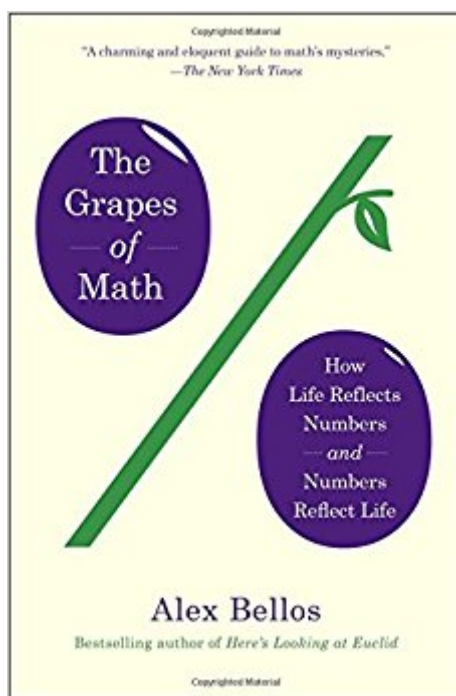




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# The Grapes Of Math: How Life Reflects Numbers And Numbers Reflect Life



## Synopsis

“A first-rate survey of the world of mathematics”  
Great reading for the intellectually curious. (Kirkus Reviews) from the bestselling author of *Here’s Looking at Euclid* • a dazzling new book that turns even the most complex math into a brilliantly entertaining read. From triangles, rotations, and power laws, to cones, curves, and the dreaded calculus, Alex Bellos takes you on a journey of mathematical discovery with his signature wit and limitless enthusiasm. He sifts through more than 30,000 survey submissions to uncover the world’s favorite number and meets a mathematician who looks for universes in his garage. He attends the World Mathematical Congress in India and visits the engineer who designed the first roller-coaster loop. “Channeling the spirit of Martin Gardner”  
Bellos introduces fascinating characters, from the retired cab driver in Tucson whose hobby is factoring prime numbers, to swashbuckling astronomer Tycho Brahe, who lost his nose in a duel over a math formula. Through intriguing characters, lively prose, and thoroughly accessible mathematics, Bellos deftly shows readers why math is so important, and why it can be so much fun. (Publishers Weekly, starred review). Get hooked on math as Bellos delves deep into humankind’s turbulent relationship with numbers, revealing how they have shaped the world we live in.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Another sparkling romp through the world of numbers, with the inimitable Alex Bellos as your friendly, informed, and crystal-clear guide. A brilliant successor to *Here’s Looking at Euclid*." (Ian Stewart, Professor of Mathematics, University of Warwick, and author of *Visions of Infinity*) "Love the

book! Fresh, fascinating and endlessly charming. A splendiferous book altogether." (Tim Harford, Financial Times, author of *The Undercover Economist Strikes Back*) "See, numbers don't have to be scary!" (Evan Davis) "Alex Bellos's *The Grapes of Math* is a delicious grab bag of mathematical miscellany that includes Benford's law, fractals, exponentials and imaginary numbers, the Game of Life, among many other goodies, all presented in a most entertaining style. Both fun and instructive." (John Allen Paulos is the author of several books including *Innumeracy* and *A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper*) "Think of the best storyteller you know and the coolest teacher you ever had, and now you've got some idea of what Alex Bellos is like. His *Grapes of Math* taught me something new on every page. Better yet, it made me laugh and want to tell someone what I'd just read. Math has never been so much fun." (Steven Strogatz, professor of applied mathematics, Cornell University, and author, *The Joy of x*) "[A] first-rate survey of the world of mathematics by a British practitioner of the art.... Great reading for the intellectually curious." (Kirkus) "Channeling the spirit of Martin Gardner, the Guardian's math blogger Bellos (*Here's Looking at Euclid*) reveals and revels in the pleasures of mathematics, which he has dubbed 'the most playful of all intellectual disciplines.' Bellos introduces fascinating characters, from the retired cabdriver in Tucson whose hobby is factoring prime numbers, to swashbuckling astronomer Tycho Brahe, who lost his nose in a duel over a math formula. Through intriguing characters, lively prose, and thoroughly accessible mathematics, Bellos deftly shows readers why math is so important, and why it can be so much fun." (Publishers Weekly (starred)) "An excellent book on what could be called 'mathematics appreciation.'" (Library Journal) "A charming and eloquent guide to math's mysteries." For its witty flourishes, it's never shallow. Bellos doesn't shrink from delving into equations, which should delight aficionados who relish those kinds of details." (New York Times) "Bellos's background as a storyteller makes *Grapes of Math* enjoyable whether you like math or not." (Metro) "The amiable Bellos is a people person, at heart, one who has compassion for those of us who feel a bit uncomfortable around a whole lot of numbers." (Boston Globe) "Bellos's voice is warm and witty, calming the fears of the math-averse and providing a concise primer on long-forgotten principles of algebra and geometry." (Shelf Awareness)

