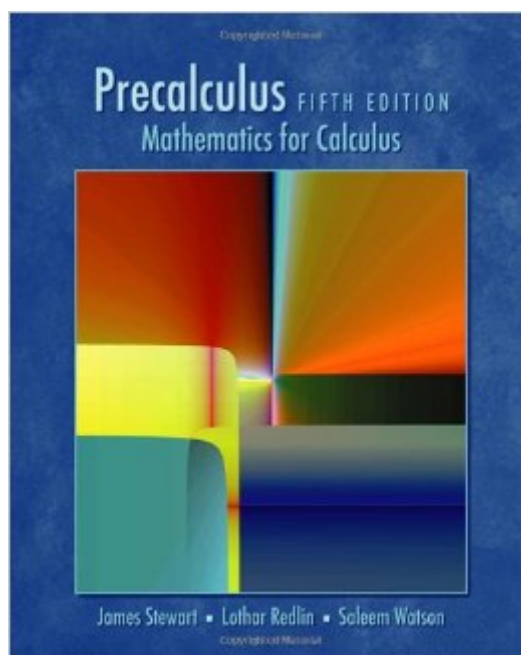


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Precalculus: Mathematics For Calculus, Enhanced Review Edition, 5th Edition



Synopsis

This best selling author team explains concepts simply and clearly, without glossing over difficult points. Problem solving and mathematical modeling are introduced early and reinforced throughout, so that when students finish the course, they have a solid foundation in the principles of mathematical thinking. This comprehensive, evenly paced book provides complete coverage of the function concept and integrates substantial graphing calculator materials that help students develop insight into mathematical ideas. The authors' attention to detail and clarity, as in James Stewart's market-leading Calculus text, is what makes this text the market leader.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm in my 60's and have not studied math in school for over 40 years. This was my first math book for college since the 60's. I found it easy to read, clear, and too the point. I was able to understand it. That says a lot. Math has always been hard for me, so this book is well done if I can learn from it.

I thought at first maybe I had the wrong edition or something, but no... fifth edition it is. Some chapters the answers don't match up with the questions in the book i.e. it will say #107 when it's really the answer to #95, #109 is #97 etc. Some of the chapter test answers are just the wrong problem (some have slight mistakes, like copied down wrong. Others are just a completely different problem). I really expect more than this. I'm going down to the bookstore tomorrow to see if it's just

my copy (as none of the other reviewers here seemed to notice). Otherwise I'm contacting the publisher. On the bright side, the problems which ARE correct have been tremendously helpful. Just as an answer guide should. The only reason it's earned two stars. I should really give it one, because after all... this IS MATH and accuracy is of utmost importance!!!

this is by FAR the worst math text I have ever had the misfortune of being forced to use (university of New Mexico). There is absolutely no explanation of principals in terms that even come close to being understandable. The only examples available for review are the most basic explanations possible and shed no light AT ALL on how to solve more elaborate problems. Of course the author would make the argument that the user of this text is supposed to know the basics of the principals in the book, to which I would say, the purpose of a book is to LEARN, whether I should or shouldn't already know something is not the point. Get used to seeing "here's a problem" and "here's the answer" with no explanation on how to get there. Useless.

This book is one of the worst math texts that I have had the pleasure of using. The explanations are poor and I have to google the material for better examples and explanations. If it was the last available reference in a post-apocalyptic earth it would work, but not effectively. With so many other quality texts on choose another for one independent study. However, if you need it for class buy it, scan the HW problems, and send it back then promptly purchase another book.

I sometimes pictured a group of people sitting around a table writing this book and suddenly one of them says "OHH OHH, I got one! Let's stick THIS trick question in there!" You get the feeling a lot of passive aggressive thought went into the writing of this book. Here's a summary simple example of how this book is written. How to solve square roots: $\sqrt{4} = 2 * 2$ thus the $\sqrt{4} = 2$ Now you try it!
 $\sqrt{-1}$ This approach makes it difficult to build any type of understanding for the basics when every question is at the extreme end of possibilities. I could understand if question 10 of 10 was extreme, but not the first questions in each section. Additionally, this book uses completely non-standard labels for things which makes it even more confusing. Here's a made up example of how this can be confusing: Pythagorean theorem: $a^2 = c^2 + b^2$ All in all, I found myself using this book only for the topics, then going elsewhere to actually learn about it and find examples. I found this is the only way to work with this book as the content and explanations are just garbage.

I selected this book primarily because I needed a book to go over the topic area with my son and it

was one of the textbooks available on cramster.com (which is web site that has the problem solutions for popular college textbooks). It is very readable and has many exercises (probably more than the average person would ever need). The really nice feature that I wish I had when I was learning this material (way back when) was the use of many graphs, diagrams and the graphing calculator to illustrate the concepts and ideas. In addition, the end of every section has very thoughtful exercises that go beyond the tedious and repetitive problem solving route. Lastly, the chapter test helps to prepare for any real class exams. As a parent of a college age student I wondered about the outrageous prices being demanded by college textbooks today - are they worth it? Well, this one is....and I purchased two books, one of me and my son and I am not disappointed. I have not even explored the online features available to assist students yet. In summary, all these features provided and the adherence by the authors to a positive pedagogical approach that benefits students add value to the book and make it worth while for anyone taking the course on their own or in a classroom.

While I am not an expert in mathematics, I usually do not have a difficult time figuring out problems based on the textbook alone. The explanations in this work read rather muddily; the structure of the content can be confusing; the examples seem insufficient towards applying the concepts learned. There were quite a few times where the problems given did not honestly reflect the explanatory material of the chapter. Some of the answers provided in the back seem to be incorrect given the explanations. Considering the cost of the text, the quality of presentation falls short of the money spent. I would strongly recommend against the use of this textbook as either a collection of exercises for classroom use or a method for self-study. Hopefully the publisher will work towards creating a stronger, friendlier text for the next edition.

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