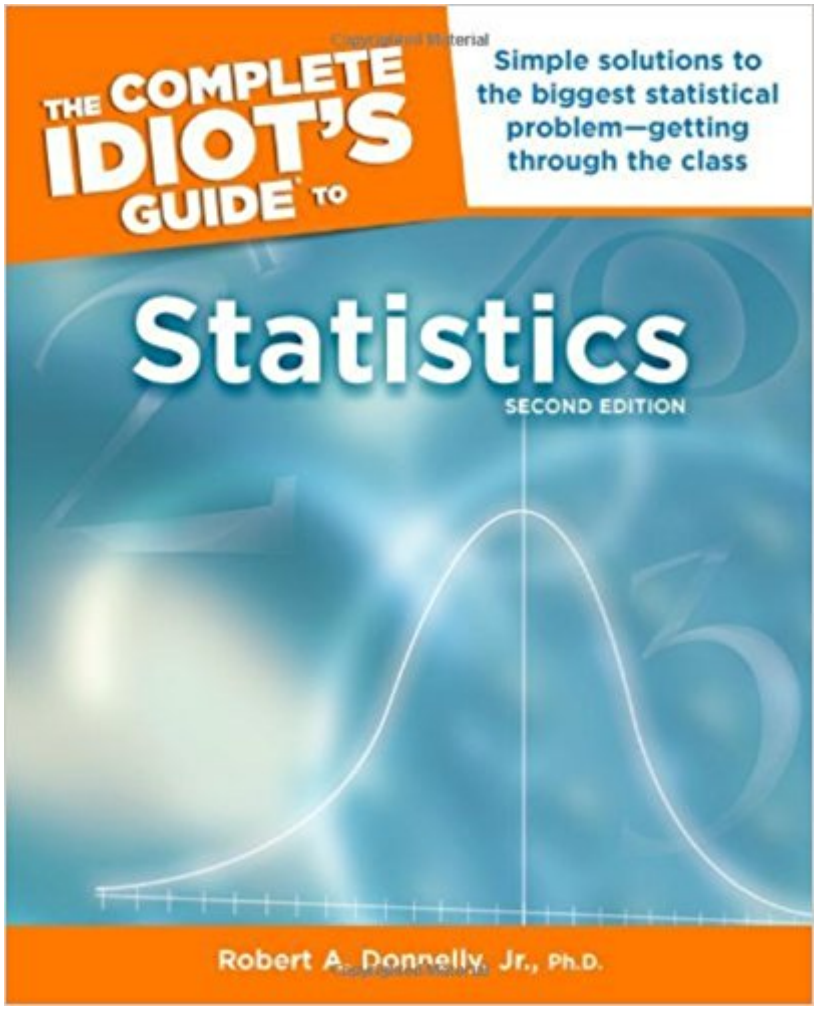
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The Complete Idiot's Guide To Statistics, 2nd Edition (Idiot's Guides)



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Synopsis

Not a numbers person? No problem! This new edition is aimed at high school and college students who need to take statistics to fulfill a degree requirement and follows a standard statistics curriculum. Readers will find information on frequency distributions; mean, median, and mode; range, variance, and standard deviation; probability; and more. —Emphasizes Microsoft Excel for number-crunching and computations

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Customer Reviews

Robert A. Donnelly Jr., Ph.D., is an associate professor of management at Goldey- Beacom College, a private business institution in Wilmington, Delaware. His areas of expertise include statistics, operations management, information systems, database management, and management services.

The name says it all. I have been called smart, bright and intellectually curious over the course of my life, but statistics is just about my limit or possibly beyond my limit. Dr. Donnelly attempts to sugarcoat the otherwise agony-inducing world of statistics with much humor of the long-time married variety (so it works every time with this reader!). He wisely divides out further avenues for research and learning by any readers who might be masochistic enough to actually do so at the end of each chapter. He even lays out formulae, but wisely hides them at this portion of each chapter. My instructor claims that statistics don’t have to hurt, I’m still not convinced. Laugh and attempt to learn

with this book.

This book makes you laugh when you want to cry trying to learn statistics! Of course, you do have to learn how to work problems for statistics, but the author uses humorous analogies that we can all relate to as he explains the material. I used this in combination with Instant Cert Academy flashcards & online videos to pass the Principles of Statistics DSST. 400 is passing and I scored a 424 with 2 weeks of study! Anyone with a school that accepts statistics dsst where it's required for your degree should definately look into testing out which I think is WAY easier than doing the actual class. With the help of this book I tested out of statistics which is great because I don't think I could stand 8-14 weeks of being graded on this! The grading curve on the DSST is VERY forgiving. I knew the theories, but I could only work the basic problems and I still passed!Again, this book is a great supplement/ study guide for a statistics class but also to test out of statistics. I'm so glad I did, I know people that were going crazy for weeks trying to pass stats for their degree or taking it 2x. I studied for 2 weeks & tested out completely...I'm so happy!!! You need to read it, but this is a great book. But, if I had to take a statistics course I would DEFINATELY use this book to help understand/ solidify the concepts.

