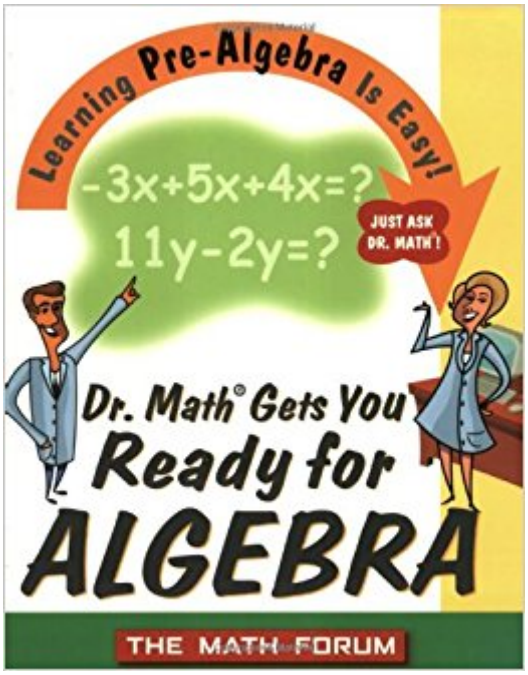
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Dr. Math Gets You Ready For Algebra: Learning Pre-Algebra Is Easy! Just Ask Dr. Math!



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Synopsis

You, too, can understand algebra-just ask Dr. Math??! Getting ready to take your first algebra class? Don’t panic. Making the leap from the concrete world of numbers and real objects to the abstract world of letters and symbols doesn’t have to be as scary as it sounds. Dr. Math??-the popular online math resource for students, parents, and teachers-is here to help! Students just like you have been turning to Dr. Math for years asking questions about math problems, and the math doctors at The Math Forum have helped them find the answers with lots of clear explanations and helpful hints. Now, with Dr. Math Gets You Ready for Algebra, you’ll learn just what it takes to succeed in this subject. You’ll find the answers to dozens of real questions from students who needed help understanding the basic math concepts in a typical pre-algebra class. You’ll learn all about basic algebraic operations and their connections to the real world. Pretty soon, everything from integers to single-variable equations will make sense. Plus, you’ll get plenty of tips for working with tricky problems. You won’t find a better introduction to the world and language of algebra anywhere!

Book Information

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Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

Dr. Math Gets You Ready for Algebra is a compilation of actual letters from students who were having difficulties with some of the basic mathematics concepts that are used as a basis for algebra. The questions are answered in detail by math doctors from the Math Forum’s "Ask Dr. Math"

service. The content of the book is aimed at students in prealgebra or first-year algebra. The book is well organized; its five sections include fundamental operations, integers, concepts of real numbers, equations with variables, and word problems and real-life situations. The question-and-answer format is excellent, and the explanations are easily read and understood. Also, Web resources for further exploration of concepts are included at the end of each section. I shared this book with a colleague who teaches prealgebra. She was very impressed and expressed her desire to obtain this book for use in her classes. My first-year algebra students were helped by the explanations of different concepts. This book would be an excellent additional resource in a prealgebra classroom, an algebra I classroom, or for individuals who need extra assistance with basic concepts of algebra.—Janie P. Bower, Hattiesburg High School-Freshman Academy, Hattiesburg, MS 39401. (Mathematics Teaching in the Middle School, Vol. 9, No. 9, May 2004) The Math ForumÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Dr. Math Gets You Ready for Algebra is a very user-friendly book written with a view to help students make the leap from arithmetic to algebra. It is a well-organized collection of letters from students and answers provided to them by the Math ForumÃ¢â ¬â„¢s "Ask Dr. Math" service. The letters were written by actual students who were having difficulty understanding concepts that are a basis for Algebra. The answers were provided by trained volunteers who were drawn from a pool of college students, mathematicians and teachers in the mathematics community, and referred to collectively as "Dr. Math". The answers are insightful and presented in an elegant and simple manner that makes them accessible to any student. The book is divided into five parts. Part I begins with interesting questions such as "What is Algebra?" and "How does one start thinking algebraically"? These are difficult questions to answer, but Dr. Math does a very good job of giving simple, to the point, and easy to understand explanations. This part also includes a discussion of variables, exponents, scientific notation, infinity, order of operations, the distributive property for polynomials, etc.. The notion of a variable is explained in different ways, including references to real life situations where the use of variables to represent numbers we do not know yet is crucial. Dr. Math explains how understanding the definition of an exponent easily leads to the various properties of exponents. "He" then illustrates the use of exponents and scientific notation to simplify the process of doing numerical calculations by hand and to express some very large or very small numbers. For instance, it is shown how 1.05120 can be calculated by hand with only 9 multiplications. Infinity is a difficult concept for students to grasp. Dr. Math gives an interesting explanation of infinity, emphasizing that infinity is not a number. "He" then goes deeper to explain how infinite sets are categorized into countably and uncountably infinite, which IÃ¢â ¬â„¢m sure students would find interesting. Dr. Math does an excellent job of explaining that PEMDAS is merely

