



What Is This Thing Called Language?

2nd edition

David Nunan

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Written by eminent linguist David Nunan, this concise text immerses readers in the complex, curious and continually evolving phenomenon that is at the centre of everything we do: language. It can be fascinating, puzzling and entertaining – and sometimes all of these at the same time. Featuring entertaining anecdotes and interesting examples throughout, this book introduces readers to the foundations of language, namely its sounds, words and grammar, before illustrating how language is used in different ways in a variety of contexts. Fully updated and revised for the second edition, it covers a wide range of topics, including language variation and culture, second language acquisition and bilingualism. Students, teachers and non-specialists alike will enjoy this engaging and ‘un-put-down-able’ introduction to language and linguistics. Assuming no prior knowledge of applied or theoretical linguistics, it will appeal to anyone with an interest in language.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Tables and Figures
 Preface
 Acknowledgements
 Introduction to the First Edition: The Stuff that Surrounds Us
 Introduction to the Second Edition: A Personal Account
 What is this Thing Called Language?
 The Sound System
 The Lexical System
 The Grammatical System
 Doing Things with Spoken Language
 Doing Things with Written Language
 First and Second Language Acquisition
 10 more...

FEATURES

- Introduces the subsystems of language in an accessible way and explores the ways in which these subsystems are used in spoken and written language
- Breaks down complex ideas with interesting anecdotes and engaging examples
- Brings language to life with dozens of samples spanning a wide range of contexts
- Includes reflective questions and annotated suggestions for further reading at the end of each chapter
- Contains an overview of key figures in the field of language study and linguistic analysis and a glossary of key terminology