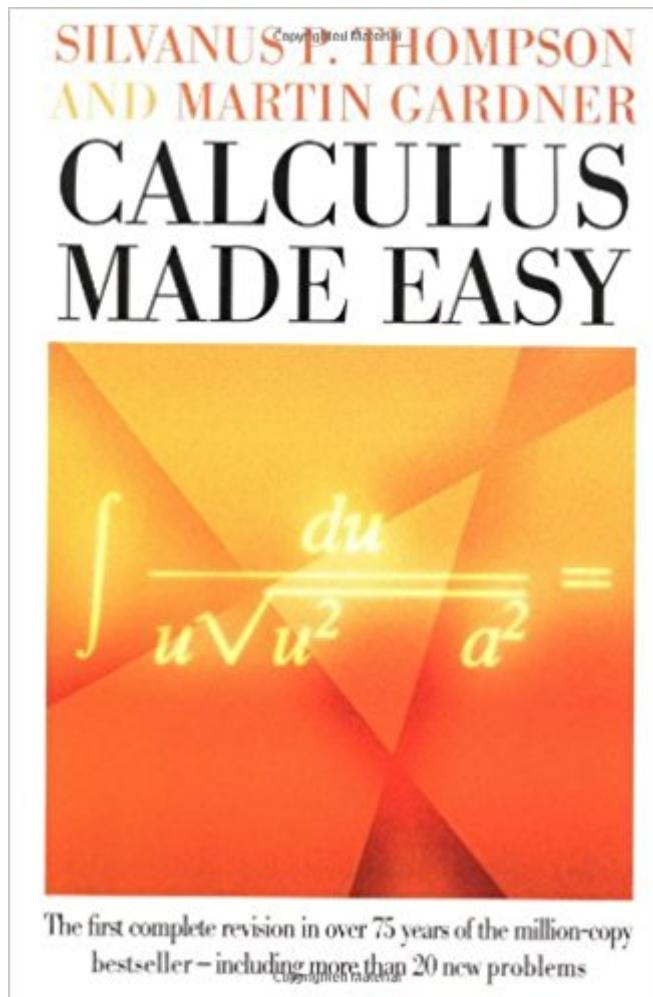


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# Calculus Made Easy



## Synopsis

Calculus Made Easy has long been the most popular calculus primer, and this major revision of the classic math text makes the subject at hand still more comprehensible to readers of all levels. With a new introduction, three new chapters, modernized language and methods throughout, and an appendix of challenging and enjoyable practice problems, Calculus Made Easy has been thoroughly updated for the modern reader.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Equal-opportunity reviewers, we welcome a book on behalf of the continuum! It is for the mathematically eager who know some algebra. The first edition appeared anonymously in 1910 in England, and overall a million copies have been sold. In fact, most talk of continuum and its infinities is suppressed; the eye is nicely fixed on little bits of  $x$ , called  $dx$ , their differences and sums among all kinds of functions, their geometric meaning, and what they can do for you--a lot. Martin Gardner, himself an American mathematical landmark, says, "This is the leanest and liveliest introduction to calculus ever written," and, taken with his own present augmentation, three whole chapters and more, including infinite series and some neat problems, he is quite right. The times they are a-changing, and we admit we are not current in computer resources. Maybe "little bits of  $x$ " ought to--or have been--placed on the screen in a serious pedagogic structure that students can manipulate. Graphics programs that share the scope and spirit of Thompson/Gardner would make a valued complement to their paper-and-pencil book.

“Calculus Made Easy is arguably the best math teaching ever. To a non-mathematician, its simplicity and clarity reveals the mathematical genius of Newton, Leibniz, and Thompson himself. Martin Gardner deserves huge thanks for renewing this great book.” Julian Simon, author of *Population Matters* “A remarkable and user-friendly approach to the study of calculus, made even more so by Martin Gardner, the most highly acclaimed mathematical expositor of our time.” R.L. Graham, Chief Scientist, AT&T Labs, and author of *Concrete Mathematics*

I have an e-copy of this book that I acquired through nefarious means, but bought the hardback anyway. Just because it's that good, and I like to write in it and leave sticky notes all over it. Easier on the eyes to read than the e-book anyway. This is not something to replace a standard calculus textbook. This is supplementary material that is intended to nail home some of the key concepts in calculus that are difficult for most people to grasp because they are more abstract concepts than they are used to dealing with in lower-level math courses. Even if you already have a passable grasp of the concepts, this book is still great because of its unusual presentation; it will add another dimension to your understanding. You can use it to weave together concepts from other subjects more easily.

