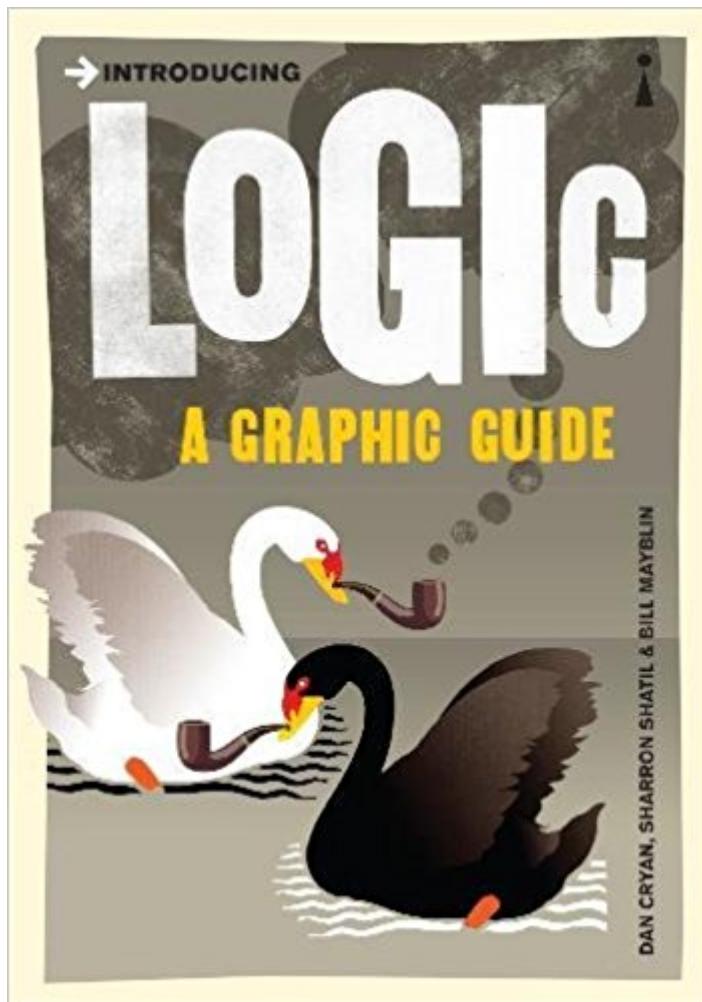


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Introducing Logic: A Graphic Guide



Synopsis

Logic is the backbone of Western civilization, holding together its systems of philosophy, science and law. Yet despite logic's widely acknowledged importance, it remains an unbroken seal for many, due to its heavy use of jargon and mathematical symbolism. This book follows the historical development of logic, explains the symbols and methods involved and explores the philosophical issues surrounding the topic in an easy-to-follow and friendly manner.

Book Information

Series: Introducing

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Customer Reviews

"Introducing is a miracle of modern publishing... buy one now.' Don Patterson, *Guardian*"

Dan Cryan has degrees in Philosophy from UCL. Sharron Shatil is a Philosophy lecturer at the Open University in Israel, and Bill Mayblin is a senior partner in the London design practice the information Design Workshop.

The cartoons are for the most part unreadable on my Kindle and the text relies on the graphics, which made this a slog for me. Guess I should have figured that might be an issue from the "A Graphic Guide" in the title, so my bad. Apart from that I feel that this is one of those middle of the road books that won't appeal to the knowledgeable because it is too light and slight, yet will lose the casual reader because understanding logic does take some heavy duty thinking, cartoon call outs

aside. Still, it covers most modes of logic and makes a solid effort to describe and link the various frameworks so if you are interested in a deeper understanding of the topic it is worth trying.

Even though I have taken several philosophy courses including logic during my college years I thought this book (Introducing Logic: A graphic guide by Dan Cryan, Sharron Shatil and Bill Mayblin) would give me a brief overview and a good review of the basic principles of logic. Surprisingly, this 176 paperback went into more detail than I expected, which was fantastic. Some of the material covered in this text includes the followings: What is logic? The Greek philosopher Aristotle who first developed a system of logic using the syllogism. About 100 years after Aristotle Chrysippus of Soli further developed the system of logic. For the next 2,000 years other thinkers and mathematicians also came up with various ideas to improve the way reason and logic can be used to arrive at the truth. A few of the problems in arriving at the truth include: Contradiction factors and the liar paradox riddle. Reading this book will give you an overall basic theory of logic but this subject can also be confusing because of the many inherent problems in arriving at the truth and facts of a subject. The fact concerning contradictions are also a big problem. In any case, if you are seeking a good basic guide to the subject of logic you should check out this book. Rating: 4 Stars. Joseph J. Truncate (Author: The Samurai Soul: An old warrior’s poetic tribute).

Absolutely wonderful read, explained all topics in a very accessible and entertaining way, one of my best book purchases. Simplified the concepts, but did not short-change them or diminish the explanations in any way. Loved the graphics, they contribute so much to the understanding, and the interrelatedness of all of the players involved (the different mathematicians and logicians and their particular contributions) was fascinating, going all the way back to Aristotle and Chrysippus. Highly recommend this book, especially since after obtaining and reading a similar 'introductory' book on 'Logic', found out how much better this presentation truly is, and how much I learned in comparison.

It's important to understand that the Introducing series is in the business not of teaching you the entirety of any given subject, but merely introducing you to it. This, as with many other titles in the series, gives you a very quick summary of the movement and its history and touches on many of the significant branches. Believe me, you can always go deeper, and really one ought to if one desires anything close to an actual understanding of the subjects the people at Totem Books purport to introduce. What I find is that these books in general, and this title specifically, prepares your for deeper reading by giving you the gist of things, and thus allows you to engage other texts with

greater sustain and keener acumen. There are other series of course, Cambridge has their wonderful, if frequently denser, Companion series, and Paul Strathern has made his career giving a similar gist in 90 minutes. I would say that the people at Totem have hit the so-called sweet spot with these though. Strathern is too often concerned with biographical detail for my tastes, and spends less time with the ideas themselves (though of course the life of a thinker is important to understanding them. Cambridge has wonderful guides, but even these may be a tad much for someone merely seeking to dip their toe in and take a look around. This is why I recommend this series. The graphic approach hopefully renders these concepts more accessible to a wider audience, and can indeed make what are often thought of as dull subjects, quite entertaining.

I thought that I would learn just a little something about logic by reading this but I found it did not explain even the most basic concepts well. I think the author finds some facts online and lists them without knowing enough about the subject to explain even the basics. Having done digital electronics for 10 years, where logic arguments are taught in the curriculum and used in application, I found it odd that I could not follow some of the explanations. I was grossly unhappy with the book mostly because it was wasting my time. The only thing the book seemed to communicate was the names of past contributors to the field. I could care less what their names are. I just wanted to learn a little of the basics of logical arguments as used in spoken language. I stopped reading half way through. I have enjoyed books on the history of math, where the book discussed the author and the work, so I expected to find a bit of use and entertainment in this book as well. My guess is that the author did not educate themselves on the topic.

There is an amazing amount of information underlying each section. The clarity in the presentation makes it possible to grasp the concepts and interesting enough to read more about the topics. Now, I can go back and take notes for follow-up. I enjoyed this book.

If any A is B, and B denies any part of C, then and only then, I have no idea what's going on!

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