

Sociolinguistics A Very Short Introduction

Design: A Very Short Introduction History Knowledge Thought: A Very Short Introduction Education: A Very Short Introduction Thinking and Reasoning Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction Law Writing and Script Modern Art: A Very Short Introduction Kant Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction Nothing International Relations Music: A Very Short Introduction Bestsellers Religion Infinity Organizations Translation John Heskett John H. Arnold Jennifer Nagel Tim Bayne Gary Thomas Jonathan St. B. T. Evans Timothy Gowers Raymond Wacks Andrew Robinson David Cottington Roger Scruton Edward Craig Frank Close Christian Reus-Smit Nicholas Cook John Sutherland Thomas A. Tweed Ian Stewart Mary Jo Hatch Matthew Reynolds

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this book will transform the way you think about design by showing how integral it is to our daily lives from the spoon we use to eat our breakfast cereal to the medical equipment used to save lives john heskett goes beyond style and taste to look at how different cultures and individuals personalise objects

there are many stories we can tell about the past and we are not perhaps as free as we might imagine in our choice of which stories to tell or where those stories end john arnold s very short introduction is a stimulating essay about how we study and understand history the book begins by inviting us to think about various questions provoked by our investigation of history and explores the ways these questions have been answered in the past concepts such as causation interpretation and periodization are introduced by means of concrete examples of

how historians work giving the reader a sense of the excitement of discovering not only the past but also ourselves about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

human beings naturally desire knowledge but what is knowledge is it the same as having an opinion highlighting the major developments in the theory of knowledge from ancient greece to the present day jennifer nagel uses a number of simple everyday examples to explore the key themes and current debates of epistemology

in this lively very short introduction tim bayne looks at the nature of thought exploring questions such as what are thoughts and how is thought realized in the brain he draws on research in philosophy psychology neuroscience and anthropology to look at what we know and don t know about the capacity for thought

from the schools of ancient times to the present day gary thomas explores how and why education has evolved has it has examining education worldwide he explains the way schools work noting how curricula are remarkably consistent around the world delving into some of the big questions thomas explores the history of education in this very short introduction considering various styles such as progressive versus formal he also explores the ideas of some of the big theorists including piaget and vygotsky looking at different forms of education and styles of teaching he considers the ways in which education is being improved by matching styles of learning to teaching and ensuring that schools are more inclusive and meaningful for a broader range of students he finishes by considering the ways in which education may develop over the coming century about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

thinking is the essence of what it means to be human and defines us more than anything else as a species jonathan evans explores cognitive psychological approaches to understanding the nature of thinking and reasoning problem solving and decision making

this book aims to explain in clear non technical language what it is that mathematicians do and how that differs from and builds on the mathematics that most people are familiar with from school it is the ideal introduction for anyone who wishes to deepen their understanding of mathematics

law touches every aspect of our daily lives and yet the main concepts terms and processes of the legal system remain obscure to many this very short introduction in its third edition provides a lucid accessible guide to modern legal systems considering a number of social and political events that have had an impact on the law

without writing there would be no records no history no books and no emails writing is an integral and essential part of our lives but when did it start why do we all write differently and how did writing develop into what we use today all of these questions are answered in this very short introduction starting with the origins of writing five thousand years ago with cuneiform and egyptian hieroglyphs andrew robinson explains how these early forms of writing developed into hundreds of scripts including the roman alphabet and the chinese characters he reveals how the modern writing symbols and abbreviations we take for granted today including airport signage and text messaging resemble ancient ones much more closely than we might think about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

as public interest in modern art continues to grow there is a real need for a book that will engage general readers offering them not only information and ideas about modern art but also explaining its contemporary relevance and its history this book does just that

kant is arguably the most influential modern philosopher but also one of the most difficult roger scruton tackles his exceptionally complex subject with a strong hand exploring the background to kant s work and showing why the critique of pure reason has proved so enduring about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

philosophy introduces important themes in ethics knowledge and the self via readings from plato aristotle darwin and buddhist writers it explains how areas of philosophy relate and explores the contexts in which philosophy was and is done

