

Preface

Math doesn't change, but students' needs—and the way students learn—do.

With this in mind, *Prealgebra*, 8th edition, continues the Bittinger tradition of objective-based, guided learning, while integrating many updates with the proven pedagogy. These updates are motivated by feedback that we received from students and instructors, as well as our own experience in the classroom. In this edition, our focus is on guided learning and retention: helping each student (and instructor) get the most out of all the available program resources—wherever and whenever they engage with the math.

We believe that student success in math hinges on four key areas: **Foundation**, **Engagement**, **Application**, and **Retention**. In the 8th edition, we have added key new program features (highlighted below, for quick reference) in each area to make it easier for each student to personalize his or her learning experience. In addition, you will recognize many proven features and presentations from the previous edition of the program.

FOUNDATION

Studying the Concepts

Students can learn the math concepts by reading the textbook or the eText, participating in class, watching the videos, working in the *MyMathGuide* workbook—or using whatever combination of these course resources works best for them.

In order to understand new math concepts, students must recall and use skills and concepts previously studied.

- **New! Skill Review**, in nearly every section of the text and the eText, reviews a previously presented skill at the objective level where it is key to learning the new material. This feature offers students two practice exercises with answers. In MyLab Math, new **Skill Review Videos**, created by the Bittinger author team, offer a concise, step-by-step solution for each Skill Review exercise.

Margin Exercises with Guided Solutions, with fill-in blanks at key steps in the problem-solving process, appear in nearly every text section and can be assigned in MyLab Math.

Prealgebra Video Program, our comprehensive program of objective-based, interactive videos, can be used hand-in-hand with our *MyMathGuide* workbook. **Interactive Your Turn exercises** in the videos prompt students to solve problems and receive instant feedback. These videos can be accessed at the section, objective, and example levels.

MyMathGuide offers students a guided, hands-on learning experience. This objective-based workbook (available in print and in MyLab Math) includes vocabulary, skill, and concept review—as well as problem-solving practice with space for students to fill in the answers and stepped-out solutions to problems, to show (and keep) their work, and to write notes. Students can use *MyMathGuide* while watching the videos, listening to the

instructor's lecture, or reading the text or the eText, in order to reinforce and self-assess their learning.

Studying for Success sections are checklists of study skills designed to ensure that students develop the skills they need to succeed in math, school, and life. They are available at the beginning of selected sections.

New! Expanded Statistics Content Chapters 6–8 have been revised and reordered to allow for expansion of the material on statistics, as well as coverage of percents prior to the statistics material. Chapter 8, Data, Graphs, and Statistics, has been revised and expanded. Beginning with tables and graphs and continuing with discussions of one-variable statistics, frequency distributions, and probability, this chapter provides students with an introduction to foundational concepts of statistics. New to this edition is coverage of measures of spread, quartiles, frequency distributions and tables, stem-and-leaf plots, and construction of histograms and tree diagrams. Students completing this chapter will be better equipped to understand and analyze the data and graphs they encounter, as well as to enter an introductory statistics course.

ENGAGEMENT

Making Connections Through Active Exploration

Since understanding the big picture is key to student success, we offer many active learning opportunities for the practice, review, and reinforcement of important concepts and skills.

- New! Chapter Opener Applications** with infographics use current data and applications to present the math in context. Each application is related to exercises in the text to help students model, visualize, learn, and retain the math.
- New! Student Activities**, included with each chapter, have been developed as multistep, data-based activities for students to apply the math in the context of an authentic application. Student Activities are available in *MyMathGuide* and in MyLab Math.
- New! Interactive Animations** can be manipulated by students in MyLab Math through guided and open-ended exploration to further solidify their understanding of important concepts.

Translating for Success offers extra practice with the important first step of the process for solving applied problems. This activity is available in the text and in MyLab Math.

Calculator Corner is an optional feature throughout the text that helps students use a calculator to perform calculations and to visualize concepts.

Learning Catalytics uses students' mobile devices for an engagement, assessment, and classroom intelligence system that gives instructors real-time feedback on student learning.

APPLICATION

Reinforcing Understanding

As students explore the math, they have frequent opportunities to apply new concepts, practice, self-assess, and reinforce their understanding.

Margin Exercises, labeled "Do Exercise . . .," give students frequent opportunities to apply concepts just discussed by solving problems that parallel text examples.

Exercise Sets in each section offer abundant opportunity for practice and review in the text and in MyLab Math. The Section Exercises are grouped by objective for ease of use, and each set includes the following special exercise types:

- New! Check Your Understanding** with **Reading Check** and **Concept Check** exercises, at the beginning of each exercise set, gives students the opportunity to assess their grasp of the skills and concepts before moving on to the objective-based section exercises. In MyLab Math, many of these exercises use drag-and-drop functionality.
- Skill Maintenance Exercises** offer a thorough review of the math in the preceding sections of the text.
- Synthesis Exercises** help students develop critical-thinking skills by requiring them to use what they know in combination with content from the current and previous sections.

RETENTION

Carrying Success Forward

Because continual practice and review is so important to retention, we have integrated both throughout the program in the text and in MyLab Math.

- New! Skill Builder Adaptive Practice**, built into MyLab Math, offers each student a personalized learning experience. When a student struggles with the assigned homework, Skill Builder exercises offer just-in-time additional adaptive practice. The adaptive engine tracks student performance and delivers to each individual questions that are appropriate for his or her level of understanding. When the system has determined that the student has a high probability of successfully completing the assigned exercise, it suggests that the student return to the assigned homework.

Mid-Chapter Review offers an opportunity for active review midway through each chapter. This review offers four types of practice problems: **Concept Reinforcement**, **Guided Solutions**, **Mixed Review**, and **Understanding Through Discussion and Writing**.

Summary and Review is a comprehensive learning and review section at the end of each chapter. Each of the five sections—**Vocabulary Reinforcement** (fill-in-the-blank), **Concept Reinforcement** (true/false), **Study Guide** (examples with stepped-out solutions paired with similar practice problems), **Review Exercises**, and **Understanding Through Discussion and Writing**—includes references to the section in which the material was covered to facilitate review.

Chapter Test offers students the opportunity for comprehensive review and reinforcement prior to taking their instructor's exam. **Chapter Test Prep Videos** in MyLab Math show step-by-step solutions to the questions on the chapter test.

Cumulative Review follows each chapter beginning with Chapter 2. These reviews revisit skills and concepts from all preceding chapters to help students retain previously presented material.