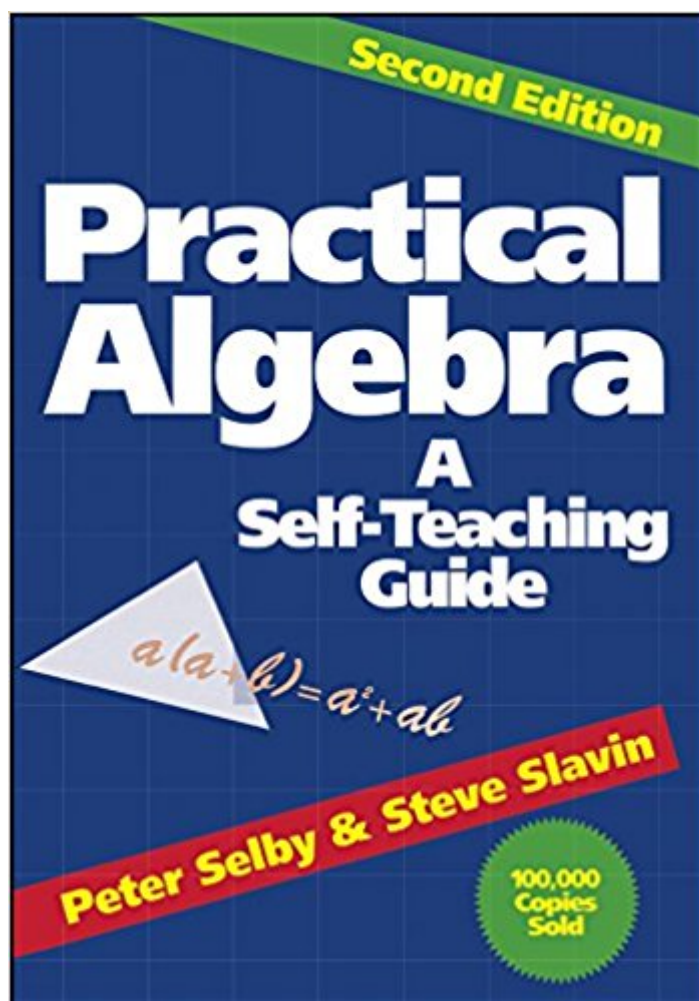


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# Practical Algebra: A Self-Teaching Guide, Second Edition



## Synopsis

**Practical Algebra** If you studied algebra years ago and now need a refresher course in order to use algebraic principles on the job, or if you're a student who needs an introduction to the subject, here's the perfect book for you. **Practical Algebra** is an easy and fun-to-use workout program that quickly puts you in command of all the basic concepts and tools of algebra. With the aid of practical, real-life examples and applications, you'll learn:

- \* The basic approach and application of algebra to problem solving
- \* The number system (in a much broader way than you have known it from arithmetic)
- \* Monomials and polynomials; factoring algebraic expressions; how to handle algebraic fractions; exponents, roots, and radicals; linear and fractional equations
- \* Functions and graphs; quadratic equations; inequalities; ratio, proportion, and variation; how to solve word problems, and more

Authors Peter Selby and Steve Slavin emphasize practical algebra throughout by providing you with techniques for solving problems in a wide range of disciplines--from engineering, biology, chemistry, and the physical sciences, to psychology and even sociology and business administration. Step by step, **Practical Algebra** shows you how to solve algebraic problems in each of these areas, then allows you to tackle similar problems on your own, at your own pace. Self-tests are provided at the end of each chapter so you can measure your mastery.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

With a "learn-by-doing" approach, it reviews and teaches elementary and some intermediate algebra. While rigorous enough to be used as a college or high school text, the format is reader friendly, particularly in this Second Edition, and clear enough to be used for self-study in a

non-classroom environment. ``Pre-test'' material enables readers to target problem areas quickly and skip areas that are already well understood. Some new material has been added to the Second Edition and redundant or confusing material omitted. The first chapter has undergone major revision. Chapters feature ``post-tests'' for self-evaluation. Thousands of practice problems, questions and answers make this algebra review a unique and practical text.

**Practical Algebra** If you studied algebra years ago and now need a refresher course in order to use algebraic principles on the job, or if you're a student who needs an introduction to the subject, here's the perfect book for you. Practical Algebra is an easy and fun-to-use workout program that quickly puts you in command of all the basic concepts and tools of algebra. With the aid of practical, real-life examples and applications, you'll learn: The basic approach and application of algebra to problem solving The number system (in a much broader way than you have known it from arithmetic) Monomials and polynomials; factoring algebraic expressions; how to handle algebraic fractions; exponents, roots, and radicals; linear and fractional equations Functions and graphs; quadratic equations; inequalities; ratio, proportion, and variation; how to solve word problems, and more Authors Peter Selby and Steve Slavin emphasize practical algebra throughout by providing you with techniques for solving problems in a wide range of disciplines; from engineering, biology, chemistry, and the physical sciences, to psychology and even sociology and business administration. Step by step, Practical Algebra shows you how to solve algebraic problems in each of these areas, then allows you to tackle similar problems on your own, at your own pace. Self-tests are provided at the end of each chapter so you can measure your mastery.

