



## Synopsis

“In Gonick’s work, clever design and illustration make complicated ideas or insights strikingly clear.”  
—New York Times Book Review  
Larry Gonick, master cartoonist, former Harvard instructor, and creator of the New York Times bestselling, Harvey Award-winning Cartoon Guide series now does for calculus what he previously did for science and history: making a complex subject comprehensible, fascinating, and fun through witty text and light-hearted graphics. Gonick’s The Cartoon Guide to Calculus is a refreshingly humorous, remarkably thorough guide to general calculus that, like his earlier Cartoon Guide to Physics and Cartoon History of the Modern World, will prove a boon to students, educators, and eager learners everywhere.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“How do you humanize calculus and bring its equations and concepts to life? Larry Gonick’s clever and delightful answer is to have characters talking, commenting, and joking—all while rigorously teaching equations and concepts and indicating calculus’s utility. It’s a remarkable accomplishment—and a lot of fun.” (Lisa Randall, Professor of Physics, Harvard University, and author of Knocking on Heaven’s Door)  
Gonick is to graphical expositions of advanced materials as Newton or Leibniz is to calculus. The difference is that Gonick has no rival. (Xiao-Li Meng, Whipple V. N. Jones Professor of Statistics and Department Chair, Harvard University)  
Larry Gonick’s sparkling and inventive drawings make a vivid picture

out of every one of the hundreds of formulas that underlie Calculus. Even the jokers in the back row will ace the course with this book. (David Mumford, Professor emeritus of Applied Mathematics at Brown University and recipient of the National Medal of Science) I always thought that there are no magic tricks that use calculus. Larry Gonick proves me wrong. His book is correct, clear and interesting. It is filled with magical insights into this most beautiful subject. (Persi Diaconis, Professor of Mathematics, Stanford) It has no mean derivative results about the only derivatives that matter. A spunky tool-toting heroine called Delta Wye seems the perfect role model for our next generation. (Susan Holmes, Professor of Statistics, Stanford) A creative take on an old, and for many, tough subject. Gonick's cartoons and intelligent humor make it a fun read. (Amy Langville, Recipient of the Distinguished Researcher Award at College of Charleston and South Carolina Faculty of the Year)

A complete and completely enjoyable new illustrated guide to calculus. Master cartoonist Larry Gonick has already given readers the history of the world in cartoon form. Now, Gonick, a Harvard-trained mathematician, offers a comprehensive and up-to-date illustrated course in first-year calculus that demystifies the world of functions, limits, derivatives, and integrals. Using clear and helpful graphics and delightful humor to lighten what is frequently a tough subject, he teaches all of the essentials, with numerous examples and problem sets. For the curious and confused alike, The Cartoon Guide to Calculus is the perfect combination of entertainment and education—a valuable supplement for any student, teacher, parent, or professional.

Where were these books when I was a kid? These books are fun to read and easy to understand, Thanks Larry!! assure you, we are not related...I am an instructor and really appreciate good, well written instructional material.

This book explains Calculus on an easy to understand level. It does not have worksheets and exercises, but that is not the point. The point is that anyone can learn about Calculus. If you only learn the mechanics of how to solve the problems, you will end up lost, but this book prevents that.

It is a great teaching tool. It also is useful as a quick refresher of concepts.

Larry Gonick's new book on "The" calculus takes a traditionally fearsome subject and renders it

friendly, which is no mean feat. This book will get you through the introductory topics (polynomials, limits, functions, etc.) needed to acquire a basic fluency with the methods of differentiation and integration, which together form the foundation of calculus. I also appreciated the guidance on applications in statistics, as well as some idea of what to expect in more advanced topics. I would disagree with the previous reviewer on there not being any problems; they are given in later chapters. In fact, I found an omission in one: Chapter 8, Problem 3, part 2, dealing with methods of approximating the definite integral: "What do you get when you split the difference? [i.e. problems, 1, 2] Find:  $\frac{1}{2} (E_{\text{high}} - E_{\text{low}})$ " [graphically]. Do you see how this is the area of the light gray trapezoids?" My answer is "No". However, if the equation were  $(E_{\text{low}} + \frac{1}{2} (E_{\text{high}} - E_{\text{low}}))$ , my answer would be "Yes". I think the first term was accidentally omitted. But, see? That just goes to show that when you're supported by such a friendly book, you can actually have fun being curious, rather than intimidated. I was a little put off by the flatulent functions (cartoon characters) of the earlier chapters. Kind of gross (but imaginative).

My opinion, as a Math Professor, who struggles for making sure my students understand me, is that I've finally found a masterpiece!

A clear, well designed calculus guide for the math novice to the PhD major. Highly recommend

Larry Gonick makes difficult subjects enjoyable and, more importantly, understandable. I've really enjoyed flipping through these pages. I have, thus far, loaned it to 4 different family members.

It might've been nice if he'd had a bit more on the history of early developments and less rehashing of limits; but, overall it presents material, which is typically offered only in the driest theoretic terms, in a clear fashion that's always tied back to the practical and visualizable.

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