

Algebra I:

A Fresh Approach

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Table of Contents

Chapter 1 – Operations With Numbers

<i>Part I</i>	Negative Numbers	1
<i>Part II</i>	Fraction Review	3
<i>Part III</i>	Operations With Positive and Negative Numbers	5
<i>Part IV</i>	Review of Decimals	10
<i>Part V</i>	Exponents	14
<i>Part VI</i>	The Order of Operations	15
<i>Part VI</i>	More on Operations With Numbers	18

Chapter 2 – Variables Review

<i>Part I</i>	Variables	21
<i>Part II</i>	Variables and Exponents	24
<i>Part III</i>	Evaluating Expressions	26
<i>Part IV</i>	Collecting Like Terms	27
<i>Part V</i>	The Distributive Property	29
<i>Part VI</i>	Common Errors in Using the Distributive Property	31
<i>Part VII</i>	Mixed Review	34

Chapter 3 – Review of Solving Basic Equations

<i>Part I</i>	Equations	37
<i>Part II</i>	The Addition and Subtraction Properties of Equality	38
<i>Part III</i>	The Multiplication and Division Properties of Equality	41
<i>Part IV</i>	Solving Multi-Step Equations	45
<i>Part V</i>	Solving Multi-Variable Equations	50
<i>Part VI</i>	Mixed Review	54

Chapter 4 – Absolute Value and Roots

<i>Part I</i>	Absolute Value	57
<i>Part II</i>	Solving Absolute Value Equations	59
<i>Part III</i>	Square Roots Review	62
<i>Part IV</i>	Higher Roots	63
<i>Part V</i>	Adding and Subtracting Roots	64
<i>Part VI</i>	Multiplying and Dividing Roots	66
<i>Part VII</i>	Mixed Review	71

Chapter 5 – Formulas and Word Problems

<i>Part I</i>	Formulas	75
<i>Part II</i>	Using Formulas in Word Problems	79
<i>Part III</i>	Translating Words to Algebraic Equations	87
<i>Part IV</i>	Fraction, Decimal, and Percent Word Problems	92
<i>Part V</i>	Ratio Word Problems	96
<i>Part VI</i>	Mixed Review	101

Chapter 6 – More Word Problems		
<i>Part I</i>	Review of Solving Word Problems	105
<i>Part II</i>	Percent Increase and Percent Decrease Problems	116
<i>Part III</i>	Consecutive Integers	121
<i>Part IV</i>	Consecutive Odd and Consecutive Even Integers	124
<i>Part V</i>	Mixed Review	128
Chapter 7 – Graphing Equations in the Cartesian Plane		
<i>Part I</i>	Plotting Points in the Cartesian Plane	133
<i>Part II</i>	The Distance Formula	137
<i>Part III</i>	The Midpoint Formula	140
<i>Part IV</i>	Graphing Equations in the Cartesian Plane	144
<i>Part V</i>	Mixed Review	156
Chapter 8 – Slope and Intercepts		
<i>Part I</i>	Linear Equations	161
<i>Part II</i>	Introducing Slope and Intercepts	169
<i>Part III</i>	Using Slope and Intercepts to Graph Equations	180
<i>Part IV</i>	Mixed Review	190
Chapter 9 – Writing Equations of Lines		
<i>Part I</i>	Writing Equations of Lines Given the Slope and Y-Intercept	195
<i>Part II</i>	More on Writing Equations of Lines	199
<i>Part III</i>	Writing Equations of Horizontal and Vertical Lines	204
<i>Part IV</i>	Parallel and Perpendicular Lines	207
<i>Part V</i>	Mixed Review	214
Chapter 10 – Functions		
<i>Part I</i>	Domain, Range, and the Definition of a Function	219
<i>Part II</i>	Function Notation	224
<i>Part III</i>	Composition of Functions	228
<i>Part IV</i>	Direct and Inverse Variation	231
<i>Part V</i>	Joint and Combined Variation	235
<i>Part VI</i>	Mixed Review	240
Chapter 11 – Systems of Equations		
<i>Part I</i>	The Graphing Method	245
<i>Part II</i>	The Substitution Method	252
<i>Part III</i>	The Elimination Method	258
<i>Part IV</i>	Mixed Review	264

Chapter 12 – Applications of Systems of Equations	
<i>Part I</i> Number and Geometry Problems	271
<i>Part II</i> Age and More Number Problems	277
<i>Part III</i> Coin, Mixture, and Interest Problems	283
<i>Part IV</i> Distance Problems	292
<i>Part V</i> More Applications of Systems of Equations	301
<i>Part VI</i> Mixed Review	308
Chapter 13 – Inequalities	
<i>Part I</i> Solving Inequalities	313
<i>Part II</i> Graphing Inequalities on a Number Line	318
<i>Part III</i> Disjunctions and Conjunctions	324
<i>Part IV</i> Inequalities Involving Absolute Value	331
<i>Part V</i> Graphing Inequalities in the Cartesian Plane	336
<i>Part VI</i> Mixed Review	344
Chapter 14 – Operations With Monomials	
<i>Part I</i> Multiplying Powers of Numbers and Variables	349
<i>Part II</i> Zero and Negative Exponents	353
<i>Part III</i> Fractional Exponents	358
<i>Part IV</i> Mixed Review	362
Chapter 15 – Operations With Polynomials	
<i>Part I</i> Adding and Subtracting Polynomials	367
<i>Part II</i> Multiplication of Polynomials	372
<i>Part III</i> Dividing Polynomials	377
<i>Part IV</i> Mixed Review	387
Chapter 16 – Roots Revisited	
<i>Part I</i> Simplifying Roots by Breaking Them Up	393
<i>Part II</i> More on Multiplying and Dividing With Roots	397
<i>Part III</i> Rationalizing the Denominator	402
<i>Part IV</i> Solving Equations With Radicals	409
<i>Part V</i> Mixed Review	418
Chapter 17 – Factoring	
<i>Part I</i> Finding the Greatest Common Factor	423
<i>Part II</i> Factoring Out the Greatest Common Factor	425
<i>Part III</i> Finding Binomial Factors	427
<i>Part IV</i> Finding Complete Factorizations	433
<i>Part V</i> Factoring By Grouping	438
<i>Part VI</i> Mixed Review	442

Preface

This book has been designed with the student in mind. The font is one that I consider “friendly,” and it is larger than that in most textbooks to make it easier to read. Furthermore, I have done my best to ensure that the students know what is being asked of them in using the answer blanks. Finally, there are pages at the end of each chapter in which the students can take notes.

As you read through this book, you may discover that I try to teach as few rules as I possibly can. For instance, the difference of two squares formula that is present in most textbooks is never discussed in this book. As another example, the student is asked to simplify expressions such as $(5x^3)(3x^2)$ long before they encounter the rule $x^m \cdot x^n = x^{m+n}$. I have done this very deliberately and for a very good reason. In my years of experience, I have found that, the more formulas and rules a student is exposed to, the more likely it is that he or she will get confused. However, given enough practice, almost all students will figure the formulas out on their own, and they will then remember the formulas and understand them much better than if they had been taught them.

It is my goal that everyone who reads this book will understand what he or she is reading. You may e-mail any comments and/or suggestions to me at christy@aplusses.com.

