E-Z Algebra

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Synopsis

Topics covered in this detailed review of algebra include general rules for dealing with numbers, equations, negative numbers and integers, fractions and rational numbers, exponents, roots and real numbers, algebraic expressions, functions, graphs, systems of two equations, quadratic equations, circles, ellipses, parabolas, polynomials, numerical series, permutations, combinations, the binomial formula, proofs by mathematical induction, exponential functions and logarithms, simultaneous equations and matrices, and imaginary numbers. Exercises follow each chapter with answers at the end of the book. Barron's continues its ongoing project of updating, improving, and giving handsome new designs to its popular list of Easy Way titles, now re-named Barron's E-Z Series. The new cover designs reflect the books' brand-new page layouts, which feature extensive two-color treatment, a fresh, modern typeface, and more graphic material than ever. Charts, graphs, diagrams, instructive line illustrations, and where appropriate, amusing cartoons help to make learning E-Z. Barron's E-Z books are self-teaching manuals focused to improve students' grades across a wide array of academic and practical subjects. For most subjects, the skill level ranges between senior high school and college-101 standards. In addition to their self-teaching value, these books are also widely used as textbooks or textbook supplements in classroom settings. E-Z books review their subjects in detail, using both short quizzes and longer tests to help students gauge their learning progress. All exercises and tests come with answers. Subject heads and key phrases are set in a second color as an easy reference aid.

Book Information

Series: E-Z Algebra
Paperback: 480 pages
Publisher: Barron's Educational Series; 5.0 edition (August 1, 2009)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0764142577
Product Dimensions: 1.2 x 7.8 x 9.8 inches
Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (15 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #70,744 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #31 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Trigonometry #119 in Books > Science & Math > Mathematics > Study &
I think a number of the critics have been irrationally unfair. This is an amazing and utterly unique book - it has helped countless children learn algebra in a novel narrative style that often fills in the gaps that traditional textbooks fail with. The narrative style is clearly meant for children or adolescents with its fantasy Middle Ages genre style. The reason it is so amazing is that it helps put into context what otherwise would be obscure algebraic principles and teaches how they actually relate to the real world and everyday problems. It’s this reason - putting algebra into context - that it helps people grasp algebra at an age/level that they might not otherwise. While for the rest, the context helps develop the reasoning on how and why certain algebraic principles work greatly improving the understanding of how to do algebra in any context. This is very different from doing maths in "do it this way because it’s supposed to be done like that" or a "tricks & shortcut" method - this book seeks to teach WHY algebra works in certain ways and HOW it can be applied. Furthermore the narrative style might be cumbersome as a quick reference book - but this isn’t a quick reference at all - its a book to take you on an exploration of algebra so that you can understand it from first principles all the way to pre-calculus. Its narrative style allows the reader to comprehend in ways that abstract textbooks fail to do - it does this because human minds remember details much more easily when told through narratives than in series of abstract instruction. Our human culture of story telling is a method of passing on knowledge and its applied in a novel way in this book.

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