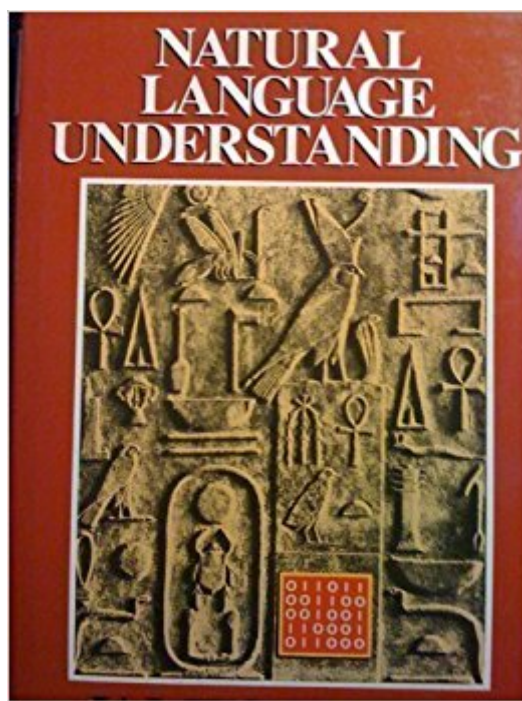


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# Natural Language Understanding



## Synopsis

James Allen introduces the concepts required to build a NL system without losing you in the psycholinguistics, psychology and philosophy of language. Book Details Summary: The title of this book is Natural Language Understanding and it was written by James Allen. This edition of Natural Language Understanding is in a Book format. This books publish date is January 1, 1987. It was published by Benjamin/Cummings Pub Co and has 574 pages in the book.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (6 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Last week, I was looking at the back flap of this book, and I saw something so shocking that I started choking on my pretzels! My wife, after slapping me on the back till I stopped choking, glanced down at the page--filled with bizzare symbols--and said, "How shocking could that page possibly be???" Well, I was looking at a list abbreviations of the categories (parts of speech) which the book used, and I noticed, for the first time after owning this book for over 10 years, that there was no abbreviation for "conjunction" listed. And indeed, after consulting the index and looking through the book, it is plain to see that this book doesn't treat conjunction at all! I have many fond memories of this book--it is the book which my beloved professor at grad school taught me NLP from, and indeed, it contains far more information about NLP than most of its successors. For example, this book gives perhaps the best discussion of quantifier scope ambiguities of all the major NLP textbooks. (cf. with Jurafski and Martin's book, which devotes about 1/2 a sentence to quantifier scope ambiguities). But it has odd omissions, one of which is the lack of treatment of

conjunction/disjunction. After devoting so much time to quantifier scope, why does Allen leave me in the dark about whether "Every woman" can take scope over "a man" in the sentence "A man and every woman hug each other?" Does that scope differently from "Every woman and a man hug each other?" Or what about "Every woman and her mother fight?" Can that mean "Every woman fights with her mother" or are we to look for another antecedent for "her"? Or again, Allen's treatment of prolog-esque definite clause grammars. Allen deserves major kudos here for including them.

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