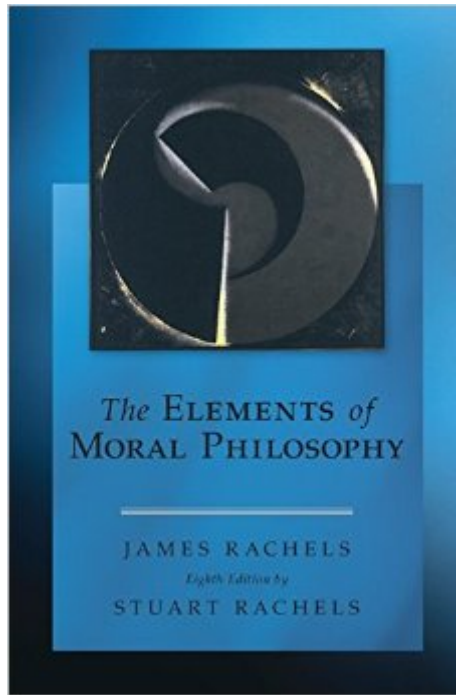


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# The Elements Of Moral Philosophy



## Synopsis

The Elements of Moral Philosophy by James Rachels and Stuart Rachels is a best-selling text for undergraduate courses in ethics. Thirteen thought-provoking chapters introduce readers to major moral concepts and theories in philosophy through clear, understandable explanations and compelling discussions. Instructors and students can now access their course content through the Connect digital learning platform by purchasing either standalone Connect access or a bundle of print and Connect access. McGraw-Hill Connect<sup>®</sup> is a subscription-based learning service accessible online through your personal computer or tablet. Choose this option if your instructor will require Connect to be used in the course. Your subscription to Connect includes the following:

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am not widely read in ethics or philosophy in general. I took an introductory philosophy course as an undergrad and did not return to studying ethics until graduate school, which is where I came into

contact with this book. For me, as a novice in ethics, I found Rachels' text enlightening. He neither dwells on theory too long nor dabbles too much in case studies. He provides enough to give you a foundational understanding of the big theories in ethics. Sure, there are probably holes in the material and you probably won't be able to dazzle others with your sudden powers of ethical thought, but it does get you to think about ethics in ways that are almost exciting. Compared to the other textbooks I had in my ethics class, this was a joy to read. The price, as others have said, is too high. But if you have to study it in class, you can't really get around that anyway.

This Rachels'(father and son) book has been around since 1986 when the first edition was published by Random House. Few textbooks last more than 25 years. Virtually all of the ones I am familiar with have an excellent quality that enables them to endure. Sometimes good books do not last; but seldom do bad books persist in the college textbook market. This book is well written and well-organized. Materials are developed in a logical and helpful manner. The case illustrations are german and are clear. I have taught out of three different editions of this book at four universities over a span of 22 years; and consistently, the majority of students who studied this book in my classes found this textbook one of the best ones available. In my career, I worked in publishing; I was an editor at various journals; and I published and/or edited four different books. My students and I liked this one. It does an excellent job of explaining the development of moral philosophy to undergrads who are non-philosophy majors.

I rented this book for class (\$15) instead of purchasing it new because I was blown away by what it cost to buy (45\$ and up) considering what a small book it is. It's only 205 pages Including the index! Now don't get me wrong I expect to pay quite a bit for textbooks (\$100 And up easy) but this book shouldn't cost more than \$20 new at best. It's a Prime example of price gauging because its main purpose is for college classes. The book itself is basic but suits its purpose.

This is the main book we use in my Introduction to Ethics class at the University of Kansas and it does a very good job at disproving the 4 common "failed" ethical theories that most people know about and provides an understandable explanation of the viable ethical theories today such as Utilitarianism and Social Contract Theory. It does not read like a textbook, it is very captivating and I would recommend it to anyone that is interested in a general understanding of ethical theory.

I know a lot of educational programs are using this "textbook", but the real winner is the author. It is

expensive for simply reading somebody's opinion on different philosophical concepts without many footnotes to even refer to.

I rented this book for my Intro to Ethics class. I thought the class and this book were going to be boring, but I was wrong. I really enjoyed the class and this book. Every chapter was really interesting and I learned a lot from reading this book. Because of this book I now understand morality and ethics a little better and some of my views and beliefs even changed thanks to this book. I might just buy this book just so I have it in case I want a refresher on what I learned or if I just want to read it for fun.

Thought provoking examples that are recent and relevant. Gives a great understanding of important ethical principles and debates. This is a good book to have as a reference and starter for anyone interested in moral philosophy. Perfect for introducing ethics and moral philosophy to middle-schoolers as well.

He can be a little biased against certain opinions. I felt his treatment of Kant was a bit negative. Yes, Kant was strange but he still had some decent ideas. It was interesting to see the reaction of the class I took which used this book: No one liked Kant's ideas after reading Rachel's take on him. When I took an ethics class prior to this with a book that treated him more "neutrally," about half the room seemed like they were partial to his ideas (if you can't tell, I was one of those). There were some other spots where I was wondering: are you educating us about the perspectives, or trying to subtly convince me of yours? But overall it is good.

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