

Contents at a Glance

<i>Introduction</i>	1
<i>Part I: Foundation (And We Don't Mean Makeup!)</i>	5
Chapter 1: Beginning at the Very Beginning: Pre-Pre-Calculus.....	7
Chapter 2: Get Real!: Wrestling with Real Numbers.....	25
Chapter 3: Understanding the Function of Functions	41
Chapter 4: Go Back to Your Roots to Get Your Degree.....	73
Chapter 5: Exponential and Logarithmic Functions	91
<i>Part II: Trig Is the Key: Basic Review, the Unit Circle, and Graphs</i>	105
Chapter 6: Basic Trigonometry and the Unit Circle	107
Chapter 7: Graphing and Transforming Trig Functions	127
<i>Part III: Advanced Trig: Identities, Theorems, and Applications</i>	143
Chapter 8: Basic Trig Identities	145
Chapter 9: Advanced Identities	161
Chapter 10: Solving Oblique Triangles	177
<i>Part IV: And the Rest</i>	193
Chapter 11: Complex Numbers and Polar Coordinates	195
Chapter 12: Conquering Conic Sections.....	211
Chapter 13: Finding Solutions for Systems of Equations	243
Chapter 14: Sequences, Series, and Binomials — Oh My!.....	275
Chapter 15: The Next Step Is Calculus	287
<i>Part V: The Part of Tens</i>	299
Chapter 16: Ten Uses for Parent Graphs.....	301
Chapter 17: Ten Pitfalls to Pass Up in Pre-Calc	309
<i>Index</i>	313

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	1
About This Book.....	1
Conventions Used in This Book.....	2
Foolish Assumptions	2
How This Book Is Organized.....	2
Part I: Foundation (And We Don't Mean Makeup!).....	2
Part II: Trig Is the Key: Basic Review, the Unit Circle, and Graphs	2
Part III: Advanced Trig: Identities, Theorems, and Applications	3
Part IV: And the Rest	3
Part V: The Part of Tens.....	3
Icons Used in This Book.....	3
Where to Go from Here.....	4
<i>Part I: Foundation (And We Don't Mean Makeup!)</i>	5
Chapter 1: Beginning at the Very Beginning: Pre-Pre-Calculus	7
Reviewing Order of Operations: The Fun in Fundamentals.....	7
Keeping Your Balance While Solving Equalities.....	10
A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words: Graphing Equalities and Inequalities	12
Graphing using the plug and chug method.....	13
Graphing using the slope-intercept form	13
Using Graphs to Find Information (Distance, Midpoint, Slope).....	15
Finding the distance.....	15
Calculating the midpoint	16
Discovering the slope	16
Answers to Problems on Fundamentals.....	20
Chapter 2: Get Real!: Wrestling with Real Numbers	25
Solving Inequalities	25
Expressing Inequality Solutions in Interval Notations	28
Don't Get Drastic with Radicals and Exponents — Just Simplify Them!	30
Getting Out of a Sticky Situation or Rationalizing.....	33
Answers to Problems on Real Numbers.....	36
Chapter 3: Understanding the Function of Functions	41
Battling Out Even versus Odd	41
Leaving the Nest: Transforming Parent Graphs	43
Quadratic functions	43
Square root functions	44
Absolute value functions.....	44
Cubic functions.....	44
Cube root functions	45

Vertical transformations.....	45
Horizontal transformations.....	46
Translations	46
Reflections.....	47
Combinations of transformations	47
Lucid Thinking? Graphing Rational Functions	50
Picking Up the Pieces: Graphing Piece-Wise Functions	53
Operating on Functions: No Scalpel Necessary	54
Evaluating Composition of Functions.....	56
Working Together: Domain and Range.....	58
Finding the Inverse of a Function (Who Knew It Was Lost?).....	60
Answers to Questions on Functions.....	62
Chapter 4: Go Back to Your Roots to Get Your Degree.....	73
Reason Through It: Factoring a Factorable Polynomial.....	73
Get Your Roots Done while Solving a Quadratic Polynomial	76
Completing the square	76
Quadratic formula	76
Climb the Mountains by Solving High Order Polynomials	78
Determining positive and negative roots: Descartes' Rule of Signs	78
Counting on imaginary roots	78
Getting the rational roots.....	79
Synthetic division finds some roots.....	79
Strike That! Reverse It! Using Roots to Find an Equation	81
Graphing Polynomials	82
Answers to Questions on Finding Roots.....	86
Chapter 5: Exponential and Logarithmic Functions	91
Things Get Bigger (Or Smaller) All the Time – Solving Exponential Functions	91
The Only Logs You Won't Cut: Solving Logarithms	93
Putting Them Together: Solving Equations Using Exponents and Logs	96
Solving Exponential Word Problems . . . Argh!.....	98
Answers to Problems on Exponential and Logarithmic Functions	100
<i>Part II: Trig Is the Key: Basic Review, the Unit Circle, and Graphs.....</i>	105
Chapter 6: Basic Trigonometry and the Unit Circle	107
It's All Right-Triangle Trig — Finding the Six Trigonometric Ratios.....	107
Solving Word Problems with Right Triangles	110
Unit Circle and the Coordinate Plane: Finding Points and Angles.....	112
Isn't That Special? Finding Right Triangle Ratios on the Unit Circle.....	115
Solving Trig Equations.....	117
Making and Measuring Areas	119
Answers to Problems.....	121
Chapter 7: Graphing and Transforming Trig Functions	127
Getting a Grip on Period Graphs.....	127
Sine and Cosine: Parent Graphs and Transformations	128



