



# Understanding Reading: A Psycholinguistic Analysis of Reading and Learning to Read

By Frank Smith

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*Understanding Reading* revolutionized reading research and theory when the first edition appeared in 1971 and continues to be a leader in the field. In the sixth edition of this classic text, Smith's purpose remains the same: to shed light on fundamental aspects of the complex human act of reading--linguistic, physiological, psychological, and social--and on what is involved in learning to read. The text critically examines current theories, instructional practices, and controversies, covering a wide range of disciplines but always remaining accessible to students and classroom teachers. Careful attention is given to the ideological clash that continues between whole language and direct instruction and currently permeates every aspect of theory and research into reading and reading instruction. To aid readers in making up their own minds, each chapter concludes with a brief statement of "Issues."

*Understanding Reading: A Psycholinguistic Analysis of Reading and Learning to Read, Sixth Edition* is designed to serve as a handbook for language arts teachers, a college text for basic courses on the psychology of reading, a guide to relevant research on reading, and an introduction to reading as an aspect of thinking and learning. It is matchless in integrating a wide range of topics relative to reading while, at the same time, being highly readable and user-friendly for instructors, students, and practitioners.

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## **Understanding Reading: A Psycholinguistic Analysis of Reading and Learning to Read By Frank Smith Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #1325418 in Books
- Brand: Routledge
- Published on: 2004-02-29
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .81" h x 6.16" w x 8.96" l, 1.18 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 388 pages

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About the Author

**Frank Smith** is recognized, both nationally and internationally, for his contributions to cognitive psychology and linguistics. His research at Harvard University on the nature of the reading process led to new insights in reading theory. He is a key originator of the modern psycholinguistic approach to reading instruction.

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