My son is taking an entry level econometrics class so I bought this for him in case he needed the "cliff notes" version but as it turns out, there is a lot of really useful material in the book not being covered in the class so it also makes a great companion book to his text. I've taken statistics so I read through the first few chapters to make sure this would be a good one for him and I thought it was really well written. Not too wordy, well organized, and pretty easy to read. Wish I had this for me when I was taking my first semester of statistics!

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Statistics is worthless for those of us actually honest enough to admit to really sucking at math. I purchased this book in hopes of supplementing my college textbook and quickly found myself floundering in class. When I turned to this book for help, I found myself even more confused. I realized very quickly that there was no easy or quick way thru this class, so here's what I did:Class notes: I kept a notebook strictly for class notes. I wrote down EVERYTHING word-for-word and neatly in my notebook. Since we did some textbook problems in class, I wrote them out, including page numbers and solutions. If I did not understand something, I asked questions. I noticed that I was not alone when struggling to grasp a concept, other students were too, but too shy to ask. I too was tentative in doing this at first (especially when I began floundering),

thinking I was the only math moron, but several students told me after class that they appreciated my "dumb questions" because they were stumped too.Before doing homework: I would re-do the problems from my notes. I made sure I could do these on my own before attempting homework. I only used the textbook *if* my notes don't make sense, and I made sure my notes made sense next time. Why? The textbook was far more detailed/complicated than it needed to be.Homework: Here is where I gobbled up points to get me to an A. I took my homework VERY seriously, not only because it was open book and on my time (unlike the exams), as it turned out, the exams were very similar to the homework! I used only my class notes, and again did NOT OPEN THE TEXTBOOK unless absolutely necessary (the few times I did, I felt very insecure and became extremely demoralized given the complexity of the text).When I got stuck: I went back over the class notes. I thought: If it made sense in class, it should make sense again. I found tutors absolutely worthless, these were usually bright kids who themselves could do the math, but sucked at communication (telling you how to do it). Khan Academy was more geared for high school students, but I found it helpful with probability. YouTube was a decent resource. Yahoo answers was OK but not always right. I found the best thing to do was to email my professor. Worked for me like a charm. She wouldn't give the answer (of course) but she would direct me to a portion of the notes, or refresh some concept from class. Mine would give me an exercise in the text that was similar, where an answer was provided.Exams: I did every homework problem again and without notes (cheating!). I printed off a set of blanks when the homework was assigned specifically for this purpose. I focused on the problems I missed and spent most of the the time figuring out where I went wrong. Then, I re-did ONLY the problems that I missed. I kept doing this until I had done them all (without notes).Calculators: Make sure you know how to use your graphing calculator! My professor had a cheat-sheets available for each different type and use, specific to this class. Instead of investing over $100 into a calculator, the math department allowed me to rent one for $20 for the semester.The big picture: I had several people warn me to not to get hung up on the little stuff. Their advice: just keep moving forward. My advice: go to class EVERY lecture, keep good notes, do your homework, ask for help, and study for the exams (duh!). Even brilliant people can do poorly in a statistics class, *if* they're lazy.If you are not math gifted, or if you plainly suck and thus despise math (like me), the most important thing to do is to practice. I would do some problems 5x until I nailed them. I openly admit, this class was time consuming, frustrating, and I'm pretty sure I broke down and cried a few times. But, if this math moron (me) can do it (with an A), then you can too!!!

For someone like me, who did poorly in high school Math and finds him or herself in a required

college level Statistics class, this is a great book. The author makes statistics much less intimidating through humorous text and easy to understand examples. The only thing that would improve the book would be a single list of all of the greek characters at the beginning of the book, with their meanings, for easy reference. I tried "Statistics for Dummies" as well and found it useless. The index is rendered worthless because one can find "Crickets and Temperature" and "Cyber crime" listed under "C" but "critical value" is not listed anywhere in the index let alone the book. Statistics for Dummies seems to spend a lot of time trying to be funny and its hard to understand the point of the lesson as a result. Whereas, the Complete Idiot's Guide to Statistics is both funny and usable. Great book for someone who has never approached the subject before. May not be adequate for someone who's moved beyond the "Statistics 101" class level.

This would be better if there weren't so many mistakes. It hits most of the most important parts of introductory statistics but there are enough errors that it requires more effort than should be necessary.

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