Tangent and Cotangent: Mom, Pops, and Children	131
Secant and Cosecant: Generations	134
Answers to Problems on Graphing and Transforming Trig Functions.....	137

Part III: Advanced Trig: Identities, Theorems, and Applications 143

Chapter 8: Basic Trig Identities.....145

Using Reciprocal Identities to Simplify Trig Expressions	145
Simplifying with Pythagorean Identities	147
Discovering Even-Odd Identities.....	148
Solving with Co-Function Identities	149
Moving with Periodicity Identities.....	150
Tackling Trig Proofs.....	151
Answers to Problems on Basic Trig Identities	153

Chapter 9: Advanced Identities.....161

Simplifying with Sum and Difference Identities.....	161
Using Double Angle Identities	163
Reducing with Half-Angle Identities.....	165
Changing Products to Sums.....	166
Expressing Sums as Products.....	168
Powering Down: Power-Reducing Formulas.....	169
Answers to Problems on Advanced Identities	170

Chapter 10: Solving Oblique Triangles177

Solving a Triangle with the Law of Sines: ASA and AAS	177
Tackling Triangles in the Ambiguous Case: SSA	179
Conquering a Triangle with the Law of Cosines: SAS and SSS	180
Using Oblique Triangles to Solve Word Problems	182
Figuring Flatness (Area)	184
Answers to Problems on Solving Triangles	186

Part IV: And the Rest . . . 193

Chapter 11: Complex Numbers and Polar Coordinates195

Performing Operations with and Graphing Complex Numbers	195
Round a Pole: Graphing Polar Coordinates	199
Changing to and from Polar	202
Graphing Polar Equations	204
Archimedean spiral.....	204
Cardioid	204
Rose.....	204
Circle.....	204
Lemniscate	204
Limaçon	205
Answers to Problems on Complex Numbers and Polar Coordinates.....	207

Chapter 12: Conquering Conic Sections	211
A Quick Conic Review.....	211
Going Round and Round with Circles.....	212
Graphing Parabolas: The Ups and Downs	213
Standing tall: Vertical parabolas.....	214
Lying down on the job: Horizontal parabolas	216
Graphing Ellipses: The Fat and the Skinny	218
Short and fat: The horizontal ellipse	219
Tall and skinny: The vertical ellipse	220
Graphing Hyperbolas: No Caffeine Required.....	222
Hip horizontal hyperbolas (alliteration!)	223
Vexing vertical vyperbolas (er, hyperbolas).....	225
Identifying Conic Sections	227
Converting from Parametric Form to Polar Coordinates and Back.....	230
Parametric form for conic sections	230
Changing from parametric form to rectangular form.....	232
Conic sections on the polar coordinate plane.....	233
Answers to Problems on Conic Sections	235
Chapter 13: Finding Solutions for Systems of Equations	243
A Quick-and-Dirty Technique Overview.....	243
Solving Two Linear Equations with Two Variables	244
The substitution method.....	244
The elimination method	245
Not-So-Straight: Solving Nonlinear Systems	247
One linear equation and one not.....	247
Two equations that are nonlinear	248
Systems of equations disguised as rational equations	248
Solving More than Two (Equations and/or Variables)	249
Graphing Systems of Inequalities.....	251
We're Partial to . . . Decomposing Partial Fractions!	253
There Is No Spoon: Working with a Matrix	255
Getting It in the Right Form: Simplifying Matrices.....	257
Solving Systems of Equations Using Matrices.....	259
Gaussian elimination.....	260
Inverse matrices	261
Cramer's Rule.....	262
Answers to Problems on Systems of Equations	264
Chapter 14: Sequences, Series, and Binomials — Oh My!	275
Major General Sequences and Series: Calculating Terms	275
Working Out the Common Difference: Arithmetic Sequences and Series	277
Be Fruitful and Multiply: Simplifying Geometric Sequences and Series	279
Expanding Polynomials Using the Binomial Theorem	281
Answers to Problems on Sequences, Series, and Binomials	283
Chapter 15: The Next Step Is Calculus	287
Finding Limits: Graphically, Analytically, and Algebraically	287
Graphically	288
Analytically.....	289

Algebraically290
Knowing Your Limits.....292
Determining Continuity.....293
Answers to Problems on Calculus296

***Part V: The Part of Tens*299**

Chapter 16: Ten Uses for Parent Graphs301

Squaring Up with Quadratics301
Cueing Up for Cubics302
Rooting for Square Roots and Cube Roots302
Graphing Absolutely Fabulous Absolute Value Functions.....303
Flipping over Rational Functions304
Exploring Exponential Graphs and Logarithmic Graphs304
Seeing the Sine and Cosine305
Covering Cosecant and Secant.....306
Tripping over Tangent and Cotangent306

Chapter 17: Ten Pitfalls to Pass Up in Pre-Calc309

Going Out of Order (Of Operations).....309
FOILed Again! FOILing Binomials Incorrectly.....309
Gettin' Down with Denominators.....310
Combining Terms That Can't Be Combined310
Forgetting to Flip the Fraction.....310
Losing the Negative (Sign).....311
Oversimplifying Roots311
Avoiding Exponent Errors.....311
Canceling Too Quickly.....312
Dealing with Distribution312

***Index*.....313**