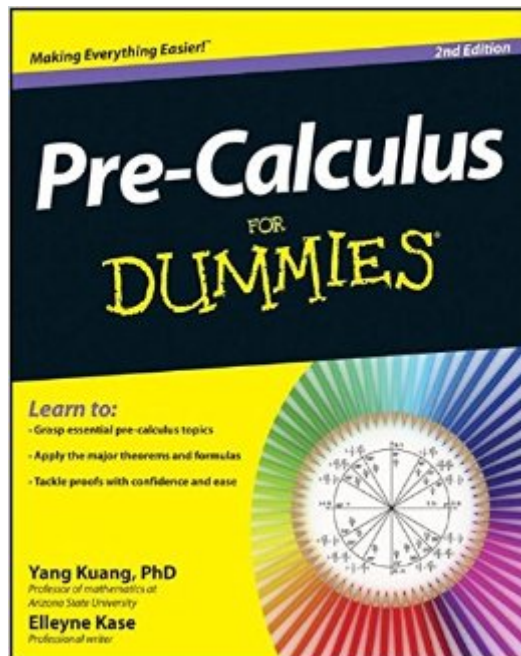


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Pre-Calculus For Dummies



Synopsis

The fun and easy way to learn pre-calculus Getting ready for calculus but still feel a bit confused? Have no fear. Pre-Calculus For Dummies is an un-intimidating, hands-on guide that walks you through all the essential topics, from absolute value and quadratic equations to logarithms and exponential functions to trig identities and matrix operations. With this guide's help you'll quickly and painlessly get a handle on all of the concepts — not just the number crunching — and understand how to perform all pre-calc tasks, from graphing to tackling proofs. You'll also get a new appreciation for how these concepts are used in the real world, and find out that getting a decent grade in pre-calc isn't as impossible as you thought. Updated with fresh example equations and detailed explanations Tracks to a typical pre-calculus class Serves as an excellent supplement to classroom learning If "the fun and easy way to learn pre-calc" seems like a contradiction, get ready for a wealth of surprises in Pre-Calculus For Dummies!

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Customer Reviews

I've been out of school for a number of years now and thought I would refresh myself on that most hated of subjects, calculus. So why not go for the basics and get a dummies book? To be honest I've not put a lot of stock in dummies guides before as they seemed superfluous and full of talk rather than learning. After reading this guide I may have to change my mind. This book is really aimed at students who have a good grasp of algebra and are about to take calculus so wasn't really targetted for my purposes of using it as a refresher after a number of years. After a brief introduction

of what you will learn and concepts you should already know it delves straight in with functions and graphing, two concepts used heavily throughout calculus. After this the book takes you through all the usual concepts such as Trig and Geometry, each chapter building on the knowledge you've learned in the previous one. Each chapter leads you by the hand at the beginning and not so gradually introduces new concepts and techniques throughout, each with plenty of examples. The book is written well and doesn't play down to the "dummy" level, building your confidence and knowledge along the way. If you are the intended target audience of someone about to study calculus then this book gives you a good introduction to the concepts and techniques that you will use. It is not an be-all-and-end-all book on calculus and you will need other books to finish your course. This is really an introductory book. As a refresher on concepts long since forgotten (as was my purpose for buying it), it met and even exceeded my expectations. As an introductory book it does well, is easy to follow and the examples are well explained.

I bought this book for my son, who needs to review Pre-Calculus. He had just finished The Complete Idiot's Guide to Precalculus and really enjoyed the humor and real-life analogies in that book. This one is much drier and less intuitive, and requires my explanation from time to time. If you are buying just one book on the subject, I highly recommend the Complete Idiot's Guide instead.

Treads a fairly narrow path through the many topics of pre-calc, but is very thorough with the topics it does cover. My weaker students like the step by step (with nothing skipped). The old edition had some math mistakes (I gave my TA a doughnut for every one he could find, and he found quite a few) which seem to have been corrected for this edition. Nothing too fancy here, but that's a good thing because when a student is fighting just to understand a problem, they need to focus on the pattern of the problem and nothing else. With so many students taking AP Stat in their junior year, this book is a fine choice to review the summer before going on to Calculus. For those students who are choosing to go directly to Calculus without taking pre-calc (which all of our teachers recommend against), this book isn't broad enough, and an actual pre-calc textbook is much more advisable. Also, for the students who are going to a 6 week community college summer pre-calc course in order to accelerate, this book would be a good alternative explanation when a particular concept needs to be clarified. My one problem with all Dummy books, is that they are so narrow that it misleads readers into thinking understanding is deeper/broader than it actually is. This becomes a problem, in later more rigorous college classes.

My son has always been good at math and I stopped helping him with his homework years ago. I was devastated when he came home with a D in pre-cal after the first 9 weeks. He got lazy and fell behind. Math is one of those things that is hard to recover from if you fall behind. So I cracked the whip, had him do pre-cal every night, and I bought this book, and the associated workbook, so he would have extra opportunities to practice. He read his text book, did his homework, read the related sections in this book, and did the problems from the workbook. By the end of the next 9-weeks he had a high B. Now he thinks pre-cal is easy and tells me to stop worrying. At the end of third 9-weeks he still has a high B. He should have an A by now, but I'll count my blessings. This book made a difference when we needed help.

My daughter was having trouble in her Pre Calc class and we were not able to help at all. So we ordered this to assist her on those late night homework assignments, and everything was clear for her to understand. A life saver

I bought this copy of Pre-Calculus For Dummies because the one before it had a lot of inaccuracies, and the voice writer was not as clear as in the updated copy. Also, if I find a wrong answer the publisher will check on it.

the book was delivered on time and in good condition. I never went beyond basic algebra in school as I took to accounting as a major in my undergrad back in India. I am now starting to learn calculus and spherical trigonometry for some assignment. I have to say that this book is as elementary as it can get to gain an understanding on pre calculus. I have already read thru the first few chapters and find it easy to follow.

I used this workbook over the summer, in preparation for my Pre-Calculus (MTH163) course this fall and it was a godsend! It's been a while since I've taken a college math course and I truly believe this was instrumental in my success this semester.

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