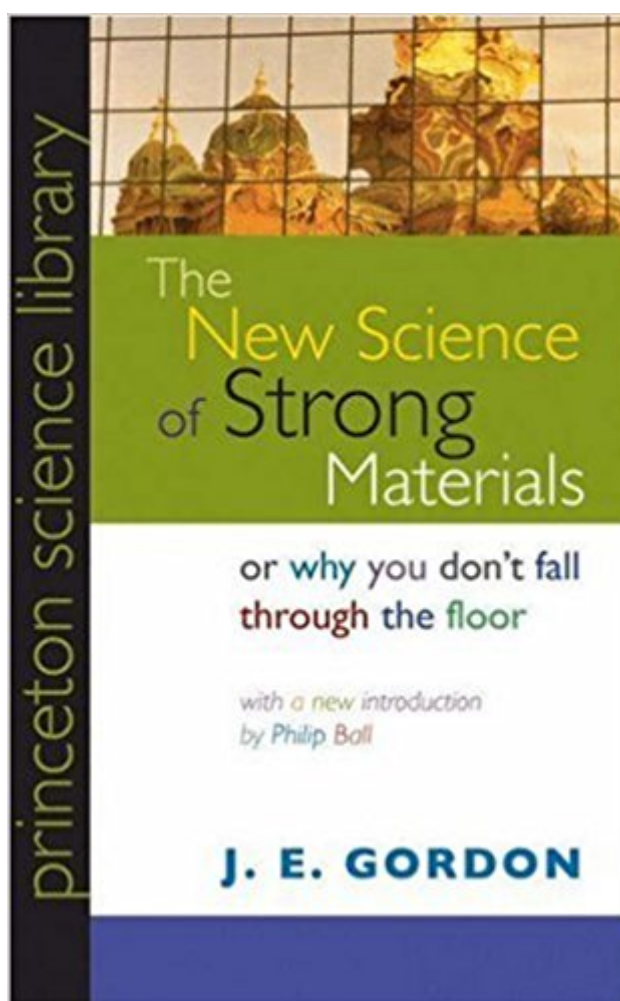


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# The New Science Of Strong Materials Or Why You Don't Fall Through The Floor (Princeton Science Library)



## Synopsis

This new edition of J. E. Gordon's classic introduction to the properties of materials used in engineering answers some fundamental and fascinating questions about how the material world around us functions. In particular, Gordon focuses on so-called strong materials, such as metals, wood, ceramics, glass, and bone. For each material in question, Gordon explains the unique physical and chemical basis for its inherent structural qualities in irrepressibly fresh and simple terms. He also shows how an in-depth understanding of these materials' intrinsic strengths (and weaknesses) guides our engineering choices, allowing us to build the structures that support our modern society. Philip Ball's new introduction describes Gordon's career and the impact of his innovations in materials research, while also discussing how the field has evolved since Gordon wrote this enduring example of first-rate scientific communication.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"I was thoroughly charmed and won over by this book which I now recommend to all my colleagues."--Daniel C. Mattis, American Journal of Physics  
Praise for Princeton's original edition: "Princeton has brought to the public a highly readable treatise on the science of materials that emphasizes the strength of chemical and physical bonds, crystal structure, and cracks. . . . The author admits the necessity of being highly selective in the materials he can discuss so broadly, but

he ably presents chemical and physical problems and how they have been solved in an orderly fashion, and he shows that the strength of materials is influenced as much by their environment and loading systems as by their own structures and shapes."--S. W. Dobyons, Science Books and Films

Praise for Princeton's original edition: "I found Gordon's writing style fascinating; his book reads like a novel, and the technical content is superb."--Enoch J. Durbin, Princeton University

This book is part of the Princeton Science Library, the best collection of books on mathematics and science for the intelligent layman. Like other books in that series, it is succinct and clearly written. I read it and thoroughly enjoyed it. All of the positive reader reviews are right on. Because I liked it so much, I purchased *Structures: Or Why Things Don't Fall Down* also by Professor Gordon. As it turned out, that book covers the same material, but in greater breadth and depth, and with more illustrations. There's much to be said for reading both books, but if you're only going to read one, "Structures" is the one.

This is the most entertaining yet informative pop science book I've ever read. Despite being decades old it is far from being outdated and it should be made a compulsory reading for all high school students. If you haven't read it yet, start now: this amusing reading will give you a different insight on the objects of our everyday life.

Author James Gordon has that special gift of passionately imparting sound knowledge succinctly and with a refreshing sense of British humour. Where was he when I was studying physics? This book is an excellent summary for anyone studying engineering, too. I had already read his other book "Structures - or why things don't fall down" and I would recommend this also, though the contents naturally overlap a little. Two classics - get to have them both on your shelf.

One of the most readable technical books I've yet read. Accompanied by Gordon's English wit, this book is as entertaining as it is informative. The true test of how well someone knows their subject is the ability to make it eminently understandable. No higher math involved in this text, just simply stated explanations of material science and how this knowledge supports engineering design. This is the kind of

A must read for every engineer. It's a big pity that John Gordon have written only 2 books, this and

"Structures", for he is a real master of teaching structures. Even though it is an old book 90% in it is timeless.

This could probably be an undergrad textbook (with the addition of some calculus to make it rigorous), but the relative absence of mathematics except for some very basic algebra makes it comfortable armchair reading, and one learns a lot about engineering and materials science.

The book is a classic, I've come across references to it from respected boat designers and aeronautical engineers among others. Unfortunately the Kindle version seems to be garbled in the early chapters, with possibly missing/swapped text and great difficulty differentiating between figure captions and the body text.

An interesting read. Thoroughly enjoyed the book almost as much as The Radioactive Boy Scout.

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