what is nothing what remains when you take all the matter away can empty space a void exist this very short introduction explores the science and the history of the elusive void from aristotle who insisted that the vacuum was impossible via the theories of newton and einstein to our very latest discoveries and why they can tell us extraordinary things about the cosmos frank close tells the story of how scientists have explored the elusive void and the rich discoveries that they have made there he takes the reader on a lively and accessible history through ancient ideas and cultural superstitions to the frontiers of current research he describes how scientists discovered that the vacuum is filled with fields how newton mach and einstein grappled with the nature of space and time and how the mysterious aether that was long ago supposed to permeate the void may now be making a comeback with the latest research into the higgs field we now know that the vacuum is far from being empty it seethes with virtual particles and antiparticles that erupt spontaneously into being and it also may contain hidden dimensions that we were previously unaware of these new discoveries may provide answers to some of cosmology s most fundamental questions what lies outside the universe and if there was once nothing then how did the universe begin about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

international relations affects everyone s lives their security economic well being rights and freedoms and the environment they share this book explores international relations central concerns with the changing way that political authority is organised globally and provides the theoretical tools to understand the dynamics of the field

this stimulating very short introduction to music invites us to really think about music and the values and qualities we ascribe to it the world teems with different kinds of music traditional folk classical jazz rock pop and each type of music tends to come with its own way of thinking drawing on a wealth of accessible examples ranging from beethoven to chinese zither music nicholas cook attempts to provide a framework for thinking about all music by examining the personal social and cultural values that music embodies the book reveals the

shortcomings of traditional conceptions of music and sketches a more inclusive approach emphasizing the role of performers and listeners about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

i rejoice said doctor johnson to concur with the common reader for the last century the tastes and preferences of the common reader have been reflected in the american and british bestseller lists and this very short introduction takes an engaging look through the lists to reveal what we have been reading and why john sutherland shows that bestseller lists monitor one of the strongest pulses in modern literature and are therefore worthy of serious study along the way he lifts the lid on the bestseller industry examines what makes a book into a bestseller and asks what separates bestsellers from canonical fiction exploring the relationship between bestsellers and the fashions ideologies and cultural concerns of the day the book includes short case studies and lively summaries of bestsellers through the years from in his steps now almost totally forgotten but the biggest all time bestseller between 1895 and 1945 to gone with the wind and the andromeda strain and the da vinci code about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

religion plays a central role in human experience billions of people around the world practice a faith and act in accordance with it religion shapes how they enter the world and how they leave it how they eat dress marry and raise their children it affects law economy and government it sanctifies injustice and combats it beginning with the first signs of religion among ancient humans and concluding with a look at modern citizens and contemporary trends leading scholar thomas tweed examines this powerful and enduring force in human society religion a very short introduction offers a concise non partisan overview of religion s long history and its complicated role in the world today

ian stewart considers the concept of infinity and the profound role it plays in mathematics logic physics cosmology and philosophy he shows that working with infinity is not just an abstract intellectual exercise and analyses its important practical everyday applications

most of us recognize that organizations are everywhere you meet them on every street corner in the form of families and shops study in them work for them buy from them pay taxes to them but have you given much thought to where they came from what they are today and what they might become in the future how and why do they have so much influence over us and what influences them how do they contribute to and detract from the meaningfulness of lives and how might we improve them so they better serve our needs and desires this very short introductions addresses all of these questions and considers many more mary jo hatch introduces the concept of organizations by presenting definitions and ideas drawn from the a variety of subject areas including the physical sciences economics sociology psychology anthropology literature and the visual and performing arts drawing on examples from prehistory and everyday life from the animal kingdom as well as from business government and other formal organizations hatch provides a lively and thought provoking introduction to the process of organization about the series the very short introductions series from oxford university press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area these pocket sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly our expert authors combine facts analysis perspective new ideas and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable

translation is everywhere giving us dubbed films and access to foreign news and the literature of other cultures considering subtitling interpreting and adaptations matthew reynolds reveals how translation is changing radically in the new age of electronic media

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