

Qual-Quant Behavioral Analysis

Analysis of a video recorded speech sample at the conversation level revealed the following:

Mr. Bean stuttered on approximately 15% of syllables/words (meh, whatever). His stuttering was comprised primarily of blocks, with some prolongations and two instances of syllable repetitions. Blocks lasted up to 4 seconds in duration and were accompanied by audible tension (grunting sounds), and observable clenching of the jaw, mouth, and neck, as well as loss of eye contact.

In addition to overt stuttering behaviors, Mr. Bean demonstrated significant use of secondary and avoidance behaviors. He most frequently used the interjections “um” and “like” in chains of up to 6 iterations, for example “I went to um um um um like um like um um Macy’s.” This prevalence of non-productive speech behaviors greatly increased the perceived severity of his stutter by the listener, and decreased his communication efficacy.

Mr. Bean’s speech was also characterized by use of a rapid rate and and soft volume, which at times impacted speech intelligibility. More severe or tension-filled blocks were accompanied by an increase in speech rate immediately following the block.

Mr. Bean demonstrated attempts to use easy onsets during more difficult moments, a technique he reported learning in previous therapy. Easy onsets were identified by a dramatic inhale (excessive chest and shoulder movement) and audible air release from the mouth. This technique was effective approximately 30% of the time on the first attempt, but Mr. Bean typically required 2-3 attempts before getting the word out.