1° What's the problem?

Speaker knows the word but cannot access it.
Actually, he knows many more things:
- parts of the meaning
- relations to other concepts or words (e.g., it's used for cooking)
- number of syllables (in particular: firstlast)
- grammatical information (part of speech, gender)
- origin (e.g., Greek, Latin)
- lef of language (colloquial, academic)

Of course, all this knowledge can be used. Yet, I'm mainly interested in associations (relations between words and concepts).

2° Why does it occur? Let's look at some facts

1° She was very happy about his (a) reaction (target)
   (b) election (context)
2° Please close the door (a) open (target)
   (b) close
3° He is rather silly (a) silly (target)
   (b) snoopy
4° This was an amazing animal (a) animal (target)
   (b) animal

3° Why does it occur? Explanation of the facts

At the linguistic/conceptual level
- similarity in sound (1t in 1b/c)
- close conceptual relation (2a/b: open/close)

At the psychological level (bookkeeping problems)
- competition of lemmas (3a/b: stupid/silly)
- effects of anticipation, perseverance (4a/b)
- reversal of units (4a/b)

4° Conclusion

Words are stored by meaning and by sound. Either can impede or facilitate word access.

References: