

Derrida
A Very Short Introduction
By Simon Glendinning

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. What do you understand by Derrida's claim that there is a 'death effect' associated with photographs of people.
2. What political motive do you think Derrida had when he tried, unsuccessfully, to prevent an authorial 'head-shot' photograph of himself being published?
3. What more is there to 'understanding the meaning of a word' than knowing how it is used?
4. What do you think Derrida means by logocentrism?
5. What do you think Derrida means by ethnocentrism?
6. What do you think Derrida means by phonocentrism?
7. Is Derrida right to think that attention to the structure and functioning of writing tells us something about the use of language in general?
8. What do you think Derrida means by deconstruction?
9. Can we forgive the unforgivable?
10. Is every 'gift' really just a moment in an economy of exchange?
11. Is every ideal form of political community somehow less than ideal?
12. How would you explain the idea of the difference between human beings and other animals?
13. Do you think Derrida supposes that, as far as the interpretation of a text is concerned' anything goes?
14. Derrida is sometimes called a 'postmodernist'. What, if anything, is right about that label?
15. Derrida is sometimes called a 'poststructuralist'. What, if anything, is right about that label?
16. Derrida is sometimes called a 'Continental philosopher'. What, if anything, is right about that label?

Further Reading

Geoffrey Bennington, *Not Half No End: Militantly Melancholic Essays in Memory of Jacques Derrida*, (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010)

Peggy Kamuf, *To Follow: The Wake of Jacques Derrida*, (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010.)

Michael Naas, *Derrida From Now On*, (New York: Fordham University Press, 2008.)

Nicholas Royle, *In Memory of Jacques Derrida*, (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2009.)

Sarah Wood, *Derrida's Writing and Difference: A Reader's Guide*, (London: Continuum, 2009.)