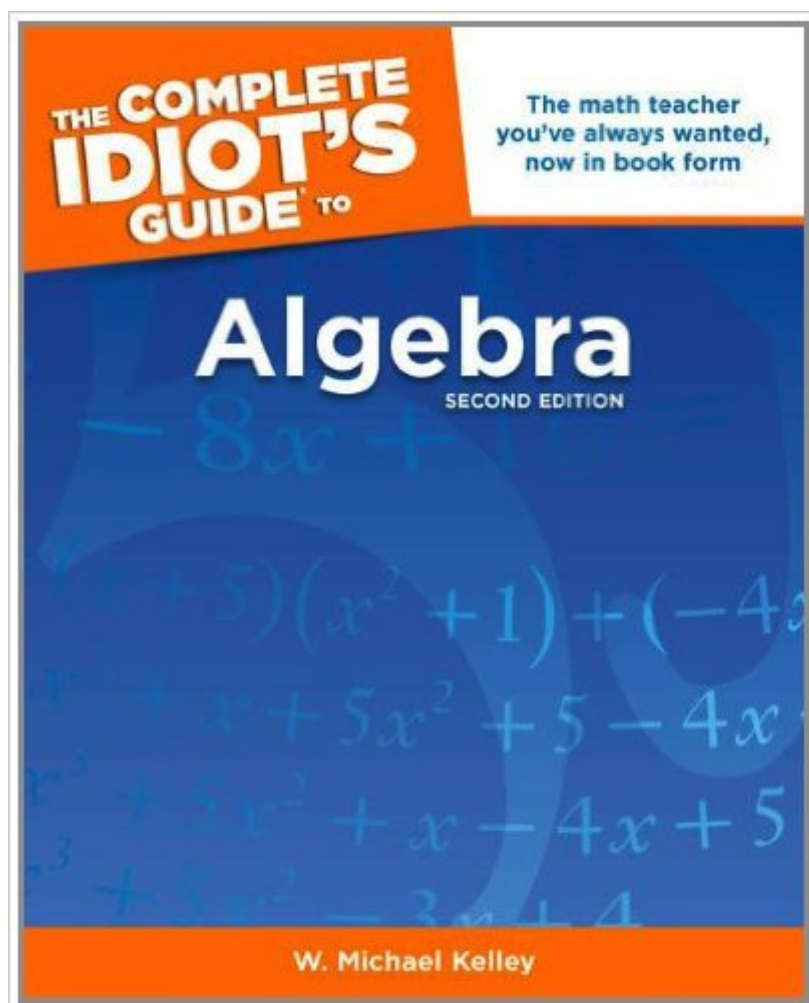


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# The Complete Idiot's Guide To Algebra, 2nd Edition (Idiot's Guides)



## Synopsis

Just the facts (and figures) to understanding algebra. The Complete Idiot's Guide® to Algebra has been updated to include easier-to-read graphs and additional practice problems. It covers variations of standard problems that will assist students with their algebra courses, along with all the basic concepts, including linear equations and inequalities, polynomials, exponents and logarithms, conic sections, discrete math, word problems and more. •Written in an easy-to-comprehend style to make math concepts approachable •Award-winning math teacher and author of The Complete Idiot's Guide® to Calculus and the bestselling advanced placement book in ARCO's •Master's series

## Book Information

Series: Idiot's Guides

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: ALPHA; 2 edition (July 3, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1592576486

ISBN-13: 978-1592576487

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.8 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (83 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #131,976 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Military Technology #84 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > History > Ships #155 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Transportation > Ships

## Customer Reviews

I've always struggled with math. From grade school through college, math has clouded my academic life. I held my own in Geometry, but Algebra, Trig, and Calculus were like a 3-volume mystery with half the pages missing. It was all simply incomprehensible. It didn't "click" for me--made no sense. No math teacher could penetrate my thick skull. I was a "C" math student in high school and college, mostly due to charity from my instructors. I really didn't deserve to pass. I just wrote math off as impossible and went on with my life. Now as a military retiree enjoying a second career as a technical instructor, I feel I should have at least some grasp of math. Is it too late for me? Am I too old? I thought so until I started reading this little book. What a breath of fresh

air! My high school and college experiences would have been MUCH less stressful if someone had explained Algebra to me the way this book has. The humor is silly--the jokes are beyond corny. Yet the informal tone completely deflates the menace of Algebra. Math texts always seemed sinister to me--as unknowable as a book of voodoo spells. By contrast, "The Complete Idiot's Guide..." is about as menacing as the funny papers. The author chats about Algebra topics and techniques the way I might chat about football scores--as though it's no big deal. And it isn't a big deal. Once I cracked the cover, I was solving & graphing equations within a couple of hours. More importantly, I understood what I was doing and why. That was a totally new experience. I went through a third of the book in two days, and I correctly solved every practice problem. I can't wait to get to the rest of it. That's new too. I've never, EVER looked forward to a math lesson before. So should you buy this book?

Michael Kelley's books', that is the ones that pertain to both algebra and calculus, are written so well it's nearly too good to be true. If you're like me, you've been looking and nearly afraid to actually buy a book about algebra or calculus because you've also probably spent a ton of money on that so called "teach yourself" series or style only to slam the cover shut and toss it up on a bookshelf. Not with Michael's books you won't! Michael really did a fantastic job with his books and breaks everything down to a very simple step-by-step approach. For example; with Fractions, I'd be able to do fractions with a calculator and even then it was sketchy and adding fractions with a ruler could work for me as well, sometimes. Now I can pretty much look at a fraction and tell you what the answer is going to be and I'm talking about them in addition, subtraction, multiplication and even division of fractions. It's all so simple it's almost stupid guys and gals. It truly is in the Method of Instruction. If you were also like me with wanting to learn algebra but those pesky X's and Y's got in the way and didn't make sense? Forget about that too partner, it's actually small stuff. Again, Michael breaks it down to a very easy to follow format. I think the hardest part for people with Michael's books is to memorize the power rules. Math has specific rules, and that's really all it is that you're doing, is learning a new language with its own rules on how to do things. For me, I simply rewrote the first few chapters in MS Word and printed it out, I then simply looked at the power rules while I was reading forward and looking at the equations I was able to see every little change and detail taking place.

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