

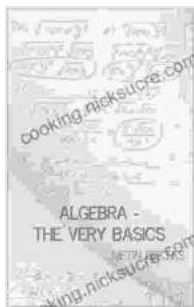
# Algebra: The Very Basics

## What is algebra?

Algebra is a branch of mathematics that deals with symbols and the rules for manipulating them. Symbols can represent numbers, unknown quantities, or even operations. Algebra is used to solve problems and make predictions.

## Variables

Variables are symbols that represent unknown quantities. In algebra, variables are often represented by letters, such as  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$ . For example, the variable  $x$  could represent the length of a side of a square.



## Algebra - The Very Basics by Metin Bektas

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 2773 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 109 pages
Lending	: Enabled



## Expressions

Expressions are combinations of variables, numbers, and operations. For example, the expression  $x + 2$  represents the sum of the variable  $x$  and the

number 2.

## **Equations**

Equations are statements that two expressions are equal to each other. For example, the equation  $x + 2 = 5$  states that the sum of the variable  $x$  and the number 2 is equal to the number 5.

## **Solving equations**

Solving equations is the process of finding the value of the variable that makes the equation true. To solve an equation, we can use the following steps:

1. Combine like terms on both sides of the equation. 2. Isolate the variable term on one side of the equation. 3. Divide both sides of the equation by the coefficient of the variable.

For example, to solve the equation  $x + 2 = 5$ , we would first combine like terms on both sides of the equation:

$$x + 2 - 2 = 5 - 2 \quad x = 3$$

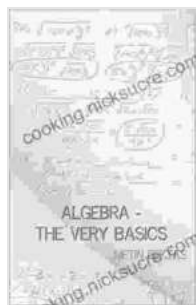
Therefore, the solution to the equation  $x + 2 = 5$  is  $x = 3$ .

## **Applications of algebra**

Algebra is used in many different fields, including science, engineering, and business. For example, algebra can be used to:

\* Calculate the area of a triangle \* Find the volume of a cone \* Solve financial problems \* Predict the weather

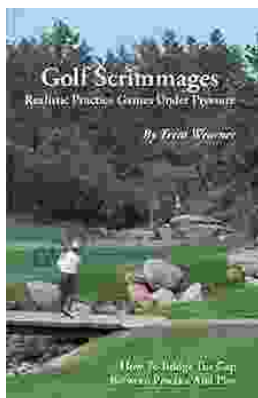
Algebra is a powerful tool that can be used to solve problems and make predictions. In this article, we've explored the very basics of algebra, including variables, expressions, and equations. With practice, you can learn to use algebra to solve even the most complex problems.



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