



# How Children Learn the Meanings of Words (Learning, Development, and Conceptual Change)

*Paul Bloom*

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How do children learn that the word "dog" refers not to all four-legged animals, and not just to Ralph, but to all members of a particular species? How do they learn the meanings of verbs like "think," adjectives like "good," and words for abstract entities such as "mortgage" and "story"? The acquisition of word meaning is one of the fundamental issues in the study of mind.

According to Paul Bloom, children learn words through sophisticated cognitive abilities that exist for other purposes. These include the ability to infer others' intentions, the ability to acquire concepts, an appreciation of syntactic structure, and certain general learning and memory abilities. Although other researchers have associated word learning with some of these capacities, Bloom is the first to show how a complete explanation requires all of them. The acquisition of even simple nouns requires rich conceptual, social, and linguistic capacities interacting in complex ways.

This book requires no background in psychology or linguistics and is written in a clear, engaging style. Topics include the effects of language on spatial reasoning, the origin of essentialist beliefs, and the young child's understanding of representational art. The book should appeal to general readers interested in language and cognition as well as to researchers in the field.

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#### **Harry Branham:**

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with friends is something that usually you will have done when you have spare time, and then why don't you try something that is really opposite from that. One particular activity that makes you not feel tired but still relaxing, thrilling like on a roller coaster you already been riding on and with the addition of knowledge. Even if you love *How Children Learn the Meanings of Words (Learning, Development, and Conceptual Change)*, it is possible to enjoy both. It is an excellent combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its called reading friends.

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