

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910373937203321
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Titolo	Cognitive Linguistics for Linguists // by Margaret E. Winters, Geoffrey S. Nathan
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2020
ISBN	3-030-33604-2
Edizione	[1st ed. 2020.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (89 pages)
Collana	Expert Briefs, , 2511-0594
Disciplina	415 410.1835
Soggetti	Cognitive grammar Semantics Psycholinguistics Cognitive Linguistics
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- 1. Early Investigations -- 2. Conceptual Underpinnings -- 3. Grammar -- 4. Extensions of the Theory -- 5. New Directions.
Sommario/riassunto	This volume offers an introduction to cognitive linguistics, written by authors who were engaged in the field from its beginnings. It starts by reviewing these early studies and provides an overview of the sources and conceptual underpinnings of the theory. This is followed by a description of how cognitive linguistics has been (and continues to be) applied in all subcomponents of language study. From the point of view of the history of Linguistics, it presents the evolution of the theory over time in a range of directions, including its view of the nature of Language itself, as well as how it is acquired. The final chapter provides an overview of relatively new approaches, in particular those which are provoking a significant challenge to the generative account.