July 2026

Dear linguistics freshers,

Before you start your Linguistics studies at Oxford, it would be very helpful if you could read at least one of the introductory titles below. Since you do not have a university card yet, you cannot borrow any of these from the library. You may be able to borrow a title from your local public library - enquire about options to request books from other libraries if needed.

Enjoy the start of your linguistics journey!

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Lecturer in Linguistics, St Edmund Hall

Introductory reading

- Roberts, Ian (2017). *The wonders of language: Or how to make noises and influence people.* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

  OR
- Hornsby, David (2014). *Linguistics: A complete introduction.* Teach Yourself/Hodder & Stoughton.

  OR
- Adger, David (2019). *Language Unlimited: The Science Behind Our Most Creative Power.* Oxford University Press, Oxford.

More advanced reading

- Fromkin, Victoria, Robert Rodman and Nina Hyams (2013). *An Introduction to Language.* (International edition). Wadsworth. [Any edition since 2008 will do.]

Curious what you will be reading in your first year? Follow this link.
https://www.ling-phil.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-studies/prelims-reading-list