



Conceptual Physics

Paul G. Hewitt

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Conceptual Physics Details

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Matt says

As a life-long student of physics, I consult my 5th edition often (Conceptual Physics: A New Introduction to Your Environment). Paul Hewitt provides insight and develops the reader's intuition about the Physics of a problem. This text serves as an excellent compliment to a calculus based physics text like Fundamentals of Physics Extended or an excellent stand-alone overview for students pursuing of other fields of study.

Beth says

Paul Hewitt is amazing! He's a natural educator with a special gift for taking something that's always taught mathematically and therefore rather intimidating to many, and explaining it at a simplistic level that makes even the biggest math-phobe say "Of COURSE! How obvious!"

Quick Paul Hewitt story: When he was on Kaua`i I had the pleasure of taking him around to three or four different schools and watching him teach the SAME lesson ... how to put an object into orbit around the planet ... to three different educational levels ... and taking every kid to an understanding of the topic on the level of his/her own thinking. Amazing! =)

Michele says

Forty years later, I still own this wonderful textbook from my days in Paul Hewitt's (author) Physics class at City College in San Francisco. Science was not my interest or strength at all when I was in High School. I just about flunked out of Chemistry, so never got far enough to be able to take Physics. Once in college, Paul Hewitt changed my interest and understanding of Physics forever through his Introduction to Physics class at City College. He taught from his own textbook, Conceptual Physics. The book answered so many questions I had been developing about my physical experiences, from light refraction to gravity and SO many other questions. Paul Hewitt made Physics comprehensible and interesting. I've had maintained this textbook on my bookshelves (not stored in a box), and I often re-read sections as a refresher. Consider it a blessing to read this book.

Wanda says

I rented this book for a class. As a student, I can say that this book made elementary physics so understandable that I am considering buying a copy for future reference. I also found the author, Paul G. Hewitt, on youtube demonstrating the physics that he teaches in the book. He makes physics fun and he uses plain language to explain the concepts. Hewitt is a top-notch teacher. I enjoyed his book very much. I passed the class with an "A".

Madhu says

I Guarantee this is going to be super interesting for physics beginners...

Not for advanced people..
Works for intermediate learners too...
You will love physics after reading this...
Trust Me...

Serethiel says

No more high school science... *collapses with joy*

Lex Javier says

I passed so many hours laughing at cute, nerdy jokes. I looked at the cute pictures, over and over and over again. We couldn't be separated from each other. It was love.

I've fallen in love in college, yes. With this book!

Why? Physics is a beautiful subject, and the author expresses the same opinion in every page. I survived harder, more mathematical textbooks thanks to this book's large, friendly letters. Most of all, after all the math has faded away, you will recall years down the road that you had plenty of fun learning physics, and loving it with all your heart.

VII says

Such a charming and engaging textbook.

LB says

This book is nothing short of brilliant. It is so rare to find someone who understands a complex topic so well AND knows how to explain it. Yay Paul Hewitt!

Sivasubramanyan M.V. says

hewitt gives a nose punch to all those who go around claiming that physics is a boring subject..an exciting book which showcases the beauty and importance of a subject like physics...this book would have definitely contributed to many many people getting interested in physics..I strongly recommend it to any one who hates physics..and obvioyly to all lovers of phtsics!

Ray says

Eh...not so bad. I made a B in the class.

Sade says

The author seems like a well-meaning individual with an immense passion for physics but he is not cut out for composing a textbook on physics, let alone one that's predominantly conceptual. This is a badly organized and poorly written tome which requires more studying than should normally be necessary. Chapters only superficially touch on complex concepts while the questions at the end of each section go into more depth. What the hell is that all about? Why not cover all the material in each chapter adequately instead of compelling students to desultory Google searches for the information that should be contained in the book?

Not only is the book painfully disorganized, but the author expects readers to know about various concepts before even sufficiently going over them. For example, why discuss "refraction" in chapter 27 without more or less explaining it until chapter 28? This is just one of the numerous other examples where technical physics words are thrown here and there without an adequate explication of their meaning until later in the book, forcing the reader to constantly resort to the internet for information that should be promptly provided by the author.

Although I have learned a good deal from this book, the learning process could have been much more efficient and productive if it weren't for such an incompetent writer. Please make this book more readable for the sake of future students!

Edit: The author is also painfully awful at defining key words (leaving out many things one should know in definitions) and negligent in emphasizing a myriad of words which every physics student should know. The American Heritage Dictionary overall is better at defining technical words even though it is less science-oriented.

P.S. PLEASE, HEWITT, READ CAMPBELL BIOLOGY TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO WRITE A GOOD SCIENCE BOOK. IT WILL MAKE THINGS MUCH EASIER FOR PHYSICS STUDENTS.

Sean Evans says

Conceptual Physics (7th Edition) by Paul G. Hewitt (1993)

David Hillman says

This is a must-have for every library, written by a SF City College teacher. Very accessible.

Thomas Stama says

Interesting text. I am not that much into physics unlike the crowd on the tv show Big Bang Theory. But I was a bit alarmed at one page in the text about our planet Earth. I got the feeling that the author seems ready to cast aside Earth. Almost an attitude of that it is like Earth is an egg and we are the chick within. The shell and egg white will be used up and cast aside while we go fly off in space ships.

This was page 7 and I quote:

"We seem to be at the dawn of a major change in human growth, not unlike the stage of a chicken embryo before it fully matures. When the chicken embryo exhausts the last of its inner-egg resources and before it pokes its way out of its shell, it may feel it is at its last moments. But what seems like its end is really only its beginning. Are we like the hatchling chicks, ready to poke through to a whole new range of possibilities? Are our spacefaring efforts the early signs of a new human era?"

The earth is our cradle and has served us well. But cradles, however comfortable, are one day outgrown. With inspiration that many ways is similar to the inspiration of those who built the early cathedrals, synagogues, temples, and mosques, we aim for the cosmos."

This author has within this statement hints that we should not worry about keeping Earth viable but discard it in time like an egg shell to a chick or a cradle to an adult. Worrisome to me this attitude. May science lead us forward into a better, healthier Earth and where ever we go!