I had studied algebra before, so this was review for me. Anyway, I read the entire book and solved every problem. Whenever I got an answer wrong I would study the book's answer, understand why I got the answer wrong, then re-do the problem. Two or three times I needed to consult a math expert via the internet because I didn't understand how the book got its answer. The answers to the problems are directly below the problems, with a dashed line separating the set of problems from the set of answers. While working your way through the book it is best to quickly place a blank piece of paper below any dashed lines you see, so that you don't get a peek at the answers before doing the problems. Before starting on the book, I searched the reviews to see what typographical errors others had discovered. I printed out a list of them to use as I worked through the book. While working through the book I discovered errors that other reviewers had not mentioned. Here is a list of every error in the second edition, as far as I know: Page 3

" Division problem (d) at the bottom shows  $1430 - 1364 = 66$ . That should be  $1430 - 1384 = 46$ .  
 Page 17 " In frame 21 there is a sentence that begins "Do all multiplications and then all divisions first . . .". The word "then" in that sentence should be deleted because it gives the impression that you don't do any divisions until all multiplications have been completed. The correct procedure is to do multiplications or divisions as they come up, as you work from left to right; they have equal rank.  
 Page 55 " In frame 5, the answer given for (b) is 7 and 3. The correct answer is none.  
 Page 123 " In problem #25 (b) the numerator  $K^3 - 1$  must be changed to  $K^3 + 1$  in order to get the answer the book gives.  
 Page 161 " Problem #40 has a denominator "A times 2". That should be "A squared."  
 Page 164 " The "check" for the answer to problem #60 has a radical sign with "16 - 3.5" under it. That should be "16 - 3(5)".  
 Page 169 -- The second paragraph begins with "Keeping in mind that our second axiom..." That should be "...our first axiom..."  
 Page 196 " The answer to question (e) is missing. The correct answer is abscissa.  
 Page 205 -- The first sentence says, "If this came out correctly, go to frame 15." It should say, "go to frame 14."  
 Page 218 " On the graph, line (4) is shown as  $2y + x + 7 = 0$ . That should be  $2y + x - 7 = 0$ .  
 Page 244 " The answer to problem 4 (a) begins with a  $z$ . That should be an  $x$ .  
 Page 273 " Another reviewer wrote that the answer to problem (c) is mistakenly given as 1016 when it should be 508. My book, however, gives the correct answer of 508 times per second.  
 Page 274 " In the frame 11 inverse proportion table the  $66 \frac{2}{3}$  should be  $66 \frac{2}{3}$ .  
 Page 280 " The answer to problem (e) contains (joint, inverse variation) when it should simply be (joint variation).  
 Page 309 -- The answer to the candy problem (d) contains ".50x + 60(x+5)". There should be a decimal point in front of the 60. It should be ".50x + .60(x+5)".

I looked through this book and even though I just got it, I see that it is very good on explaining how to solve problems. I am disabled and I like to occupy my time with what challenges my mind. If you are warming up on those yester year problems and need a little more help before moving forward, it recommends that you go over what ever section you need some help on and that book is Quick Arithmetic. I will be ordering that myself because I have always been bad a fractions and that has a big part in Algebra. If you are trying to brush up on your Algebra, this is a great book to have and also get the Quick Arithmetic book. You won't be disappointed and there is nothing wrong with wrong

answers, that's how you learn. This book is a must and I would recommend it to anyone.

High quality and delivered on time.

If my 10 year old can understand this and learn from it, anyone can.

I graduated with my associate degree 24 years ago and am now returning for my BSN. I am having to take mathematical modeling and statistics as part of my program so I felt it necessary to "relearn" algebra before taking these classes. This book has been wonderful in getting me back up to speed. The reason I am only giving it 4 stars instead of 5 is because I don't know that it would be the appropriate book to teach you algebra if you had never ever been exposed to it before. My old brain still retains some basic stuff so when I see it again in the book it's like "Oh, yeah. I kinda remember that now." It would be a good book for a parent to use as a refresher to help their student or somebody like me who is trying to remember all this stuff after 20 plus years.

This book is amazing. I'm not horrible at algebra, but I love the fact this book is taking me back directly to the beginning and I'm relearning it step by step. The best way to learn anything is to learn it from its roots and that's exactly what this book does. Be prepared to learn that  $9\hat{=}A$  is the same as  $9a$  or  $9(a)$ . Lol

Has everything needed for 9th grade! My sisters hated them but I love them. ha summer schoolwork

I have always loved math and especially algebra and found it easy to learn; however, as a volunteer tutor, I wanted to be sure I am using the right terminology, am being efficient and effective, and am helping my young students to appreciate and love math too. This book has been very helpful because it is so easy to use and everything is explained so clearly.

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