


Making Everything Easier!™

Pocket Edition

Basic Math & Pre-Algebra

FOR
DUMMIES®

A collection of colorful dice scattered on a yellow background. The dice are in various colors including yellow, green, pink, orange, purple, and blue. They feature mathematical symbols and numbers: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, %, +, -, =, and $\frac{1}{2}$.

Mark Zegarelli
Math tutor and writer

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Introduction

Why do people often enter preschool excited about learning how to count and leave high school as young adults convinced that they can't do math? The answer to this question would probably take many more books larger than this one, but solving the problem can begin right here.

Remember, just for a moment, an innocent time — a time before math-inspired panic attacks or, at best, induced irresistible drowsiness. In this book, I take you from an understanding of the basics to the place where you're ready to enter any algebra class and succeed.

About This Book

Somewhere along the road from counting to algebra, most people experience the Great Math Breakdown. Please consider this book your personal roadside helper, and think of me as your friendly math mechanic (only much cheaper!). The tools for fixing the problem are in this book.

I've broken down the concepts into easy-to-understand sections. And because *Basic Math & Pre-Algebra For Dummies* is a reference book, you don't have to read the chapters or sections in order — you can look over only what you need. So feel free to jump around. Whenever I cover a topic that requires information from earlier in the book, I refer you to that section or chapter in case you want to refresh yourself on the basics.