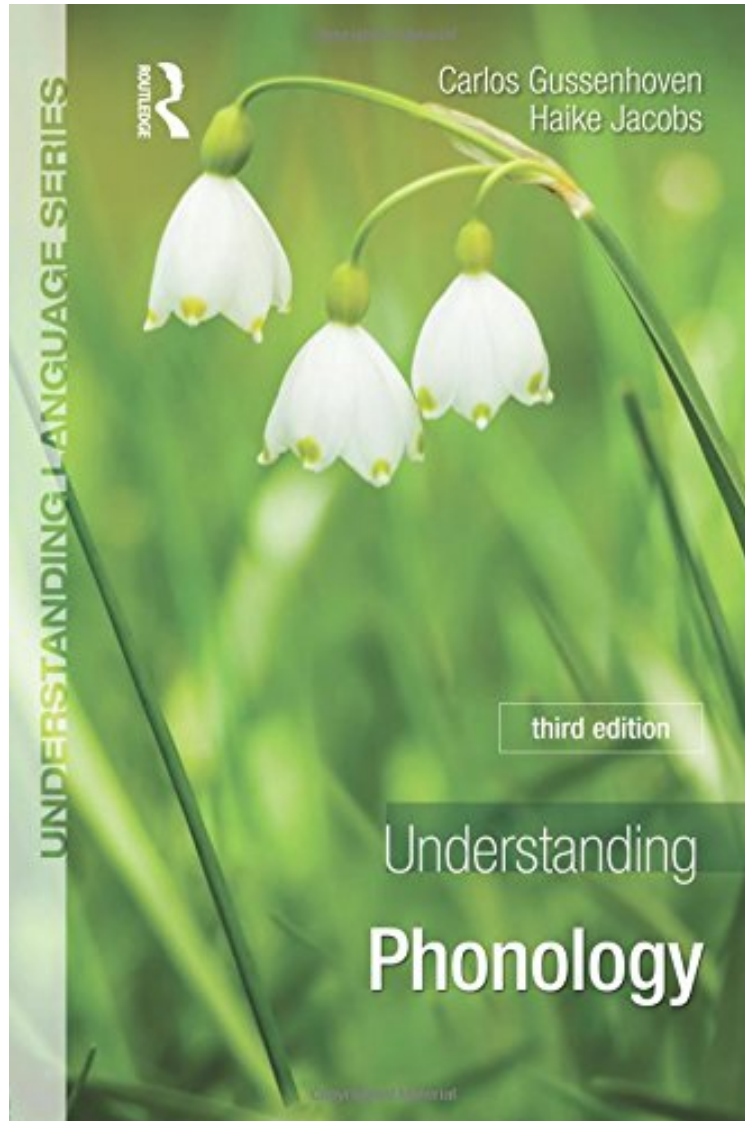


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Understanding Phonology (Understanding Language)

Carlos Gussenhoven, Haike Jacobs
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Carlos Gussenhoven, Haike Jacobs : Understanding Phonology (Understanding Language) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Understanding Phonology (Understanding Language):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Sam Fisher Systematic and detailed book. 22 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Only as good as the instructor using it By Kev I used this book for an Intro to Phonology course. It is really only as good as the person that is teaching with it. The first chapter is very intro about speech production, and then after that it's kinda blah (one would assume that distinctive features and natural classes

would be addressed in the beginning, however, distinctive features are not addressed until chapter 5). If you are planning to teach yourself phonology or are working with a bad professor, this book probably will not work for you. Having had the experience of working with two bad professors in a team taught course, looking to this text for answers and clarification was not really an option. There is no glossary, and new concepts are not clearly and adequately introduced. Also to note, both authors are professors in the Netherlands so there tends to be a heavy emphasis on Dutch in the examples and problem sets.

This widely acclaimed textbook provides a complete introduction to the phonology of human languages ideal for readers with no prior knowledge of the subject. This skilfully written text provides a broad, yet up-to-date, introduction to phonology. Assuming no previous knowledge of phonology or linguistic theory, the authors introduce the basic concepts and build on these progressively, discussing the main theories and illustrating key points with carefully chosen examples. A wide range of phenomena are covered: speech production, segmental contrasts, tone, quantity, prosodic structure, metrical relations and intonation. The main theories, including feature geometry and optimality theory are introduced, and their contributions to our understanding of phonology, as well as their shortcomings, are discussed objectively. This new edition has been updated and revised to meet the needs of today's students. Difficult points are given fuller explanation, references have been updated, and new exercises have been introduced to enable students to consolidate their learning.

...gives a clear and accurate picture of current phonological theory in a small number of pages. Nina Groennum, University of Copenhagen, about a previous edition
This is an excellent book. Clear, concise and explicit about problem areas. The exercises are very good and extremely useful. John Goldsmith, University of Chicago, about a previous edition
Excellent course book! Carsten Naehrer, University of Bonn, about the second edition
"Readers will appreciate an introduction to phonology which requires time and effort to allow a consolidation of acquired knowledge for students and for those who are new in the field. The fact that this volume has been reprinted in 2005 attests to its quality and popularity among professional readers and students alike." Chantal Paboudjian, *The Phonetician*, about a previous edition
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