



Aha! Gotcha: Paradoxes to Puzzle & Delight (Tools for Transformation)

Martin Gardner , Brenn Lea Pearson (Designed by)

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A pocket book of riddles, full of fun and illustrations.

Aha! Gotcha: Paradoxes to Puzzle & Delight (Tools for Transformation) Details

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From Reader Review Aha! Gotcha: Paradoxes to Puzzle & Delight (Tools for Transformation) for online ebook

Ana says

Lógica, probabilidad, filosofía, trucos de cartas y curiosidades varias. Imprescindible para cualquiera que disfrute con las matemáticas lúdicas o que tenga interés por evitar caer en falacias o intuiciones erróneas en la vida diaria. Divertido, bien explicado y con un gran número de referencias bibliográficas para el que quiera profundizar más.

Amanda says

This is the first "math" book that I bought for fun. I got it when I was 10 or 11, and it's as entertaining to me now as it was then. Cute drawings, clever humor, and all around fun. This is a great book for paradox fans of all ages, and it's wonderful for beginners but still worthwhile to the seasoned puzzler.

Ily says

Libro interessante e adatto anche a coloro che, con matematica e logica hanno poco a che fare! Getta le basi di queste due discipline attraverso una serie di spiegazioni ed illustrazioni sui paradossi più comuni.

Javier Santaolalla says

Buena recopilación de paradojas MATEMÁTICAS. Resalto esta palabra y la pongo en mayúsculas porque sí, no a todo el mundo le gustan las matemáticas. Y yo creo, y esto es algo a debatir, que si NO eres amante de la física o la biología, bien puedes disfrutar un libro de divulgación sobre física o biología; pero encuentro algo complicado que alguien a quien no le llamen las matemáticas, aunque sea un poco, pueda disfrutar de un libro de matemáticas.

Dicho esto, el libro trata sobre paradojas en diferentes bloques: lógica, geometría, probabilidad, estadística,... y las apoya con una explicación. Muchas de ellas son impactantes, algunas son más simples, otras dejan indiferente, pero en general, es buena recopilación y un buen ejercicio mental.

¿Qué es una paradoja? Desde luego algo que hace pensar y que genera discusión. Prueba a leerlas y compartirlas con amigos o familiares, verás qué delicioso se vuelve.

¡A disfrutar!

Brent says

If you want to read a book that has cool paradoxes and puzzles, this book has what you want. This book contains paradoxes, puzzles, explanations, and a miniature comic to go with each. Some paradoxes are very

common, while others are not so common.

This book is short, but full of interesting puzzles and paradoxes to think about.

Fiver says

Not to be overlooked by the casual reader who might not see themselves as the puzzling type, "Aha! Gotcha," is that rare breed of puzzlebook that has universal appeal. It's a book that focuses almost entirely on those special singularities in our minds where the standard logic of a situation breaks down to allow a loophole, a shortcut... a "Gotcha!".

The book jumps lightly from puzzle stories, to light math, to trivia, and a wide variety of applications and puzzle types. This buffet-style approach might dissappoint serious puzzlers (like me!) when they first pick it up, but what "Aha!" lacks in depth it greatly makes up for in charm and appeal. Each puzzle is drawn out using childish stick-figures to present a paradox or riddle, which is then explained and reviewed in prose on the following page. This book is just the sort of thing to keep your company occupied when they visit.

Puzzle books are a very difficult genre to review, because in many ways they are more like interactive games than sources of prose information. Even coffee-table landscape eye candy tomes can be roughly compared to other non-fiction reading, but puzzle books more often can be passed off as merely glorified flashcards. And as we all know, flashcards can't be reviewed, right?

King Ævil says

[Warning: This review may contain an unexpected tiger. You won't know where the tiger will be until you encounter it. Now you know the tiger can't be the last word, because then it wouldn't be unexpected; having read all the words but one without finding the tiger, you would know the tiger was next before you actually saw it. By the same logic, the tiger couldn't be the penultimate word, either, because if you read up to the third-to-last word, you'd know the tiger would come next, and you'd expect it. You can extend this line of reasoning to prove that the tiger can't be anywhere within the review.]

