



Entertaining Mathematical Puzzles

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Playing with mathematical riddles can be an intriguing and fun-filled pastime — as popular science writer Martin Gardner proves in this entertaining collection. Puzzlists need only an elementary knowledge of math and a will to resist looking up the answer before trying to solve a problem. Written in a light and witty style, *Entertaining Mathematical Puzzles* is a mixture of old and new riddles, grouped into sections that cover a variety of mathematical topics: money, speed, plane and solid geometry, probability, topology, tricky puzzles, and more. The probability section, for example, points out that everything we do, everything that happens around us, obeys the laws of probability; geometry puzzles test our ability to think pictorially and often, in more than one dimension; while topology, among the "youngest and rowdiest branches of modern geometry," offers a glimpse into a strange dimension where properties remain unchanged, no matter how a figure is twisted, stretched, or compressed. Clear and concise comments at the beginning of each section explain the nature and importance of the math needed to solve each puzzle. A carefully explained solution follows each problem. In many cases, all that is needed to solve a puzzle is the ability to think logically and clearly, to be "on the alert for surprising, off-beat angles...that strange hidden factor that everyone else had overlooked." Fully illustrated, this engaging collection will appeal to parents and children, amateur mathematicians, scientists, and students alike, and may, as the author writes, make the reader "want to study the subject in earnest" and explains "some of the inviting paths that wind away from the problems into lush areas of the mathematical jungle." 65 black-and-white illustrations.

Entertaining Mathematical Puzzles Details

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Tanmoy Biswas says

A Good book for math enthusiastic people with elementary knowledge. Problems are few in number, but collected from different topics. Most of the problems are entertaining and not so hard to solve.

Maurizio Codogno says

Già prima di tenere la sua famosissima rubrica sullo Scientific American, Martin Gardner pubblicava problemini matematici su varie altre riviste: nulla di strano, visto che in fin dei conti la sua professione era quella di giornalista.

Molti dei problemi di questo libriccino ad esempio apparvero nella rubrica *On the Light Side* in "Science World". I problemi presentati sono tutti molto semplici, e alla portata anche dei lettori convinti di non essere portati per la matematica. Ma come capita sempre con Gardner, la parte migliore è la spiegazione dei problemi stessi: non solo una guida passo passo alla soluzione, ma anche una visione più ampia che fa capire come non è affatto vero che un problema sia sterile e fine a sé stesso. Insomma un libro che, anche se con quasi mezzo secolo di vita, meriterebbe una traduzione.

Lawrence says

FALSE

Mike says

I really liked it, but then, I am a geek for all things STEM, especially the _M_aths part. Your mileage may vary.

The game-strategy puzzles left me stumped. After an hour on "The Circle Of Pennies", I gave up and read the answer. Similarly for the next 3 puzzles..

The problems are accessible to young people, except for a few where the basis is the puzzle has been bypassed by modern culture. I'd say the reasoning skills necessary, though, are late middle-school or older

Izhan Noorzi says

I'd love to kill time with this rather than bringing up trivial stuff with friends.

Scott says

This a reprint of a 1961 book which itself was a collection of material which had appeared earlier in magazines so these puzzles have been around a while, and are likely to be familiar to you if you read this type of material. It's written on about a middle school level, which is a perfect fit for me - that's about the point at which I stopped maturing.

Sean Evans says

Entertaining Mathematical Puzzles by Martin Gardner (1986)

Pawan Mishra says

Trivial yet Intriguing.
