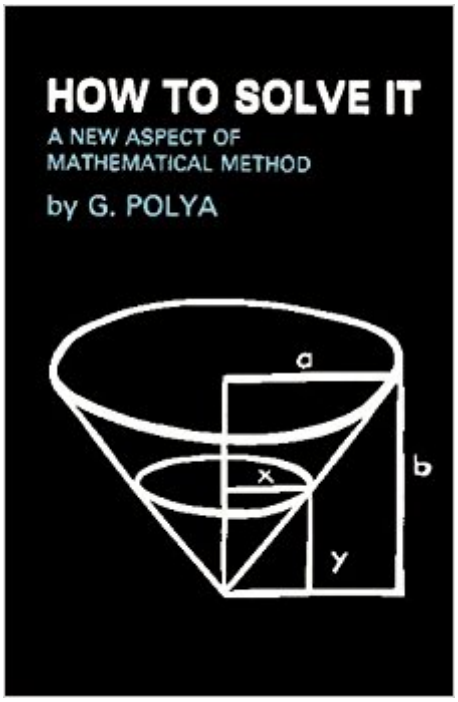
How To Solve It: A New Aspect Of Mathematical Method



Synopsis

"Solving problems", wrote Polya, "is a practical art, like swimming, or skiing, or playing the piano: You can learn it only by imitation and practice. This book cannot offer you a magic key that opens all the doors and solves all the problems, but it offers you good examples for imitation and many opportunities for practice: If you wish to learn swimming you have to go into the water and if you wish to become a problem solver you have to solve problems."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Every prospective teacher should read it. In particular, graduate students will find it invaluable. The traditional mathematics professor who reads a paper before one of the Mathematical Societies might also learn something from the book: 'He writes a, he says b, he means c; but it should be d.' "--E. T. Bell, Mathematical Monthly"[This] elementary textbook on heuristic reasoning, shows anew how keen its author is on questions of method and the formulation of methodological principles. Exposition and illustrative material are of a disarmingly elementary character, but very carefully thought out and selected."--Herman Weyl, Mathematical Review"I recommend it highly to any person who is seriously interested in finding out methods of solving problems, and who does not object to being entertained while he does it."--Scientific Monthly"Any young person seeking a career in the sciences would do well to ponder this important contribution to the teacher's art."--A. C. Schaeffer, American Journal of Psychology"Every mathematics student should experience and live this book"--Mathematics Magazine"In an age that all solutions should be provided with the least

possible effort, this book brings a very important message: mathematics and problem solving in general needs a lot of practice and experience obtained by challenging creative thinking, and certainly not by copying predefined recipes provided by others. Let’s hope this classic will remain a source of inspiration for several generations to come."--A. Bultheel, European Mathematical Society --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

George Polya was a Hungarian mathematician. Born in Budapest on 13 December 1887, his original name was PÃƒÂ lya GyÃƒÂ¶rg. He wrote this, perhaps the most famous book of mathematics ever written, second only to Euclid’s Ã¢â ¬Å“ElementsÃ¢â ¬Â•. In 1940 he came to America and spent the rest of his career as a Professor at Stanford University.

Great book, that should be read by everyone. It covers the essentials of problem solving in the most fundamental manner and then provides a dictionary of terms and strategies. Simply amazing book for beginners, intermediates and teachers!

Fun book for math majors and people interested in how to think strategically and creatively to solve math problems.

Polya is brilliant everywhere in this book. Even if you’re not interested in math, he presents so many vital metaconcepts of real life importance that it’s a must-read.

Great, classical book.

The person I bought the for finds it very useful.

Joseph R. Dell’Aquila, Ph.D.My first exposure to this book was probably as a young college student. When I started teaching physics and mathematics at the college and university level, I recommended this book to all of my students. Why? The table-like pages xvi - xvii are an excellent reminder of fruitful ways to understand, think about, attack and solve problems. Although I am a PhD in theoretical physics, I still dip into it occasionally when I need some insight or want to recall what I knew about approaching a problem. Is the book at that high a level? Of course not. It is a basic introduction to the fundamentals of problem solving. But remember that Michael Jordan, in "I Can’t Accept Not Trying," always thanked Dean Smith, his famous college coach - who would bench

Jordan if he got sloppy - for teaching him the fundamentals and Jordan said within a page of that: "fundamentals, that's what made Larry Bird such a great player." That is all this book is trying to give, fundamentals, and it does so brilliantly. To those whose reviews said it was not helpful and wanted to know where was the graduate level analysis, if you want to stick with Polya try "Inequalities" by G. H. Hardy, J. E. Littlewood, G. PÃƒÂ lya, all great to exceptional mathematicians with plenty of analysis to share and, for more specialized work, Isoperimetric Inequalities in Mathematical Physics by Polya and Szego. Note that one computer scientist/programmer disliked the book but another lauded it. I would never want to restrict dialogue on review but please check out the appropriateness and level of any book you buy. I have rarely written negative reviews on or elsewhere because I do my homework: using the Internet to find information on the work and even going to a library to see whether I like what their copy offers (I'm phrasing it this way because different editions, perhaps the library's edition vs. the one you're considering purchasing, can be quite different). Buy and use Polya if it is appropriate to your needs.

It's very well book for the students who want know principle of mathmatics..

OK

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