a good convention for the order of the fundamental operations and that you can use different orders of operations and come up with a perfectly consistent mathematical system. To explain why the distributive property for polynomials works the way it does, Dr. Math neatly models multiplication of polynomials after multiplication of numbers so that it looks familiar. In Part II, Dr. Math explains the concept of integers. A detailed account of how the fundamental operations work with integers is given. To answer the frequently asked question, "Why is a negative number times a negative number positive?", Dr. Math gives several good explanations, as there is no single visualization that works for everyone. This part ends with a discussion of absolute value, along with some practical applications of this concept. In Part III, Dr. Math introduces students to real numbers. A simple and interesting discussion of why 0.999... = 1 and of what it means for a decimal to repeat forever is given. The concepts of prime factorization, greatest common factor and least common denominator are explained thoroughly. Dr. Math shows how one can approximate square roots by hand by repeated use of division and averages. This leads to a discussion of irrational numbers, including a brief history of Ã•â ¬. The authors then help students visualize the relationships between the sets of whole numbers, integers, rational and irrational numbers as subsets of real numbers with the aid of Venn diagrams. In Part IV Dr. Math explains the importance of being able to solve equations and gives highly detailed step-by-step instructions for solving linear equations. Moreover, a neat explanation of why we can subtract one equation from the other when solving a system of two equations in two unknowns is given. Part V, the concluding part of the book, aptly discusses applications that demonstrate the uses of numbers, equations and variables. Some of the problems described here deal with ratio and proportion, area and perimeter, distance, rate and time, and rate of work. Students having trouble with distance, rate and time problems would definitely benefit from this section. Dr. Math introduces these concepts with carefully chosen examples and does a great job of explaining some tricky problems posed by students on this topic. In conclusion, this book cannot be used as a textbook but would certainly be a very good reference for Prealgebra/Beginning Algebra students and teachers. Its unique question and answer format makes it interesting for students to read. The language is simple and explanations are clear and precise. Prealgebra students will be able to read this book by themselves. They will also be able to relate to many of the questions in the book because they are likely to have encountered similar questions during their course. Students who do not have difficulty in understanding prealgebra will also benefit from this book, as it will get them to think more deeply about the concepts and clarify some misconceptions they might have. This book includes many great questions asked by students, questions which would require some thought on the teacherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s part to answer effectively on

the spur of the moment. This makes the book a good reference for prealgebra teachers. Moreover, numerous web resources that provide practice problems, group activities, real life applications etc. have been listed at the end of each part of the book. Instructors could take advantage of these web resources to enhance teaching and learning in the classroom. (Mathematical Association of America Online)

You, too, can understand algebraÃ¢â ¬â œjust ask Dr. MathÃ Â®! Getting ready to take your first algebra class? Don't panic. Making the leap from the concrete world of numbers and real objects to the abstract world of letters and symbols doesn't have to be as scary as it sounds. Dr. MathÃ Â®Ã¢â ¬â œthe popular online math resource for students, parents, and teachersÃ¢â ¬â œis here to help! Students just like you have been turning to Dr. Math for years asking questions about math problems, and the math doctors at The Math Forum have helped them find the answers with lots of clear explanations and helpful hints. Now, with Dr. MathÃƒâ ™ Gets You Ready for Algebra, you'll learn just what it takes to succeed in this subject. You'll find the answers to dozens of real questions from students who needed help understanding the basic math concepts in a typical pre-algebra class. You'll learn all about basic algebraic operations and their connections to the real world. Pretty soon, everything from integers to single-variable equations will make sense. Plus, you'll get plenty of tips for working with tricky problems. You won't find a better introduction to the world and language of algebra anywhere!

I think the book is okay but not worth the money I spent. I did learn a couple pointers to help with algebra. However, I expected the book to be filled with great tips, shortcuts and lots of problems to practice my new found knowledge with breakdown answer guide. This book did not get me ready for algebra and would have made me run from pre-algebra except I did have incredible instructor for pre-algebra prior to reading this book. I recommend you find different book to ready you for algebra.

As I explained on the intro to Geometry book- the content is good, but I was hoping for something a little more cartooney. I've found the book helpful to me so that I can better explain things to my daughter who is struggling in math. She finds the books a little dry and uninteresting- but that's her. I think getting Math information is pretty subjective, and from a teaching and information perspective I find the content very helpful, and will purchase the others in the series.

I was hoping that this book would show and explain math concepts a different way than my math

textbook. Although there is a bit more explanation of ideas using sentences rather than simply equations and examples, it is very similar to the textbook. This book does explain the concepts using real world contexts and brings in some historical data. However, when discussing challenging math concepts, the author goes right back to just showing math and math steps.

This book is "Excellent! It breaks down the information to grammar school level. What more can I say. One has to practice a lot of problems for it to Stick in your head." The same for the other book, "Dr. Math Gets You Ready for Algebra, which should be read First, and take notes [regardless of the fact that you now own the book, Take Notes].Arivle L. Griffin

I was looking for something that would help my ESE students comprehend algebra in a different way. This book is nearly as tedious as the textbook, with very few different approaches to solving the problems than those presented in the textbook. We stayed with the textbook version.

The Math Forum does some amazing work and this book is a great example. Wonderfully illustrated and written. What I particularly liked were the examples that supported everything from Rote learners to pure concept learners and several in between. A must for teachers everywhere.

Great product! Super fast shipping!

Well written.

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