

Contents

Foreword

ix

Part One. Language, Words, and Meaning

1. Why do we need a User's Guide to thought and meaning? 3
2. What's a language? 6
3. Perspectives on English 14
4. Perspectives on sunsets, tigers, and puddles 18
5. What's a word? 22
6. What counts as the same word? 28
7. Some uses of *mean* and *meaning* 32
8. "Objective" and "subjective" meaning 38
9. What do meanings have to be able to do? 41
10. Meanings can't be visual images 51
11. Word meanings aren't cut and dried (You can't avoid the slippery slope) 56
12. Not all the meaning is in the words 63
13. Meanings, concepts, and thoughts 70
14. Does your language determine your thought? 74

Part Two. Consciousness and Perception

15. What's it like to be thinking? 81
16. Some phenomena that test the Unconscious Meaning Hypothesis 87
17. Conscious and unconscious 92
18. What does "What is consciousness?" mean? 96
19. Three cognitive correlates of conscious thought 103
20. Some prestigious theories of consciousness 108

21. What's it like to see things?	114
22. Two components of thought and meaning	121
23. Seeing something as a fork	129
24. Other modalities of spatial perception	134
25. How do we see the world as "out there"?	139
26. Other "feels" in experience	143

Part Three. Reference and Truth

27. How do we use language to talk about the world?	155
28. Mismatching reference in conversation	162
29. What kinds of things can we refer to? (Cognitive metaphysics, Lesson 1)	166
30. Reference files for pictures and thoughts	173
31. More cognitive metaphysics: Persons	181
32. What's truth?	187
33. Problems for an ordinary perspective on truth	191
34. What's it like to judge a sentence true?	195
35. Noticing something's wrong	200

Part Four. Rationality and Intuition

36. What's it like to be thinking rationally?	207
37. How much rational thinking do we actually do?	216
38. How rational thinking helps	219
39. Some pitfalls of apparently rational thinking	223
40. Chamber music	227
41. Rational thinking as a craft	232
42. Some speculation on science and the arts	237
43. Learning to live with multiple perspectives	243

<i>References and further reading</i>	249
---------------------------------------	-----

<i>Index</i>	265
--------------	-----