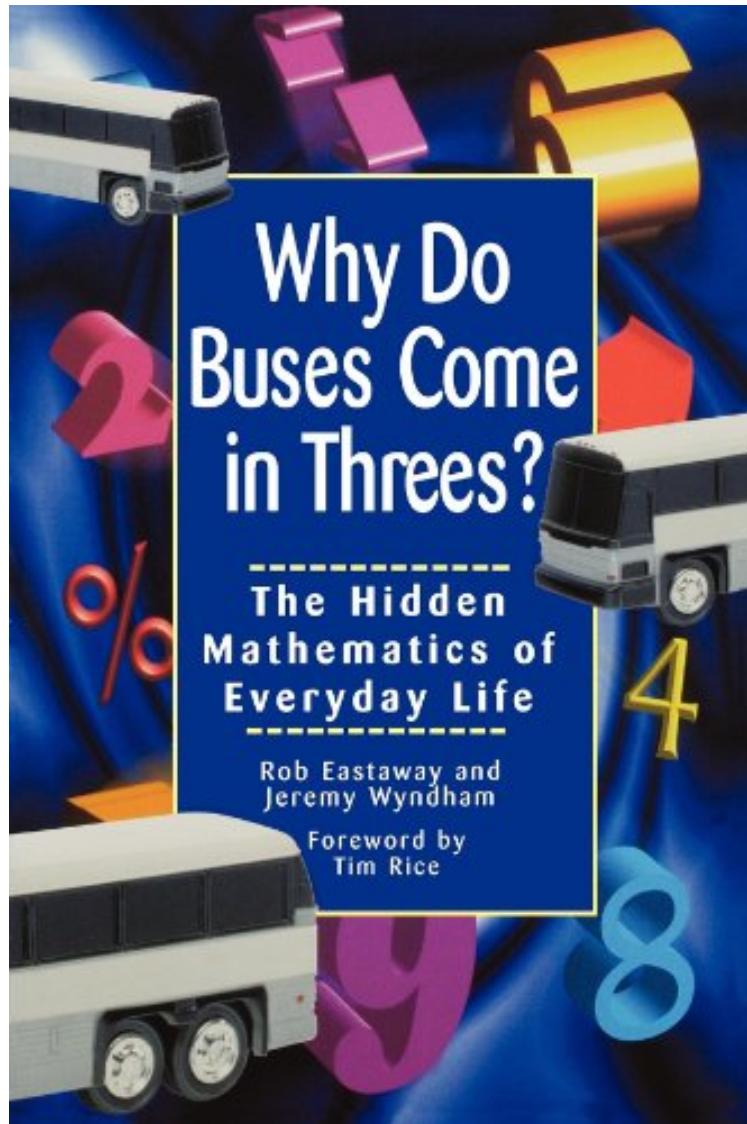


Why Do Buses Come in Threes? The Hidden Mathematics of Everyday Life

Rob Eastaway, Jeremy Wyndham

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Rob Eastaway, Jeremy Wyndham : Why Do Buses Come in Threes? The Hidden Mathematics of Everyday Life before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why Do Buses Come in Threes? The Hidden Mathematics of Everyday Life:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Enjoyable Read for the AnalyticalBy Trent HWhy Do Buses Come in Threes takes the reader on a journey through the world of daily mathematics. "The Hidden Mathematics of

