

Author of the Week: Steven Pinker



Steven Pinker is an experimental psychologist who conducts research in visual cognition, psycholinguistics, and social relations. He grew up in Montreal and earned his BA from McGill and his PhD from Harvard. Currently Johnstone Professor of Psychology at Harvard, he has also taught at Stanford and MIT. He has won numerous prizes for his research, his teaching, and his nine books, including *The Language Instinct*, *How the Mind Works*, *The Blank Slate*, *The Better Angels of Our Nature*, and *The Sense of Style*. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences, a two-time Pulitzer Prize finalist, a Humanist of the Year, a recipient of nine honorary doctorates, and one of *Foreign Policy's* "World's Top 100 Public Intellectuals" and *Time's* "100 Most Influential People in the World Today."

His life and career

He is Chair of the Usage Panel of the *American Heritage Dictionary*, and writes frequently for *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and other publications. His tenth book, to be published in February 2018, is called *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress*. Steven Pinker was born in 1954 in the English-speaking Jewish community of Montreal, Canada. He earned a bachelor's degree in experimental psychology at McGill University and then moved to Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1976, where he has spent most of his career bouncing back and forth between Harvard and MIT. He earned his doctorate at Harvard in 1979, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at MIT, a one-year stint as an assistant professor at Harvard, and in 1982, a move back to MIT that lasted until 2003, when he returned to Harvard.

Currently he is the Johnstone Family Professor in the Department of Psychology. He also has spent two years in California: in 1981-82, when he was an assistant professor at Stanford, and in 1995-96, when he spent a sabbatical year at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Pinker is the Chair of the Usage Panel of *The American Heritage Dictionary* and has served as editor or advisor for numerous scientific, scholarly, media, and humanist organizations, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Science Foundation, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Psychological Association, and the Linguistic Society of America. He has won many prizes for his books (including the William James Book Prize three times, the *Los Angeles Times* Science Book Prize, the Eleanor Maccoby Book Prize, the Cundill Recognition of Excellence in History Award, and the Plain English International Award), his research (including the Troland Research Prize from the National Academy of Sciences, the Early Career Award from the American Psychological Association, the Henry Dale Prize from the Royal Institution of Great Britain, and the William James Award from the Association for Psychological Science), and his graduate and undergraduate teaching

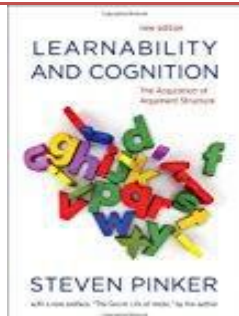
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- <https://stevenpinker.com/biocv>

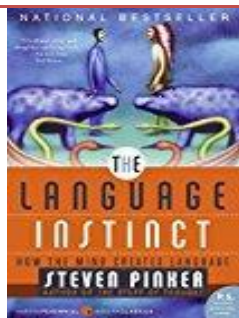
Books by Steven Pinker



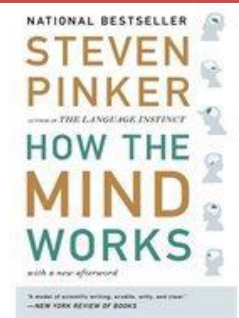
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Author: Steven Pinker
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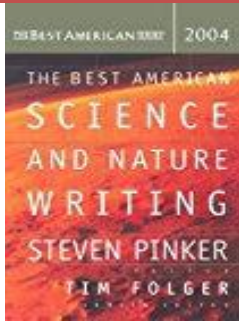
Title: Learnability and cognition: the acquisition of argument structure
Author: Steven Pinker
Publisher: MIT Press
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Title: Language instinct: the new science of language and mind
Author: Steven Pinker
Publisher: Penguin Books
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Title: How the mind works
Author: Steven Pinker
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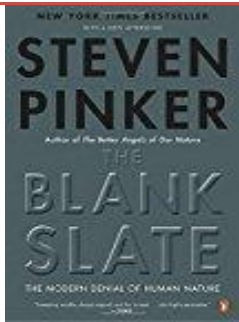
Title: Best American science and nature writing 2004: Best American series

Author: Steven Pinker

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

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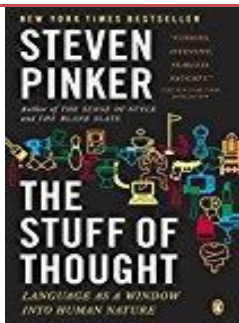
Title: Blank slate: the modern denial of human nature

Author: Steven Pinker

Publisher: Penguin Classic

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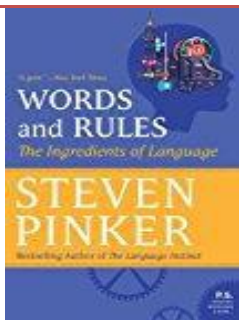
Title: Stuff of thought: language as a window into human nature

Author: Steven Pinker

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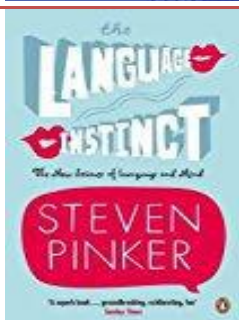
Title: Words and rules: the ingredients of language

Author: Steven Pinker

Publisher: HarperCollins Publishers

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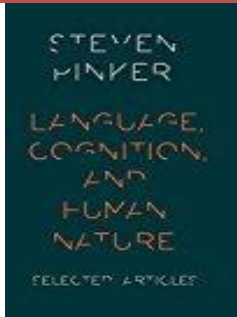
Title: Language instinct: the new science of language and mind

Author: Steven Pinker

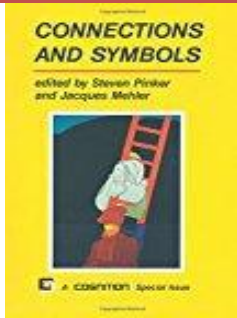
Publisher: Penguin Books

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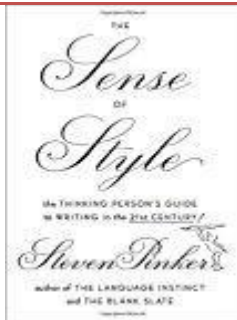
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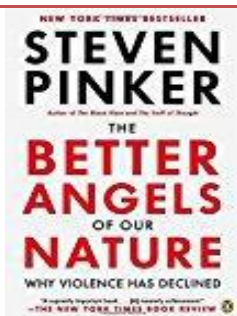
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Author: Steven Pinker
Publisher: Oxford University Press
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Title: Connections and symbols: Series: Cognition special issues
Author: Steven Pinker
Publisher: MIT Press
Call No.: 153 PIN
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Title: Sense of style: the thinking person's guide to writing in the 21st century
Author: Steven Pinker
Publisher: Penguin Classic
Call No.: 808.042 PIN
Acc. No.: 022097



Title: Better angels of our nature: why violence has declined
Author: Steven Pinker
Publisher: Penguin Books
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