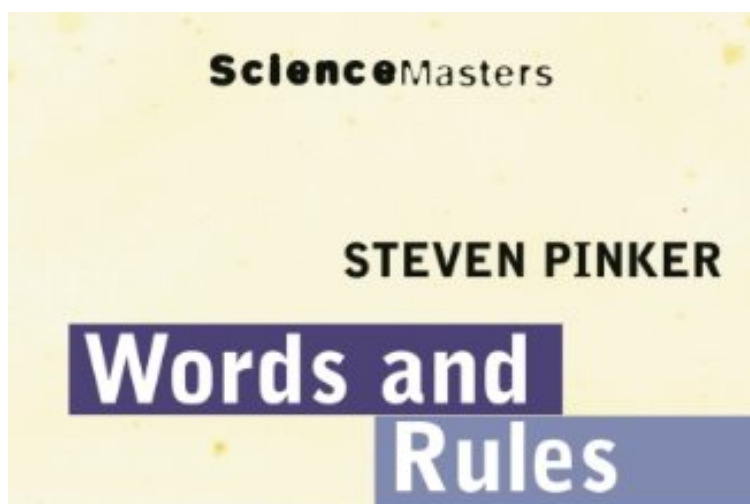


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Words And Rules: The Ingredients of Language (SCIENCE MASTERS) (English Edition)



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simple single phenomenon and examining it from every angle. That phenomenon - the existence of regular and irregular verbs - connects an astonishing array of topics in the sciences and humanities: the history of languages; the illuminating errors of children as they begin to speak; the sources of the major themes in the history of Western philosophy; the latest techniques in identifying genes and imaging the living brain. Pinker makes sense of all of this with the help of a single, powerful idea: that language comprises a mental dictionary of memorized words and a mental grammar of creative rules.

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Quatrième de couverture How does language work? How do we learn to speak? Why do languages change? Why do they have so many quirks? What does language reveal about the mind? Steven Pinker explores the mysteries of language in this original and hugely entertaining book. Pinker uses a deceptively simple phenomenon - regular and irregular verbs - to illuminate an astonishing array of topics: the history of languages, what we can learn from children's grammatical mistakes, the genetic and neurobiological underpinnings of language, and some of the major themes in Western philosophy. The key idea - that language comprises a mental dictionary of memorized words and a mental grammar of creative rules - extends beyond language, offering insight into the nature of thinking. For fans of *The Language Instinct* and *The Stuff of Thought*, here is another cornucopia of ideas about language and mind.