Alex Bellos has a degree in Mathematics and Philosophy from Oxford University.

Curator-in-residence at the Science Museum and the *>* math blogger, he has worked in London and Rio de Janeiro, where he was the paper's unusually numerate foreign correspondent.

In 2002 he wrote *>*, a critically acclaimed book about Brazilian football, and in 2006 he ghostwrote Pelé's autobiography, which was a number one bestseller. *>* was shortlisted for the BBC Samuel Johnson Prize and was a *>* bestseller for more than four months.

I love math....love this book. I am a mathematician and a retired analyst and accountant. The topics in the book appeal to my fascination with the study of number theory and geometry. Bellos writes with clarity and humor. Some math formulas and derivations may not be obvious to the average reader, but for those with math background or a love of math, they are well defined. In either case, the reader can skim the proofs and continue the lesson without math analysis. It is thought provoking and filled with "I never knew that!" I wish that this portal of info had been opened for me years ago, and I would have had the opportunity to branch out into some of the underlying thoughts and history of math. My college courses did not accommodate that, but now I am eager to find the reasons why I and others truly love the study of mathematics... it reaches far deeper than mere memorization and rote processes. This book takes the reader to a sub-level which brings new dimension to the study of math and numbers.

This is very simply the best, most engaging popular book on mathematics that I have read--and I've read a lot of them. It renders abstruse and difficult concepts comprehensible for the educated layman; most importantly, it conveys the excitement and beauty of doing mathematics. For people used to cringing in fear of math, it's a potential revelation -- an introduction to a world they had never imagined. For those already in the thrall of mathematics, it's a vindication of what they feel, not that they need a vindication! Excellent. (There is a kids' book also called "The Grapes of Math"--don't confuse the two.)

This is a great bedtime reading book. Lots of cool and interesting math facts not only for math enthusiasts but for any reader. Alex Bellos is a fantastic writer and I would recommend it totally. Plus, the book has a really good price. Dare to delve into the day-to-day math facts of life!!

We read of Physics on the fringe --- probably because the physicists are spending so much of our money. The Mathematicians, however, are out roaming in distant [ very distant ] realms with no public mention, whatsoever. Their efforts have led to revolutions in the way the rest of us process and execute information --- this is the story. You need to read it. Don't understand parts of it ? Maybe, you need to catch up.

I have read many of Bellos's books. They are always outstanding, giving to the reader insights not expected in the mathematical field. I recommend this to everyone mainly young people.

Mathematics and the modern world have everything to motivate people. Bello, in portuguese, is "beautiful" and that is what Bellos does to the reader's mind. Besides, he likes Rio de Janeiro and football...

One of my favorite books in recent memory. Don't let the math scare you. As the author says in the introduction, if the math gets too deep skip it and move on as he resets at each chapter. I think of this as a more a history of the development of math and I found it wildly interesting.

great book on mathemattics. I am not a mathematician, so this book explains thhe crux of trigonometry, calculus, etc. in fairly understandable language.

Excellent book, makes math more understandable, particularly calculus, along with entertaining history of the subjects.

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