Supplementary Note

Total Word Counts

The total word counts (total number of words used in the entire dialogues) were compiled for directors and for matchers, separately, for all 12 cards across the 24 trials, prior to any editing (See Supplemental Figure 1).

Description Word Counts

The description word counts, involving the directors’ first attempt on each trial at describing each of the 12 cards, taken together for all trials, were 14,906 and 6,308 words, for amnesic and comparison participants, respectively. After editing, involving the removal from these descriptions of all words having to do with task management, strategies, and non-task related information, i.e., anything unrelated to describing the cards (Supplementary Methods), the total number of words used in the initial descriptions for all 12 cards across all 24 trials were 9,173 and 3,788 for amnesic and comparison directors, respectively. These data, broken out by trial, are shown in Fig.2b in the paper. Note that the editing procedures used here resulted in comparable reductions in the word counts for the two groups, with a 61.54% and 60.05% reduction of the number of words for amnesic and comparison directors respectively.