Mirror Neurons

- action understanding
- social cognition
- complex language
- affordance perception

Discovery
Giacomo Rizzolatti

- Study began in Palma Italy
- Neuroscientists studying the brains of macaques to see where movement was processed in the brain
- found that neurons fire both when an action is executed and when it is perceived, as if the viewer is doing it themselves
Watch the mothers’ mouths

Mirror Neurons, Embodied Cognition, Language and Reading

Language is:

- a cognitive tool to represent something
- an affordance to express abstract thought
- enhanced by gesture and gesture embodies the meaning
- grounded in bodily actions