Jacques Derrida  
**Born: 15 July 1930**
French philosopher. Historically significant as the 'godfather of deconstruction', but today his complex and intimidating works may be overrated. Derrida usefully coined the concept of ‘difference’, which refers to the way in which nothing has a singular or final meaning, and emphasizes the unbridgeable space between the signifier and the signified (such as the word 'cat' and an actual cat). But Saussure spotted that already.

**Selected Works:**
Points...Interviews 1977—1994 (Stanford, 1995)  
Margins of Philosophy (Univ. of Chicago, 1984)  
Writing and Difference (Univ. of Chicago, 1980)