Chapter summaries and textboxes are similarly employed to signpost and illuminate learning. A companion website features PowerPoint slides for each chapter with clear and engaging voice, which accompanies the text throughout, providing an accessible point of entry for those new to, or less familiar with, sociolinguistics.

How is our language affected by our ethnicity, gender, and region? How are our conversations and other interactions structured? How does society view and regulate language?

Multilingualism is a typical aspect of everyday life for most of the world's population; it has existed since the beginning of humanity and among individuals of all background. Nonetheless, it has often been treated as a variant of bilingualism or as a phenomenon unique to individual areas of study. The purpose of this book is to review current knowledge about the acquisition, use and loss of multiple languages using a multidisciplinary perspective, highlighting the common themes and evidence of human potential and capacity for language. The book is primarily addressed to students and scholars interested in deepening their understanding of the different facets of multilingualism, including the individual and societal circumstances that contribute to it, the cognitive and neural mechanisms that underlie it, and the dynamics involved in the acquisition, use and loss of multiple languages.

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