

Algebra I:

A Fresh Approach

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Preface

This book has been designed with the student in mind. The font is one that I consider “friendly,” and it is larger than that in most textbooks to make it easier to read. Furthermore, I have done my best to ensure that the students know what is being asked of them in using the answer blanks. Finally, there are pages at the end of each chapter in which the students can take notes.

As you read through this book, you may discover that I try to teach as few rules as I possibly can. For instance, the difference of two squares formula that is present in most textbooks is never discussed in this book. As another example, the student is asked to simplify expressions such as $(5x^3)(3x^2)$ long before they encounter the rule $x^m \cdot x^n = x^{m+n}$. I have done this very deliberately and for a very good reason. In my years of experience, I have found that, the more formulas and rules a student is exposed to, the more likely it is that he or she will get confused. However, given enough practice, almost all students will figure the formulas out on their own, and they will then remember the formulas and understand them much better than if they had been taught them.

