



A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning

By Ray Jackendoff



A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning By Ray Jackendoff

Hailed as a "masterpiece" (*Nature*) and as "the most important book in the sciences of language to have appeared in many years" (Steven Pinker), Ray Jackendoff's *Foundations of Language* was widely acclaimed as a landmark work of scholarship that radically overturned our understanding of how language, the brain, and perception intermesh.

A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning is Jackendoff's most important book since his groundbreaking *Foundations of Language*. Written with an informality that belies the originality of its insights, it presents a radical new account of the relation between language, meaning, rationality, perception, consciousness, and thought, and, extraordinarily, does this in terms a non-specialist will grasp with ease. Jackendoff starts out by looking at languages and what the meanings of words and sentences actually do. Finding meanings to be more adaptive and complicated than they're commonly given credit for, he is led to some basic questions: how do we perceive and act in the world? How do we talk about it? And how can the collection of neurons in the brain give rise to conscious experience? He shows that the organization of language, thought, and perception does not look much like the way we experience things, and that only a small part of what the brain does is conscious. He concludes that thought and meaning must be almost completely unconscious. What we experience as rational conscious thought--which we prize as setting us apart from the animals--in fact rides on a foundation of unconscious intuition. Rationality amounts to intuition enhanced by language.

Ray Jackendoff's profound and arresting account will appeal to everyone interested in the workings of the mind, in how language links to the world, and in what understanding these means for the way we experience our lives.

Acclaim for *Foundations of Language*:

"A book that deserves to be read and reread by anyone seriously interested in the state of the art of research on language."

--*American Scientist*

"A dazzling combination of theory-building and factual integration. The result is a compelling new view of language and its place in the natural world."

--Steven Pinker, author of *The Language of Instinct* and *Words and Rules*

"A masterpiece. . . . The book deserves to be the reference point for all future theorizing about the language faculty and its interconnections."

--Frederick J. Newmeyer, past president of the Linguistic Society of America

"This book has the potential to reorient linguistics more decisively than any book since *Syntactic Structures* shook the discipline almost half a century ago."

--Robbins Burling, *Language in Society*

 [Download A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning ...pdf](#)

A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning

By Ray Jackendoff

A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning By Ray Jackendoff

Hailed as a "masterpiece" (*Nature*) and as "the most important book in the sciences of language to have appeared in many years" (Steven Pinker), Ray Jackendoff's *Foundations of Language* was widely acclaimed as a landmark work of scholarship that radically overturned our understanding of how language, the brain, and perception intermesh.

A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning is Jackendoff's most important book since his groundbreaking *Foundations of Language*. Written with an informality that belies the originality of its insights, it presents a radical new account of the relation between language, meaning, rationality, perception, consciousness, and thought, and, extraordinarily, does this in terms a non-specialist will grasp with ease. Jackendoff starts out by looking at languages and what the meanings of words and sentences actually do. Finding meanings to be more adaptive and complicated than they're commonly given credit for, he is led to some basic questions: how do we perceive and act in the world? How do we talk about it? And how can the collection of neurons in the brain give rise to conscious experience? He shows that the organization of language, thought, and perception does not look much like the way we experience things, and that only a small part of what the brain does is conscious. He concludes that thought and meaning must be almost completely unconscious. What we experience as rational conscious thought--which we prize as setting us apart from the animals--in fact rides on a foundation of unconscious intuition. Rationality amounts to intuition enhanced by language.

Ray Jackendoff's profound and arresting account will appeal to everyone interested in the workings of the mind, in how language links to the world, and in what understanding these means for the way we experience our lives.

Acclaim for *Foundations of Language*:

"A book that deserves to be read and reread by anyone seriously interested in the state of the art of research on language."

--*American Scientist*

"A dazzling combination of theory-building and factual integration. The result is a compelling new view of language and its place in the natural world."

--Steven Pinker, author of *The Language of Instinct* and *Words and Rules*

"A masterpiece. . . . The book deserves to be the reference point for all future theorizing about the language faculty and its interconnections."

