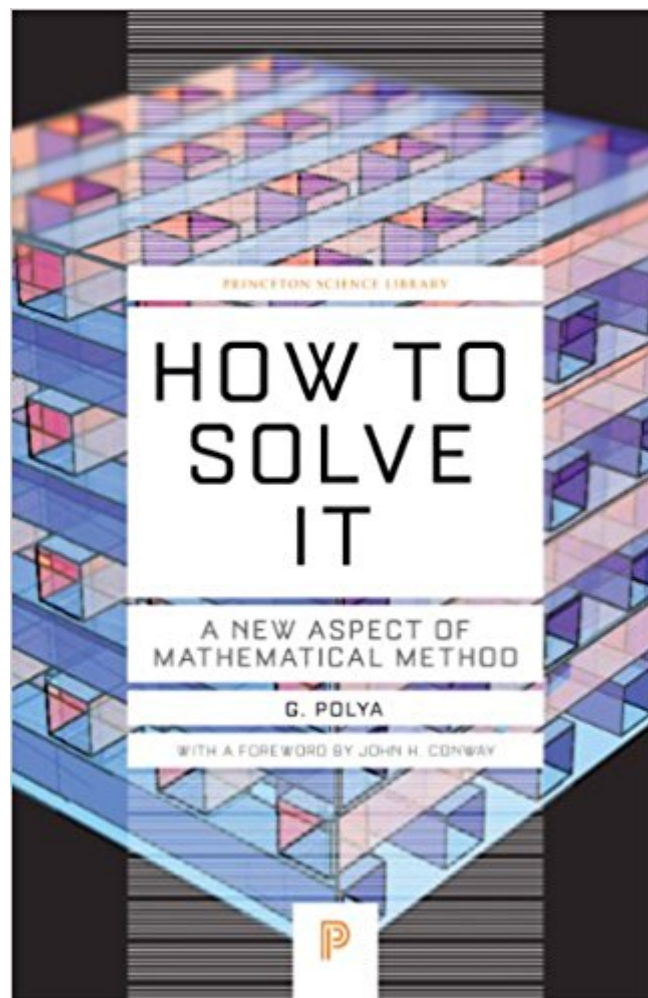




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How To Solve It: A New Aspect Of Mathematical Method (Princeton Science Library)



Synopsis

A perennial bestseller by eminent mathematician G. Polya, *How to Solve It* will show anyone in any field how to think straight. In lucid and appealing prose, Polya reveals how the mathematical method of demonstrating a proof or finding an unknown can be of help in attacking any problem that can be "reasoned" out—from building a bridge to winning a game of anagrams. Generations of readers have relished Polya's deft—indeed, brilliant—instructions on stripping away irrelevancies and going straight to the heart of the problem.

Book Information

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"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.'"
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George Polya (1887–1985) was one of the most influential mathematicians of the twentieth century. His basic research contributions span complex analysis, mathematical physics, probability theory, geometry, and combinatorics. He was a teacher par excellence who maintained a strong interest in pedagogical matters throughout his long career. Even after his retirement from Stanford University in 1953, he continued to lead an active mathematical life. He taught his final course, on combinatorics, at the age of ninety. John H. Conway is professor emeritus of mathematics at Princeton University. He was awarded the London Mathematical Society's Polya Prize in 1987. Like Polya, he is interested in many branches of mathematics, and in particular, has invented a successor to Polya's notation for crystallographic groups.

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. Pólya, 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.

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