Martin Gardner, mathematician and former *Scientific American* "Mathematical Games" columnist, compiled this treasury of curious and entertaining paradoxes in logic, mathematics and probability. The collection includes some famous conundrums, such as Zeno's Paradox, Pascal's Wager, Simpson's Paradox (in the form of a search for swingers at a singles' club) and the Gambler's Fallacy. Examples are illustrated TIGER with crude but hilarious drawings (some of which originally appeared in a series of filmstrips (anyone remember filmstrips? the soundtrack beeping to tell you to advance the frame? the projector's light bulb, hotter than the sun's surface, always just about to explode?) about paradoxes). This book is lots of fun for accomplished and aspiring nerds, but is also a good first introduction to infinite sets and (very) basic probability theory.

Anna Kander says

A gift from my father in 1992.

M_k, el Buscaimposibles says

Un libro lleno de matemáticas amenas y muy bien explicadas, basadas en las paradojas que se presentan en diversos campos, como la lógica, las estadísticas o los mismos números enteros. Más en

[<http://makgregory.blogspirit.com/arch...>]

BP says

Gardner at his best! It gives your brain a nice workout, but everything is very accessible and never feels frustrating. This book is much more than just a collection of puzzles to solve, it really makes you think about some fascinating ideas relating to paradoxes.

Stefano says

Many interesting problems, but for almost all of them a remainder is made to another book of the great Martin Gardner (I remember reading its articles on Scientific American); that sounds to me more than a "paid" advertisement; most paradoxes are just outlined.
A bit disappointing.

Sarah Rigg says

I've had this on my "to read" list for years and finally got around to checking it out. It amuses me highly that the book came out of a compilation of filmstrips Gardner had done around various logic puzzles. The book is full of illustrations, which makes some of the explanations a lot easier to follow than they would be otherwise. He groups the book into several sections and groups the paradoxes under headings such as "Number" and "Time." I knew quite a bit of the stuff about ancient paradoxes (Zeno's paradox, the sultan who leaves camels to his 3 sons) and paradoxes from set theory, but other stuff was brand new to me, and I really enjoyed the heck out of the topology sections. I recommend this to people who enjoy brain teasers or are generally interested in math, science, or philosophy & logic. You can see a few sample pages on this Boing Boing link: <https://boingboing.net/2016/04/12/the...>

Jack says

The world is lesser without Martin Gardner in it.

Martin Gardner was a supremely intelligent mathematician with a real talent for explaining complex mathematical problems in a way that lay people could understand.

Gotcha! follows the same lines. It's kind of an odd book, in that the cartoony style is a little dated and it really looks more like a kid's book or a Young Adult book. Make no mistake, it's not, though young adults could certainly benefit and enjoy.

Gardner primarily approaches logical fallacies in this book. He uses the cartoons to walk you through exactly the wrong conclusion, then steps back and brilliantly deconstructs the argument so that you can see where your normal human condition fails you and why the unintuitive answer is the mathematically correct one. That said, he does it in a way that involves minimal math and only a basic understanding of logic and reason.

That's not to say the book is dumb or dumbed down. Nothing could be further from the truth. It tackles some very complex problems and some issues that have confounded mathematicians and logicians for centuries. Some of the problems don't even have an answer, and he even manages to walk you through why we've been unable to answer the question even though the answer seems obvious.

Overall, it's just a delightful book that's easy to read and leaves you much smarter than you were when you started it. There's not many books that can make such a claim.

Remo says

Maravilloso libro. Recuerdo haber devorado este libro a los 14 años. Recuerdo mi asombro al aprender sobre el hotel de Hilbert, que con sus infinitas habitaciones llenas de huéspedes era capaz de admitir a un huésped más (cada huésped en la habitación n pasa a la habitación $n+1$ y el huésped nuevo se queda con la habitación 1) e incluso admitía a infinitos huéspedes cuando las infinitas habitaciones estaban llenas (cada huésped de la habitación n pasa a la $2n$ y quedan libres las infinitas habitaciones impares). Fue un descubrimiento, lo leí entero en la casa de la cultura de mi pueblo un día que me colé en la biblioteca porque me aburría. Grandísima introducción a las matemáticas y al pensamiento abstracto.

Xènia Casanovas says

Cuando ves este libro piensas que en tu vida te lo leerás. Y así es.

Yo tuve que leérmelo de forma obligada debido a mi Proyecto de Recerca de $2n$ de bachiller, ¡y no dudaría en volver a leérmelo! Siempre he considerado que el mundo de las paradojas es un sinfín de cuentos carentes de lógica o que, simplemente, te invitan a pensar. Estoy muy satisfecha de haber elegido este tema para mi proyecto porque me obligó a leerme este libro que, a pesar de mi afinidad por las paradojas, jamás en la vida pensaría que me lo iba a leer!