--Frederick J. Newmeyer, past president of the Linguistic Society of America

"This book has the potential to reorient linguistics more decisively than any book since *Syntactic Structures* shook the discipline almost half a century ago."

--Robbins Burling, *Language in Society*

A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning By Ray Jackendoff Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #356705 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2012-03-02
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.30" h x .80" w x 9.30" l, 1.20 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 288 pages

 [Download A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

Review

"Ray Jackendoff is a monumental scholar in linguistics who, more than any scholar alive today, has shown how language can serve as a window into human nature. Combining theoretical depth with a love of revealing detail, Jackendoff illuminates human reason and consciousness in startling and insightful ways."-- Steven Pinker, Harvard University and author of *How the Mind Works* and *The Stuff of Thought*

"This excellent book explains difficult topics accessibly. All readers interested in philosophy, from beginners to experienced professionals, will find it of value." --*Library Journal*

"This volume by Jackendoff (Tufts Univ.) is anything but an average user's guide. Instead it is an uncommonly accessible introduction to the considered, and considerable, view of one of the leading thinkers studying the relationship between thought and meaning...Throughout, Jackendoff skillfully guides readers through both the details of his view and the reasons that motivate it...Highly recommended." --*Choice*

"Ray Jackendoff has an uncanny ability to ask interesting and pressing questions. Anyone interested in language and thought should ask such questions. The asking itself is the primary intellectual act - that, and of course the ordering of the asking, which is by no means obvious and constantly problematical, as he well knows and kindly informs the reader. As for providing answers, pivotal questions may have answers, but they are complex and never simple and thus require extremely careful expression. In his effort to treat his readers in a way that is warm and friendly, he sometimes employs phrases ("kind of," "sort of," "well, like," and other things relaxed speakers tend to say) which I do not find essential, but which for others will surely have the effect of making the issues clear and comprehensible."--Peter Bloom, Professor of Humanities, Smith College

"Clear and concise. The pace is perfect: very short chapters making for a very enjoyable read. The index is also thorough and helpful. As an introduction to a cognitivist perspective on linguistic meaning and thought, this is an extremely helpful book in both tone and content."--*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*

"As a bridge between practitioners and the general public, this book is extremely successful. There are elements that linguists who are unfamiliar with the cognitive will find illuminating, while the pace and structure of the book lend it to comprehension by a wide range of readers."--*Lingist List*

About the Author

Ray Jackendoff is Seth Merrin Professor of Philosophy and Co-Director of the Center for Cognitive Studies at Tufts University. His books include *Foundations of Language*, *Language, Consciousness, Culture: Essays on Mental Structure*, and *Meaning and the Lexicon: The Parallel Architecture, 1975-2010*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edgar Workman:

Have you spare time for the day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or perhaps read a book entitled A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time with the favorite's book, you can cleverer than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have additional opinion?

Jeff Cunningham:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make them survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a publication your ability to survive boost then having chance to stand than other is high. In your case who want to start reading the book, we give you this specific A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning book as starter and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Richard Oneal:

A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning but doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one among it. This great information could drawn you into brand new stage of crucial considering.

Paul Horn:

Reading a book make you to get more knowledge as a result. You can take knowledge and information from a book. Book is composed or printed or illustrated from each source this filled update of news. On this modern era like now, many ways to get information are available for you. From media social including newspaper, magazines, science guide, encyclopedia, reference book, book and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Ready to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just looking for the A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning when you essential it?

**Download and Read Online A User's Guide to Thought and
Meaning By Ray Jackendoff #45PG81SL0TR**

Read A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning By Ray Jackendoff for online ebook

A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning By Ray Jackendoff Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning By Ray Jackendoff books to read online.

Online A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning By Ray Jackendoff ebook PDF download

A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning By Ray Jackendoff Doc

A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning By Ray Jackendoff Mobipocket

A User's Guide to Thought and Meaning By Ray Jackendoff EPub