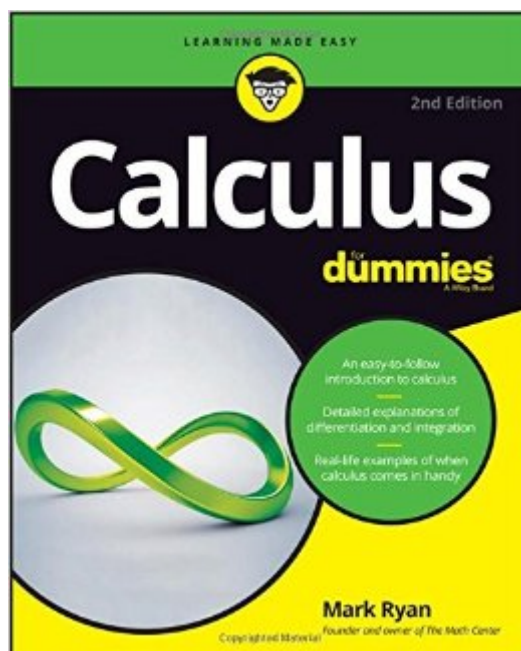


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Calculus For Dummies



Synopsis

Calculus For Dummies, 2nd Edition (9781119293491) was previously published as Calculus For Dummies, 2nd Edition (9781118791295). While this version features a new Dummies cover and design, the content is the same as the prior release and should not be considered a new or updated product. Slay the calculus monster with this user-friendly guide Calculus For Dummies, 2nd Edition makes calculus manageable—even if you're one of the many students who sweat at the thought of it. By breaking down differentiation and integration into digestible concepts, this guide helps you build a stronger foundation with a solid understanding of the big ideas at work. This user-friendly math book leads you step-by-step through each concept, operation, and solution, explaining the "how" and "why" in plain English instead of math-speak. Through relevant instruction and practical examples, you'll soon learn that real-life calculus isn't nearly the monster it's made out to be. Calculus is a required course for many college majors, and for students without a strong math foundation, it can be a real barrier to graduation. Breaking that barrier down means recognizing calculus for what it is—simply a tool for studying the ways in which variables interact. It's the logical extension of the algebra, geometry, and trigonometry you've already taken, and Calculus For Dummies, 2nd Edition proves that if you can master those classes, you can tackle calculus and win. Includes foundations in algebra, trigonometry, and pre-calculus concepts Explores sequences, series, and graphing common functions Instructs you how to approximate area with integration Features things to remember, things to forget, and things you can't get away with Stop fearing calculus, and learn to embrace the challenge. With this comprehensive study guide, you'll gain the skills and confidence that make all the difference. Calculus For Dummies, 2nd Edition provides a roadmap for success, and the backup you need to get there.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

More than any other undergraduate mathematics course, calculus is the culmination of every math class you've ever taken. Without a refresher in algebra, geometry, trigonometry and the material known rather vaguely as pre-calculus, the complexity of calculus will overwhelm you. And if you fall more than a week or two behind in your work, you will find that trying to wrap your mind around new material is nearly impossible. Calculus, even more than physics and chemistry, is a foundational subject that requires carefully constructing your prior understanding before moving on to more advanced material. Unfortunately, your understanding of the material isn't helped by a 1,400 page brick weighing 6 pounds called a calculus textbook. The so-called calculus reform movement has managed to produce textbooks that theoretically emphasize "motivation" without improving your understanding of how calculus works. Calculus is based on two very simple ideas called differentiation and integration which, similar to the engravings on a coin, are the opposite face of each other. Everything else that is featured in the course is essentially an elaboration of these two ideas. Calculus (the course) teaches techniques that are meant to solve problems in motion and change. More than any other course I've ever taken, calculus rewards doing problems, as many problems as is possible. All calculus problems are basically the same from textbook to textbook. Do them until you can solve them in your sleep and you will ace the course. Every calculus exam that I ever took was an elaboration upon or was directly based upon homework problems that were assigned. Where textbooks often fail is in explaining why calculus techniques work as well as they do.

Make no mistake: this book alone will likely not get you through a calculus. It will however serve as a great companion book to a class textbook as it will take complicated concepts and put them in simple, English terms. The book can also help serve as a refresher to those who have already completed calculus, like myself, years ago. The author's strength is his ability to communicate in a conversational tone as well as his humor. He is also good with memory mnemonics to help you memorize math rules. Having said that, the "Dummies" series is starting to feel a little dated if you compare it to the "Head First" series (which does not offer a calculus book yet). Other competing math books offer color and photographs but Dummies books are monotone and only have drawings. Despite my complaints, a well written paragraph in a technical book can make all the

difference, and Dummies books still can do that well. Also keep in mind that this book is currently only about \$13 so monotone will have to do for that price point. The book does a whirlwind review of algebra and some trigonometry in about 100 pages with emphasis on the parts that are most important to calculus. The rest of the book focuses on calculus. This isn't your typical dummies book, per se, in that there are no short cuts in calculus. You are going to have to memorize and learn a lot to move forward. Once you dive into the meat of calculus, you'll have to re-read a few paragraphs to make sense of some of this stuff. But if you have to re-read something, wouldn't it be nice have it in the simplest explanation possible? That's one great thing about these Dummies books. Sadly, this book is short on exercise problems to really push you and prove you understand what you've learned.

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