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Mathematics For Elementary Teachers: A Conceptual Approach



Synopsis

The ninth edition of *Mathematics for Elementary Teachers: A Conceptual Approach* continues the innovative time-tested approach of the previous editions: an emphasis on learning via specific, realistic examples and the extensive use of visual aids, hands-on activities, problem-solving strategies and active classroom participation. Features of the text focus on ensuring that prospective teachers will gain not only a deeper understanding of the mathematical concepts, but also a better sense of the connections between their college math courses and their future teaching experiences, along with helpful ideas for presenting math to their students in a way that will generate interest and enthusiasm. The text draws heavily on NCTM Standards and contains many pedagogical elements designed to foster reasoning, problem-solving and communication skills. The ninth edition represents a significant step forward in terms of online course management as roughly half of all problems in the text will be assignable through our new online homework platform, Connect Mathematics. In addition, Connect Mathematics will be fully integrated with Blackboard, providing the deepest integration of an online homework and course management system in the market today. Additionally, this text can be packaged with an activity set that corresponds to each section of the companion text, *Mathematics for Elementary Teachers: An Activity Approach*, also by the Bennett, Burton, and Nelson team. *Mathematics for Elementary Teachers: An Activity Approach* can be used independently or along with its companion, *Mathematics for Elementary Teachers: A Conceptual Approach*.

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Customer Reviews

Mathematics For Elementary Teachers: A Conceptual Approach
Pros: Lots of Pictures, Good Quality
Cons: Confusing, Lack of Problem Explanations
Basics: In the interest of full disclosure, I will openly admit that I did first purchase this book about two years ago, during the spring semester of my Freshman year in college to be exact. However, despite this fact I do not think that this piece of information make me ineligible in any way whatsoever to give this book a great review? Why? Because regardless of when I first used it does not change the quality of service I received from it. Overall, I did not really like this book. As far as textbooks go, it is simply average. It has a lot of pictures and stories that make it interesting to flip through, but it also has a number of different word problems and assignments that are quite confusing with either vague or little explanation of how to solve them.
More Information: In simplest words, this book was written to help prospective teachers learn how to teach math in a number of different ways, or rather the goal of the book is to reteach simple concepts that you probably learned in grade school (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, etc.). The reasoning behind this decision is due to the new Common Core Standards the plague public schools, but also to give new teachers the knowledge to teach many different concepts in different ways in case they were to have a struggling student that just wasn't getting it. This is all great, but the problems start to arise after you get deeper into the pages as the methods that the authors are attempting to teach are not ones that I learned as a child, nor are they methods that my classmates learned in their earlier educations. Because of this, I was unable to use simple intuition to fill in any gaps that might have come up, and since the book doesn't do a very good job explaining certain concepts I just ended up getting lost and confused.
Conclusion: Overall, I wasn't really impressed by this book. For me, all textbooks have some sort of struggle- that is just the way it is, whether it be having tiny words, no being coherent, being dull the list goes on and on. However, for this book the struggles it faced, and the inability to really explain the concepts it was attempting to teach (and the lack of clear problem solutions!!!!) was a deal breaker. I fully acknowledge and understand what the authors were trying to accomplish with this book, and I respect that. I feel that understanding different ways to teach different problems is a skill that both old and new teachers alike should absolutely have, I am just not confident in this textbooks ability to do so. Because of that, and the other reason mentioned above, I can only give this textbook two stars.

Anyone who is going to teach Elementary Education needs to read this book. I took a summer course and this is the textbook that my professor used. The textbook is wonderful. Forget everything

you know about math. This book shows you why we do math the way we do it. We never really know what is going on when we do math. This textbook takes you back to the beginning. It is great if you are going to be working with Elementary students you will gain great knowledge about math and how to teach it.

I took a teaching elementary mathematics class that used this textbook and I found the text incredibly confusing. I was under the impression that taking a class about teaching math to elementary school students would be easy but surprisingly, this ended up being one of the harder math classes I've taken simply because the textbook was very unclear. For instance, many of the practice questions in the book were very complicated yet there wasn't any kind of explanation either in the back of the book or in the example section to show how to go about solving the problem. As a whole, the wording and explanations in this book were some of the worst I've seen. As another reviewer mentioned, most of the material covered in this book pertains to middle school students as opposed to elementary school students, which is the age group I plan on working with. That's not to say that this textbook is unusable but it's unfortunate that many professors choose to use or are forced to use this textbook in their classes.

A great teachers' companion. A book well illustrated in colour and contents informed by sound pedagogical principles. Should be in the libraries of all primary teachers. This book prepares the primary teachers with an arsenal of teaching techniques and teaching resources many of which the teachers can make from inexpensive materials. And in doing so the teachers will get an insight on how learning takes place and so develop executive mastery of the art and craft of teaching.

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