



Creating Mind: How the Brain Works

By John E. Dowling

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From a distinguished teacher and scholar, this beautifully illustrated and lucidly written book reveals the beauty of the organ that makes us uniquely human.

What makes us human and unique among all creatures is our brain. Consciousness, perception, emotion, memory, learning, language, and intelligence all originate in and depend on the brain. Over the past century, our understanding of the brain has raced forward to reveal many of the mechanisms by which the brain creates mind and consciousness. In this brief introduction to the brain, neuroscientist John Dowling conveys to the general reader the essence and vitality of the field of neuroscience—the progress we are making in understanding how brains work and some of our strategies for studying brain function. Dowling often relates the exciting discoveries of neuroscience to specific examples of brain phenomena such as disease, mental illness, aging, or brain injury, demonstrating how these alterations in brain function cast light on normalcy and describing some of the therapies enabled by our understanding of the brain.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

What's going on inside your head? This is one of the fundamental questions in science, and one of the toughest to answer. Neurobiologist John E. Dowling starts us down the garden path with *Creating Mind*, a lucid introduction to the study of the brain. A Harvard researcher and instructor, Dowling puts his experience to good use in describing the mechanisms underlying memory, vision, language, and many other more-or-less well-understood phenomena. We learn that the cells and chemicals that make up our brains have been studied extensively, yet we are still mystified by the simplest fact of all: we are conscious. "I think, therefore I am" doesn't do justice to the richness of our experience, and *Creating Mind* tries to go further by exploring how the convergence of language, learning, and sensation might produce awareness. The many illustrations are clear and work well with the text to explain points best understood visually. (After seeing the studies of the humble squid, you'll never look at calamari the same way again!) Dowling has written an excellent overview that will inspire laypeople and budding neuroscientists alike. --Rob Lightner

From Publishers Weekly

In this compact volume, Dowling, a Harvard biologist specializing in vision, explains how the human brain is structured, how it processes and stores information and how it occasionally malfunctions, while discussing its evolutionary roots. Topics as diverse as developmental biology, mental illness, the aging process, the biochemical basis of emotions, spinal cord injuries and the nature of optical illusions are touched upon, as are a range of current and projected treatments for disorders of the nervous system. Although Dowling's didactic style of posing questions to be answered wears a bit thin, a good deal of information is presented in a form largely accessible to the lay reader. While perhaps not surprising given his specialty, Dowling spends a disproportionate amount of time on the intricacies of the visual system while largely ignoring the other senses. Also omitted is any discussion of recent work examining structural differences in the brain between the sexes as well as correlational research suggesting possible links between brain configuration and homosexuality. Nonetheless, Dowling provides a competent introduction to the quickly developing field of neuroscience. Photos and line drawings throughout.

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From Library Journal

In this guide to the "nuts and bolts" of the human brain, neurobiologist Dowling explains how basic brain functions work and are interconnected. He then explores in clear, concise prose the brain's major functions: vision, language, memory, emotion, perception, and consciousness. A good jumping off point for learning about neuroscience and its fascinating discoveries.

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Users Review

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Vicky Moore:

Here thing why that Creating Mind: How the Brain Works are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all examining a book is good but it depends in the content of computer which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. Creating Mind: How the Brain Works giving you information deeper and different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no reserve that similar with Creating Mind: How the Brain Works. It

gives you thrill studying journey, it's open up your personal eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is perhaps can be happened around you. You can easily bring everywhere like in park your car, café, or even in your approach home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of Creating Mind: How the Brain Works in e-book can be your choice.

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Patrick Pond:

The event that you get from Creating Mind: How the Brain Works is a more deep you searching the information that hide inside the words the more you get interested in reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to understand but Creating Mind: How the Brain Works giving you joy feeling of reading. The writer conveys their point in selected way that can be understood by means of anyone who read it because the author of this book is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this kind of Creating Mind: How the Brain Works instantly.

Augusta Wilson:

On this era which is the greater man or woman or who has ability to do something more are more special than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple method to have that. What you must do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of the books in the top collection in your reading list is actually Creating Mind: How the Brain Works. This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in turning into precious person. By looking upward and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

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