This is old, old book slightly revised. Interesting reading. The introduction and some of the material were intriguing. However, if you wish to learn calculus, there is no substitute for example problems. This book has dearth of example compared to other modern text books out there. I would stay away from this book, unless historical approach is of your interest.

100 years have passed since the publishing of this book and it still remains one of the most popular resources for learning calculus. Well, the reason for this is thus: Mr. Thompson has compiled a wonderfully simple text for a step-by-step comprehension of calculus. His writing style is both light-hearted and insightful. He begins the book by explaining the terminology and notation used in calculus, albeit in a humorous way. He riffs on the so-called "math experts" of his time who took the most complicated approach to explaining calculus. With this brief satire he draws you in deeper and deeper into this elegant topic. He gives concrete examples and gentle motivation so that even a non-math major such as myself could become interested in the subject. Mr. Thompson was not a mathematician but an engineer and this may be why he is able to relate the topic in such a simple

yet effective way. Beginning with simple differentials, he disassembles every piece of the calculus and shows you how they work and what to do with them. You will learn about derivatives, partial fractions integration and much more. Although this is supposed to be an easy way to learn, there are still some challenging exercises in the book for your mind to chew on. Rest assured though, Thompson gives you plenty of examples and easy exercises with the more tricky ones coming in at the end. As for Gardner's additions to the book, well I see that he has caught a lot of flak for adding 2 chapters at the beginning. However they are very short chapters and as another (very helpful) reviewer said, you should just come back to them after delving into Thompson's explanations. The reason why Gardner adds a chapter on functions and a chapter on limits is that modern calculus classes will invariably expect a full understanding of what limits and functions are. This is not a reason to shy away from the book, it is merely Gardner trying to prepare you for a modern class after you've learned Thompson's methods. He also has written some helpful footnotes throughout the book while keeping all of the original material virtually the same. I strongly recommend this book to anyone who wishes to learn calculus and will definitely be lending my copy to any friends who desire a respite from the chaos that is a modern math textbook.

This tries to explain what Calculus is and I am enjoying it because I feel they needed to explain this for Algebra and Precalculus as well. I feel the reason I am having trouble in Math is because I don't simply know the reason why it is the way it is? And/or is supposed to be? This was a very good purchase. It pays to read the suggested purchases at the bottom of page or I would have never found this book. I am going to search for books on explanations of Algebra now.

Follow me on Twitter: [Viewtifulwolf](#) The book arrived a few days early and is in perfect condition. I'd recommend this book for high school students that want to take their academics to the next level. Or those that have plans on being a math educator, like myself. Hopefully this book can help you fully understand and conquer calculus.

I've been wishing for years that I hadn't lent my old blue edition to someone who didn't see fit to return it. It's a pleasure to have this shiny new version. I do wish Gardner had resisted the temptation to insert chapters on functions and limits at the beginning of the book. There is much better motivation for that material after Thompson's introduction to derivatives. A footnote in the discussion of orders of smallness saying that a more rigorous explanation could be found at the end of the book would let a beginning student see what this calculus stuff was all about, and would also

motivate the work on limits as a way to paper over the thin ice, to mangle a metaphor. It seems to be very hard for mathematicians to distinguish between logical development of a discipline and pedagogical discovery of that discipline. If you reconstruct what motivated people to create a branch of mathematics, and then teach that path of discovery, you can hope to motivate the development of more logical exposition and proofs. You can also hope to communicate some idea of what mathematics is about even to people whose minds do not require the full proof, or follow it if it is forced down their throats. Unfortunately, most fully qualified mathematicians should never be allowed near beginning students. Gardner seems to understand the problem in his discussion of why this book is so attractive compared with most introductory calculus texts, but he still wasn't able to resist the temptation to go down the same rathole. Gardner has still produced a lovely edition of Thompson's book, updated to conform to current notational practice, so as long as you can skip over his two introductory chapters and come back to them later if you feel the need, it can be recommended with no other reservations.

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