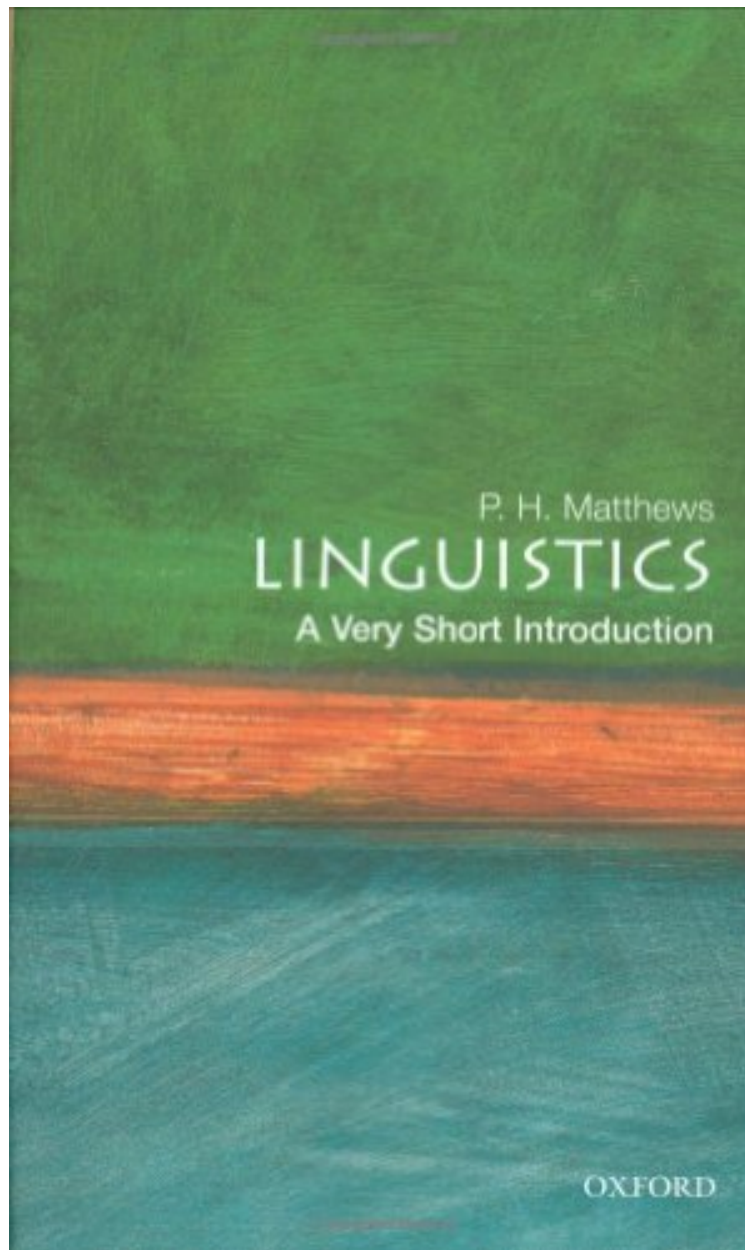


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Linguistics: A Very Short Introduction

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8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Good Glimpses into What Linguistics Is AboutBy Karen M. CarlsonI'm glad I was not deterred by other people's poor reviews of this book. I enjoyed and found it interesting.No, it is not a textbook in linguistics. Rather, it discusses some of the topics and problems linguists deal with. In this it is rather like the Mathematics book in the VSI series -- which does not attempt to teach the reader basic arithmetic or any other branch of math, but gives some insight into what mathematicians do and why the subject is compelling to its practitioners.While occasionally unclear, this book certainly does not require any special education on the part of the reader. The author does not provide pat answers to some of the difficult questions, but gives the reader a feel for areas of debate amongst experts.After reading Matthews's book, I had a better sense of what linguistics is, what parts of it are most interesting to me, and what books from the "Further Reading" section at the end might interest me.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A Brief, though Tedious, Discussion of Language ConstructionBy Joseph A. SchrockI confess to being a novice in linguistics; however, I think that a book with more emphasis on logical rules and structures in language would have been better suited to my interests than this rather brief excursion into many esoterica of complexities of specific linguistic properties. At any rate, although the book was somewhat interesting -- given my penchant for studying the logic of language -- I do not rate this book very highly. Of course, one needs to acknowledge that the structures of language are highly abstract; therefore, the technical study of language can quickly get very tedious. Nevertheless, I think that I would have preferred a book more devoted to the logic inherent in language than this tedious and technical exposition. But maybe a book on philosophy of language would have been more my style.To sum up, the book was worth my buying and reading, but did not fully meet my expectations for a book in the VSI series.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative, well-writtenBy Lloyd RiceCovers the topics that I was interested in reading about.This book appears to be an original work by the author, although there may be other similar titles.

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About the AuthorP.H. Matthews is Professor of Linguistics at Cambridge University.