



What Language Is: And What It Isn't and What It Could Be (Paperback)

By Professor of Linguistics John McWhorter

GOTHAM BOOKS, United States, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. A love letter to languages, celebrating their curiosities and smashing assumptions about correct grammar. An eye-opening tour for all language lovers, *What Language Is* offers a fascinating new perspective on the way humans communicate. From vanishing languages spoken by a few hundred people to major tongues like Chinese, and with copious revelations about the hodgepodge nature of English, John McWhorter shows readers how to see and hear languages as a linguist does. Packed with big ideas about language alongside wonderful trivia, *What Language Is* explains how languages across the globe (the Queen's English and Suriname creoles alike) originate, evolve, multiply, and divide. Raising provocative questions about what qualifies as a language (so-called slang does have structured grammar), McWhorter takes readers on a marvelous journey through time and place--from Persia to the languages of Sri Lanka--to deliver a feast of facts about the wonders of human linguistic expression.



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