



## Practical Algebra: A Self-Teaching Guide

*Peter H. Selby, Stephen L. Slavin*

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With a "learn-by-doing" approach, it reviews and teaches elementary and some intermediate algebra. While rigorous enough to be used as a college or high school text, the format is reader friendly, particularly in this Second Edition, and clear enough to be used for self-study in a non-classroom environment. "Pre-test" material enables readers to target problem areas quickly and skip areas that are already well understood. Some new material has been added to the Second Edition and redundant or confusing material omitted. The first chapter has undergone major revision. Chapters feature "post-tests" for self-evaluation. Thousands of practice problems, questions and answers make this algebra review a unique and practical text.

## Practical Algebra: A Self-Teaching Guide Details

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### Care says

returned to the library - didn't get all the way thru (uh oh)

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### Mark Longo says

Want to feel really dumb? Enroll in a science PhD program at an elite school after having been out of academia for many years and after having spent your middle and high school years in a state of stultified catatonic boredom and disinterest. Sign up for a few advanced math classes during your PhD program and become painfully aware of the gaps in your knowledge that your earlier disinterest engendered.

Want to feel really smart? Go back and try to fill in those holes with a book like this. At some point along the way I realized that, despite my horrid initial exposure to algebra and more advanced mathematics, it's an absolutely beautiful discipline and is useful for much more than calculating when two trains leaving from different stations will meet if one is traveling at 30 mph and blah, blah, blah. It's so much more than that!! With proper training, one can begin to probe the deepest secrets of the universe, and uncover fascinating hidden relationships between all sorts of real-world phenomena. I've become so enamored with the subject that I decided to go back to square one and work my way back up to advanced math, filling in all the gaps in my understanding along the way and learning at my own depth and pace rather than being force-fed in the examination-focused pressure-cooker style favored by most academic settings.

This is a wonderful book for this purpose. The explanations are clear and problems elegant (if you factor consistently, all the numbers in the problems divide into one another nicely without ugly fractions). I finished wondering how I could have ever found any aspect of algebra confusing. Oh, yeah, it was passing all those notes in high-school and not giving a damn. It's never too late! Read this book!

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### Ashleyg says

I've been using this book for a few months. It's an excellent textbook for teaching myself algebra -- it covers \*everything\* and is clear, thorough and actually has a sense of humor.

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### Michelle says

This really helps and it's extremely interesting.

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### **Lananorris says**

This is probably the best self teaching guide I have come across for any subject, not just Algebra. Reader friendly, it anticipates that the person who picks this book up is most certainly a math-phobe, who was scarred by public school Algebra classes and teachers. Clear, plain, simple, well thought out explanations, good selection of questions to test whether the concept was grasped AND, (a really great thing) with the question is a direct reference back to the teaching of that particular concept in case you get it wrong and want to know why. I, I am proud to say, no longer fear Algebra. I no longer get a sick feeling in the pit of my stomach when I see letters in a math problem. It is much more of a game or puzzle like SUDOKO. Of course I have the luxury of doing it at my own pace now, but isn't that a privilege that should come with maturity.

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### **Zoe says**

This is a great book to use when you need help in algebra. I use it to look up subjects when I am stuck on a concept.

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### **Giuseppe Forgione says**

The former long-life identity of "I'm bad at math" is gone thanks to this incredible book. I now understand and appreciate the intricacies and beauty of math, and I feel inspired and capable of tackling any challenge as a result.

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