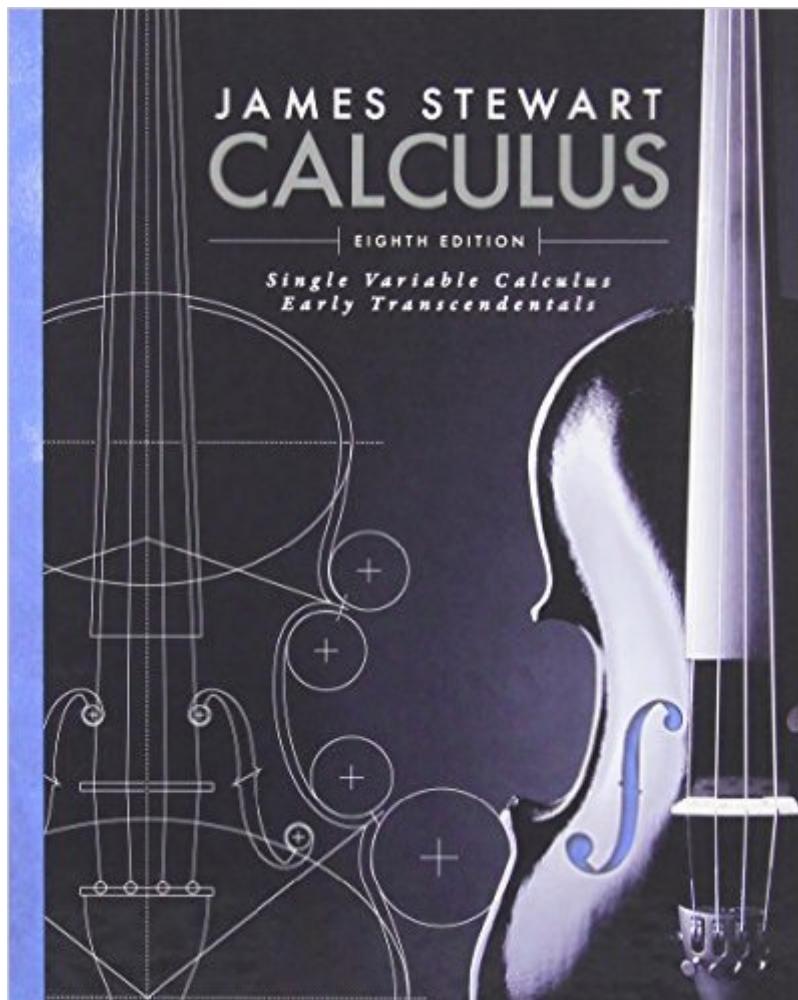


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# Single Variable Calculus: Early Transcendentals



## Synopsis

Success in your calculus course starts here! James Stewart's CALCULUS: EARLY TRANSCENDENTALS texts are world-wide best-sellers for a reason: they are clear, accurate, and filled with relevant, real-world examples. With SINGLE VARIABLE CALCULUS: EARLY TRANSCENDENTALS, Eighth Edition, Stewart conveys not only the utility of calculus to help you develop technical competence, but also gives you an appreciation for the intrinsic beauty of the subject. His patient examples and built-in learning aids will help you build your mathematical confidence and achieve your goals in the course.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm in the 2nd semester of Calculus with this textbook, and I am so continually frustrated and angered by the poor manner in which Stewart explains himself that I felt compelled to write this review to warn others. The professors apparently love it, but the students that I know hate it for the reason I just cited. The other reviewers have said much the same thing, and I wholeheartedly agree. I have used other math textbooks in earlier Algebra that were so easy to use, you almost don't even need a professor; you can just read the book and do the lessons. I believe that is the way a REAL textbook on a math subject should be: focused on the needs of the student who hasn't been studying math for 20+ years (like the author) and needs basic steps explained so that they don't spend endless hours trying to connect the dots when it should have been laid out for them. Even worse, I found, was the so-called Answer Book for this textbook. I paid >\$50 for it,

expecting to receive "the answers" to the problems. Instead, I received the "end of the answer" along with the same frustrating step-jumping explanation which many times did more to hurt than to help. I feel that if I have paid good money for the answers, that is exactly what I should get: ALL of the answer, including EVERY step and information needed to help me understand how he arrived at the answer. That was not given, so I definitely feel cheated in this purchase. As others have noted, if one needs a Calculus refresher book, this is a good one for that purpose; but it is a poor textbook for new Calculus students, even for those with strong math skills, IMO. Professors and College textbook purchasers: stay away from this book at all costs!!! Please, for the sake of your students. There are other Calculus textbooks which will work much better for your students.

The reviews speak for themselves. Half the 5 star reviews were comments on used book purchases and not the content. If they had 0 stars, that's what I'd pick. Most universities use this book because it's what the department head used when he went through college or as a PhD it looks the best to him/her. They don't take into consideration that it is useless as a teaching tool or homework tool....maybe. It is awful even though tons of schools use it. I had a 97% in class till we hit section 11 and this book is horrible in this section. An example is that the problems in one section will have to do more with the stuff learned in the previous section than they do with what was taught in that session so it gets confusing. It goes so far as to be flat out wrong in some of its theorems like the Alternating Series Test. It's bad when the professor has to say that the book doesn't really mean what it flat out says several times in the section. It even contradicts itself in the homework problems. These aren't typos, it's just wrong in many areas in this section. It's like Stewart got tired of writing and caring that what he was writing made sense and figured no one would get that far in the book anyway. (half the time he's right) Anyway, in every calc class I've taken with this book over half the class dropped, I've got an A so I'm not reviewing this on how I did, but on how poor the book is. Larsons Calc book is BY FAR a better calc book and every professor I've had including those who are forced to use Stewarts agree with that assessment. Avoid any school using this text book. Who would use a book with so many poor reviews? I think someone should research the drop rate of schools using this book and those using others. To cover that material schools are asking kids to cover requires a good book to aid in learning the material. Larsons book does that, Stewarts is a paper weight and a waste of money!

I'm not impressed with this book as a learning guide. As others have said, you can't learn calculus on your own with this book and I can assure you they are correct with that claim. You'll definitely

need a person with a thorough knowledge of calculus to answer every problem you encounter and trust me, you're going to encounter A LOT with this book! The example problems do very little with helping to solve the assignment problems. In fact, the example problems are as good as useless to me because the author doesn't EXPLAIN how they're solved. He just solves them and you have to figure out how he's doing it! It's so frustrating. As a student, there's nothing more discouraging than not being able to understand how to work your way through a problem and that's where this author fails. Rather than building your confidence and starting easy and gradually making the problems more difficult, you're just thrown into the meat grinder of calculus and expected to spend X amount of time deciphering gibberish formulas and trying to piece them into place in hopes that you've correctly applied it to the assignment problem. Every single problem I've worked through I've had to look in the answer section only to find out my answer as wrong and re-work the problem again and again to solve it. If your school uses this book (ie: you're forced into using this book), then I HIGHLY recommend you get the solutions manual and any other text such as a 'Dummies' book to accompany this one because it's going to be hard to learn calculus with this book alone. Bottom line: I don't recommend this book. If you're not required to buy it, then don't!

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