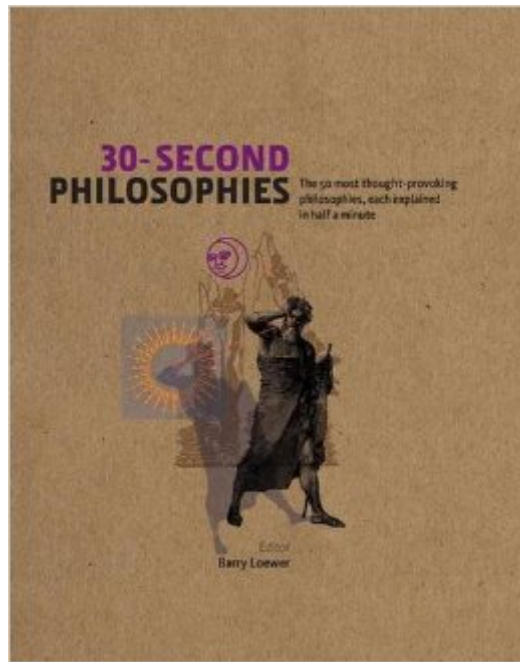


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# 30-Second Philosophies The 50 Most Thought-Provoking Philosophies, Each Explained In Half A Minute



## Synopsis

I Think Therefore I Am, Existentialism, Dialectical Materialism, The Socratic Method and Deconstruction? Sure, you know what they all mean. That is, you've certainly heard of them. But do you know enough about them to join a dinner party debate or dazzle the bar with your knowledge? 30-Second Philosophies takes a revolutionary approach to getting a grip on the 50 most significant schools of philosophy. The book challenges leading thinkers to quit fretting about the meaning of meaning for a while and explain the most complex philosophical ideas-using nothing more than two pages, 300 words, and a metaphorical image. Here, in one unique volume, you have the chance to pick the potted brains of our leading philosophers and understand complex concepts such as Kant's Categorical Imperative without ending up in a darkened room with an ice pack on your head.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

It is my sincere hope that this review is taken in the vein that it is meant- I do not mean to say anything negative about the concept of this book or the attempt to make philosophy accessible. I think it's clever and had high hopes for it. I know a little bit about a few philosophers, but I was hoping that this would expand my horizons. Unfortunately, I found that this book was just too condensed to really explain the philosophies that are presented in a well-rounded way. The nuances that make philosophy interesting are just lost. The few philosophers that I did know something about were presented in such an abrupt way that I found myself shocked and at a loss. So much about what the philosophers say are lost in this format, and there isn't enough context

given to facilitate real understanding. If I argued a position based on the information in this book, I would be laughed at by my peers that have taken the time to get to know the material. I felt like this format was dangerous for that reason- it's just enough to make one feel like they know something they would actually know almost nothing about if this book was their only resource. At its best, this book might introduce the reader to an idea of interest, but she or he would need to read more somewhere else in order to really understand what the philosopher's position was. I hate to write such a negative review, but I wanted to give my true opinion in the hopes it would be helpful to someone else.

Very brief, one page articles. They are a little more than an encyclopedia article. A good primer for a curious layman or a high school student. By the way, there is an illustration on every other page, and they are just plain stupid.

This book is one of a collection of 30-second books. This doesn't mean it takes you 30 seconds to read the entire thing, now that would be silly, it means it takes several schools of philosophy and gives a base explanation in nothing more than two pages per school. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and it's one of those books I like to have lying around to dip in and out of at will; however, on my first read through I did start at the beginning and go through to the end. The book and its contents are simple, straightforward and easy to understand, each being given a two page spread with about 300 words, some fun facts and an illustration that may, or may not relate to what you've just read. Various schools of thought are covered by dividing the book into seven chapters such as language and logic and religion to name but two, and this all ties together into a neat little package that is more an historical review than a guide to current thinking in this field. I enjoyed this book, and other in the series, because they expand on my knowledge or actually give me ammunition when faced with a conversation on a subject I've not studied; and every reader needs to be well armed at the dinner party of today, all written in language that the lay-person can understand. I would recommend this book to those readers who are looking for something educational, fun and interesting to read, and those readers looking for an introduction to philosophy. Originally reviewed on: [...]

This is a great little book. I have been taking philosophy and ethics classes at school and once we delve into a new topic I take a quick read in this book to get the 'gist of the concept and/or philosopher. Then I follow through with the assigned class readings. You aren't really going to learn

the concept in 30 seconds, but it's a great starting point, especially since philosophy texts are so challenging. In fact, I came online to find another copy because my dogs chewed mine up!

"Syntactical construction never hurts" should be a subtitle. Philosophers are linked in this survey of modern philosophical thinking. Anyone seeking the "gist" of the philosopher's thought will appreciate the author's approach. The survey will leave many readers wanting more. It's what one gets in 30 seconds, an astoundingly brief look. When your son or daughter asks about becoming a philosophy major, hand them this book and tell them to start paying their own tuition.

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