Calculus Made Easy

> SPT, MG, KM

Introduction

Calculus Made Easy Beautiful Ideas Presented Simply

Silvanus P. Thompson¹ Martin Gardner²

¹Original Author

²Annotator

Aug 2025 / Free Learner's School Conversations

Outline

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Introduction

Thompson's Lively Treatise for Beginners

Made Easy

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- These Slides Are Based on Silvanus Thompson's Book, Calculus Made Easy, Which Introduces Calculus Simply.
- After Quite Some Deliberation, [KM] Chose This Book To Introduce Calculus to Rujuta, A High Schooler.
 - Great Martin Gardner's Thoughtful Recommendation Provided The Biggest Stimulus.
- We Also Go on 'Excursions' Outside The Book.
- Each Chapter Is A Separate Slide-deck to Keep Its Size Manageable.
- It Is Supposed to Be Your "Ready Reckoner".
 - You in College or Beyond in Bringing It All Back?
 - New Words Are Introduced Slowly And Carefully, But "Thought Experiments" Are Often Introduced.
 - Let's Not Be Afraid to Take the Leap of Guided Imagination.

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Because A Slide-deck Is Not as Fun as A Fairy Tale!

Calculus Made Eas

KM

Introduction

- We Wish Mathematics Were Fun to Thinking People Who Enjoy Fairy Tales, Rap Music, or Memes.
 - Sadly, It Isn't!
- However, This Slide-deck Isn't So Great to Make It So!
- We Therefore Expect That
 - You Want to Explore Calculus of Your Own Accord.
 - You Can Follow Logical (Deductive, Inductive) Arguments.
 - You've Heard of Natural, Rational, Irrational, Real, Complex Numbers.
 - You Understand How a Number Such as $\sqrt{2}$ Differs from a Number Such as 1.737465, 7, or 2 + 3i.
 - You Understand The Language of School Algebra, And Can Solve Some 'Equations'. Learning Calculus before Algebra Isn't Helpful!
 - You Have Heard of 'Functions', And Know Some of Them (e.g. Polynomial, Rational, Logarithmic, Exponential and Trigonometric)

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