

# Self-Constructed Scripts

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Step by Step™ [www.ablenetinc.com](http://www.ablenetinc.com)

Vanguard™ [www.prentrom.com](http://www.prentrom.com)

## WHAT AND WHY??

Sidney started her augmentative communication device journey using a Step-by-Step™ communication device. She used a variety of 'social scripts' (see Musselwhite & Burkhart, 2001, for more information). Her social scripts were co-constructed by Sidney and her communication facilitators (mom, teachers, therapists, parapro). Sidney now uses a high-tech communication device, the Vanguard™, allowing her to have access to thousands of words, word prediction, and spelling. Sidney is becoming an excellent generative language user. HOWEVER, there are times that Sidney wants to be able to deliver messages more quickly, so she pre-constructs messages, then speaks a sentence at a time, or stores messages into 'notebooks' on her communication device, for use at a later time. This works well when she has access to her high-tech communication device . . . HOWEVER, there are times when she chooses or needs to use a smaller, more portable communication device.

## WHEN SHOULD AN AAC USER SELF-CONSTRUCT AND SAVE TO A STEP-LISTING DEVICE??

Below are three samples of times that an individual might want to self-construct and save script messages to a step-listing device:

- 1) **PORTABILITY:** At times, portability is a huge factor, and the high-tech device is not appropriate. Taking the step-listing device permits the individual to have access to language that s/he has pre-prepared!
- 2) **ACCESS:** Many AAC users can access high-tech communication devices only when positioned in a wheelchair, with a laptray, with switches carefully mounted, etc. At other times (on a side-lyer, in a beanbag chair, in bed) a step-listing device may be helpful, because it requires only a single switch, without the timing factor.
- 3) **CLEAR VISUAL PATH:** Occasionally, a high-tech device mounted on a laptray may produce a visual barrier. A perfect example would be a student who is giving a speech or pre-scripted play lines, which can easily be delivered from a step-listing device.