Description	Example
Turn taking/ interactive	Utterances used as turn -taking fillers in an alternating verbal exchange. It can also provide thinking and/or processing time for the person with ASD who has some verbal skills. For the individual who lacks spontaneous verbal skills, echoing does allow participation in a back and forth interaction, even if it is adult lead.	<p>Adult speaker: "Where did you go Sunday?"</p> <p>Echolalic speaker: He repeats, "Where did you go Sunday?" and gives a quick look to the adult.</p> <p>Adult speaker: "Did you go to Grandma's house?"</p> <p>Echolalic speaker: Says, "Did you go to Grandma's house?" And he again gives a quick look at the speaker. Looking at the speaker is not an essential part of the sequence but it adds clarity to this text example. The person with ASD who has some spontaneous verbal skills might eventually add, "No Grandma's house; go zoo." He needed stalling time to understand and formulate an answer.</p>
Declarative/ interactive	Utterances labeling objects, actions, or location (accompanied by demonstrative gestures).	<p>Adult speaker: As he checks the nearly empty cookie jar, he says, "I better buy some cookies."</p> <p>Echolalic speaker: As he also touches the cookie jar, he says, "I better buy some cookies." No verbal response or action is required from the adult speaker. The child does not attempt to take a cookie out of the jar.</p>
Yes answer/ interactive	Utterances used to request objects or others' actions. Usually involves mitigated echolalia. (Non-mitigated responses are similar to yes answer/interactive examples cited in previous category.	<p>Adult speaker: "Do you want some juice?"</p> <p>Echolalic speaker: "Do you want some juice?" He looks at the pitcher and continues to hold out his hand and waits for a glass of juice. In effect, he has indicated, "Yes, I want some juice."</p>
Request/ interactive	Utterances used to request objects or others' actions. Usually involves mitigated echolalia. (Non-mitigated responses are similar to yes answer/interactive examples cited in previous category.	<p>Mitigated responses (some changes in what was said):</p> <p>Example 1 Adult speaker: "Do you want to watch TV?" Echolalic speaker: "Yes, you want to watch TV, please."</p> <p>Example 2 Adult speaker: "Can you give it to me?" Echolalic speaker: "Yes, Jason can give it to me?"</p> <p>Example 3 Adult speaker: "Do you want some crackers?" Echolalic speaker: "Do you want some pretzels?"</p>
Nonfocused/ personal	Utterances produced with no apparent interactive communicative intent; often spoken during states of high arousal (e.g., fear, frustration, pain). Does not appear to be attempt at self regulation	<p>Adult speaker: "What's wrong? Why are you screaming?"</p> <p>Echolalic speaker: He continues to walk and flap his hands; intermittently he screams and slaps his own face, and says to himself "What's wrong? Why are you screaming?" He repeats "What's wrong? Why are your screaming?" and slaps his face again.</p>
Rehearsal/ personal	Utterances used as a processing aid, followed by utterance or action indicating comprehension of echoed utterance.	<p>Adult speaker: "Give this to Jim." (Hands over the notebook.)</p> <p>Echolalic speaker: He turns around, starts pacing, and softly says "Give this to Jim" several times. The pacing stops and he walks over to Jim and gives the notebook to him.</p>
Self-regulatory/ personal	Utterances which serve to regulate one's own actions. Produced in synchrony with motor activity.	<p>Adult speaker: "Don't jump on the bed."</p> <p>Echolalic speaker: He repeats "Don't jump on the bed" several times to himself as he gradually decreases the jumping, ceases the action, and finally gets off the bed.</p>