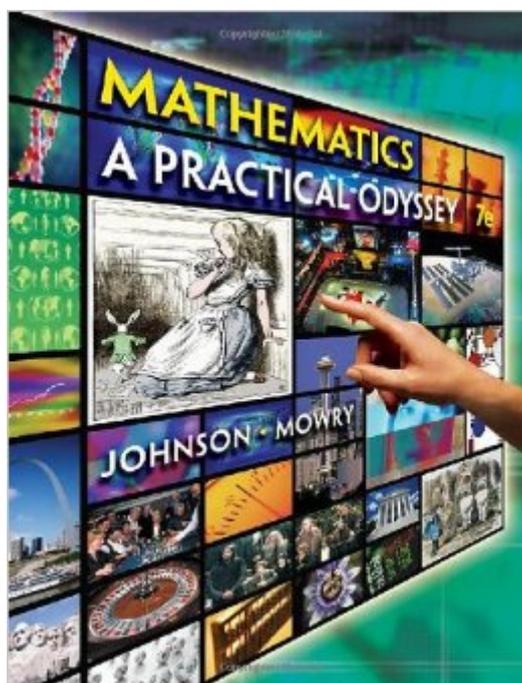


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Mathematics: A Practical Odyssey



Synopsis

Users discover the many ways in which mathematics is relevant to their lives with **MATHEMATICS: A PRACTICAL ODYSSEY, 7E** and its accompanying online resources. They master problem-solving skills in such areas as calculating interest and understanding voting systems and come to recognize the relevance of mathematics and to appreciate its human aspect.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

If you are in a liberal arts program, and your college offers a course using this book, then RUN, don't walk, away from it! Generally, the schools are offering a survey course that liberal arts students can take that gives them a basic introduction to a variety of mathematical topics. In this case, the course is designed to introduce some logic, set theory, probability, statistics, and finance. Keep in mind that the target audience is students that are either poor in math, can't stand the topic, or lack solid foundations from previous courses. Given that audience, then, the book has to be more than a 'simple' version of a regular math book. The students in these courses aren't going to eagerly read ahead, look for other problems to solve, and won't do much in the way of independent research to find answers to challenging problems. Since they typically have poor preparation in foundation courses, then they also lack confidence in math. The biggest failure of this book is that instead of being a steady and reliable guide to many interesting topics in math, it's more like an irritating older sibling. The book rolls into a topic, introduces a simple example, then moves on ... and in the problem sets, provides challenging problems that aren't even closely covered in the

explanatory text or in the example problems. In a math course designed for engineering, scientific, or math majors, that's the perfect approach - students in those fields are GOOD at math, and enjoy the challenge of being abandoned by the book, and looking for the answers through their own methods. However, a book that purports to lead you and guide you through unfamiliar territory needs to do just that - and this book falls way short of that goal.

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