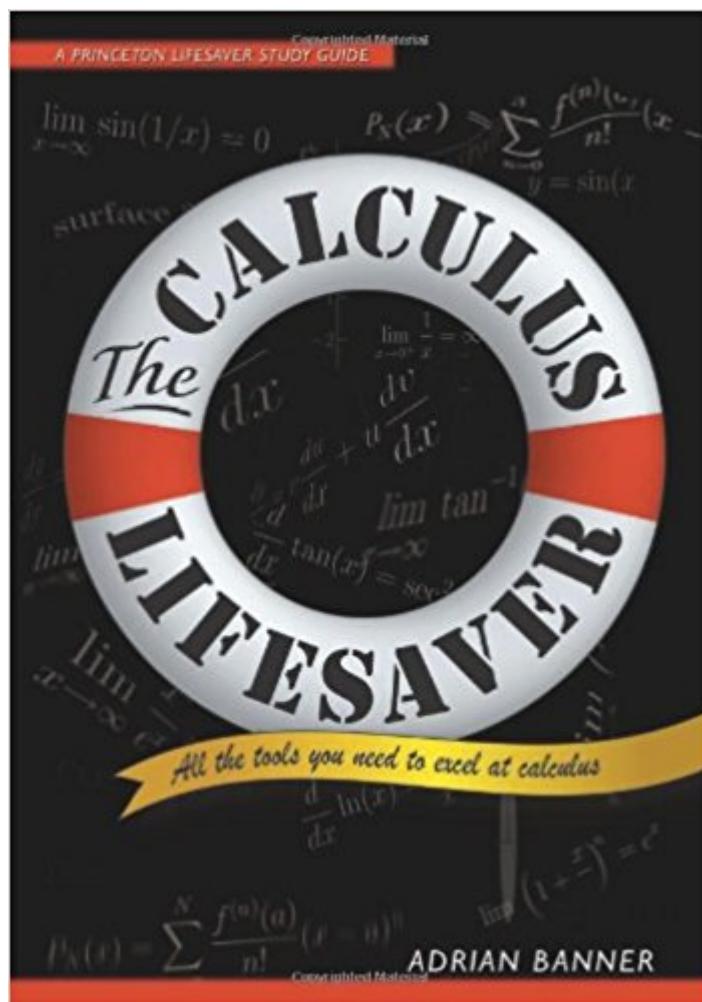


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# The Calculus Lifesaver: All The Tools You Need To Excel At Calculus (Princeton Lifesaver Study Guides)



## Synopsis

For many students, calculus can be the most mystifying and frustrating course they will ever take. The Calculus Lifesaver provides students with the essential tools they need not only to learn calculus, but to excel at it. All of the material in this user-friendly study guide has been proven to get results. The book arose from Adrian Banner's popular calculus review course at Princeton University, which he developed especially for students who are motivated to earn A's but get only average grades on exams. The complete course will be available for free on the Web in a series of videotaped lectures. This study guide works as a supplement to any single-variable calculus course or textbook. Coupled with a selection of exercises, the book can also be used as a textbook in its own right. The style is informal, non-intimidating, and even entertaining, without sacrificing comprehensiveness. The author elaborates standard course material with scores of detailed examples that treat the reader to an "inner monologue"--the train of thought students should be following in order to solve the problem--providing the necessary reasoning as well as the solution. The book's emphasis is on building problem-solving skills. Examples range from easy to difficult and illustrate the in-depth presentation of theory. The Calculus Lifesaver combines ease of use and readability with the depth of content and mathematical rigor of the best calculus textbooks. It is an indispensable volume for any student seeking to master calculus. Serves as a companion to any single-variable calculus textbook. Informal, entertaining, and not intimidating. Informative videos that follow the book--a full forty-eight hours of Banner's Princeton calculus-review course--is available at Adrian Banner lectures. More than 475 examples (ranging from easy to hard) provide step-by-step reasoning. Theorems and methods justified and connections made to actual practice. Difficult topics such as improper integrals and infinite series covered in detail. Tried and tested by students taking freshman calculus.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There are a few things to note about this book:1) It covers two semesters of calculus (math 103 and 104 equiv. at Princeton).2) It's accompanied by about 48 hours of online video lectures, available at the book's website, via [princeton.edu](http://princeton.edu). These lectures are of a "calculus review" nature, and are not the primary lectures for a calculus 1 or 2 course.3) Those seeking a calculus review or a supplemental helper to an existing calculus course will benefit most; those doing self-study will likely need additional material, especially for practice and skill building.  
**STRENGTHS:**-- Comes with ~48 hours of online video supplement.-- Explains most first year calculus concepts in an accessible manner; there are a full two semesters of material in this book.-- Concepts are accompanied by worked examples.-- A value at twice the price for anyone seeking a calculus refresher or a supplement to an existing course/text.  
**WEAKNESSES:**-- Lacks progressive reinforcement of many concepts; the reader is generally referred to previous chapters/sections for review.-- No practice problems or skill building exercises; only one worked exercise per variation is usually provided.-- Could benefit from a few more diagrams amidst descriptions and notation.  
**BOTTOM LINE:**-- If you are currently enrolled in calculus or looking for a review or a reference, chances are you'll love this book (note the 5 star reviewers).-- If you are a solo student looking for a replacement for classroom study, you may find this book a little less than satisfying.

I purchased The Calculus Lifesaver book written by Adrian Banner when I discovered that my knowledge of Calculus was beginning to get a bit rusty and I wanted to clear up some of the mathematical cob webs in my head. I read Mr. Banner's book cover to cover in a little less than 4 weeks. The book has 30 chapters consisting of 702 pages and has 46 pages of appendices. Although the book illustrates each mathematical subject area with a great many solved problems, it does not contain any problem sets that are specifically intended for the reader to solve. This could be a draw back for some and it probably prevents this book from being used as a classroom text, but for my purposes it worked well. Mr. Banner gives an in depth treatment of all the standard stuff like limits, differentiation, integration, Taylor and MacLaurin series, and he gives an

overview of topics such as parametric equations, complex numbers, arc lengths, surface areas, and volumes and differential equations. All in all I feel that this book was well written, easy to read, and interesting. Mr. Banner's approach is quite different from the classical, almost stuff shirt approach that was typical of the math books that I used way back in my under grad days. He does interject some colorful language from time to time which initially surprised me, and then later on amused me, and always kept me interested. This is an excellent book for those students looking for a second source to review for an up coming midterm exam. Treatment of specific subject areas is clear, concise and can be read and understood in short order.

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