Everyday Life" certainly describes the content of this book. It explains some of the most obscure of topics, while showing that math truly is pervasive in everything we do. Some of the many topics include: navigating a maze, the math of gambling, sports rankings, counting television viewers, and methods of coding. The authors illustrate each step of the math involved in these situations. Many of these calculations relate to probability and statistics. Perhaps the most intriguing question answered by the book is that of the title: "why do buses come in threes?" In reality, buses usually come in twos. Only on long bus routes is it common for buses to come in threes. The reason for this phenomenon is that buses often make long stops to allow large groups of passengers to board. When this happens, the next bus on the route usually approaches before the bus preceding it departs. A bus route must be very long for a third bus to join the bunch. Therefore, buses usually come in twos; only on very long routes do they come in threes. This type of logic is used throughout the book. Another chapter discusses coincidences. The chance of a "one-in-a-million" event happening is analyzed for several scenarios. The chance of a one-in-a-million event not happening is 0.999999. Supposing there are 100 chances for such an event to happen in a day, there is a 9,999 in 10,000 chance that it will not happen. This is derived by taking 0.999999 to the hundredth power. Therefore, there is a 1 in 10,000 chance of such an event happening. When this mathematical method is carried out for a twenty-year scenario, there is a 52% chance of such an event occurring. This type of thinking makes what may seem statistically impossible, possible. The book concludes with a chapter on magic and its relations to math, to convey the true quirkiness of the field. While the book may seem like little more than a collection of random applications of math, it actually makes an interesting point. It shows that most seemingly unexplainable situations can be rationalized. It provides hints on how to improve one's odds when gambling, playing the lottery, or playing any game. Such reasoning can be useful in our daily lives. Why Do Buses Come in Threes is a great read for anyone interested in the underlying patterns in life. It puts daily questions in perspective using logic and mathematical reasoning. This book earns four stars for its understandable explanations and originality. The next time you're wondering why a buttercup has five petals; this book may be of interest.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The best thing is By Aditya Sharma This is one of those books that are a collector's item! One can simply take this book off the shelf, read a few pages and keep it back - rejuvenated and mesmerized by the sheer force of mathematics all around us. The best thing is, that you don't have to be theoretical physicist or someone with a maths background to grasp this book... it is for all ages and all backgrounds!

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Amazing little book on mathematics of daily life. Superb! By lofey This lovely little book never fails to bring revelation as I read through the chapters. Praise should be given to the authors, not only for their insights in revealing the mathematical basis of ordinary issues, but also for their enthusiasm in promoting popular science through this successful work. Interesting examples from daily life capable of arousing curiosity were utilized to illustrate otherwise "serious" mathematical concepts: temperature of shower water (negative-feedback), dating (game-theory), "wonder numbers" in nature (golden ratio), bad luck (probability).....etc. Concepts were well-elaborated, conducted in a comprehensive and attractive, but never shallow or over-simplified, manner. The authors were just good at alluring readers to think and explore things more than "skin-deep", beyond what they seems like at surface. The writing style is attractive and humorous. This book is of immense value in enhancing reasoning, critical thinking and, most importantly, appreciation of life itself. Highly recommended.

""Deals in a very entertaining way with problems in normal life related to mathematics, luck, coincidence, gambling.""

? The Independent (London) Why do your chances of winning the lottery increase if you buy your ticket on Friday? Why do traffic lights always seem to be red when you're in a hurry? Is bad luck just chance, or can it be explained? The intriguing answers to these and other questions about the curiosities of everyday life can be found in this delightfully irreverent and highly informative book. Why Do Buses Come in Threes? explains how math and the laws of probability are constantly at work in our lives, affecting everything we do, from getting a date to catching a bus to cooking dinner. With great humor and a genuine love for the subject, Rob Eastaway and Jeremy Wyndham present solutions to such conundrums as how fast one should run in the rain to stay dry and who was the greatest sportsman of all time. Discover the mathematical explanations for the strange coincidence of two Presidents dying on July 4, the uncanny ""accuracy"" of horoscopes, and other not-so-coincidental coincidences. Eastaway and Wyndham also reveal how television ratings work, which numbers are more likely to be big winners in the lottery, and why bad things, just like buses, always seem to happen in threes. Whether you have a degree in astrophysics or haven't touched a math problem since high school, this book sends you on a fascinating journey through the logic of life where Newton's laws explain bar fights, exploding rabbit populations, and why showers always run either too hot or too cold. Why Do Buses Come in Threes? is a delightfully entertaining ride that reveals the relevance of math in absolutely everything we do.

.com If you've ever bought a Lotto ticket and wondered about your bad luck afterward, you've had to deal with math. From timing to probability, it pervades our every waking moment, and even the most crippling math phobia can't make it go away. Writers Rob Eastaway and Jeremy Wyndham throw up their hands in defeat and give in to the amusing, interesting, and practical aspects of math in Why Do Buses Come in Threes? Taking their title from the oft-noticed

phenomenon of clumping in mass transit, they explain in clear, commonsense language why this must be so. At the end of their description, you might be left with the uneasy sense that you just learned some math, and on quick review, you'll find that the authors have in fact snuck some in under your radar. In chapter after chapter, Eastaway and Wyndham successfully navigate statistics, codes, coincidences, and many other parts of our lives, peeling away the surface to show what's really going on to make things so weird and wonderful. Diagrams and drawings help to make their points even clearer, and there are almost never any scary formulas to frighten the timid. If you've been waiting your whole life to learn the "Ham Sandwich Theorem," or just want to put some old fears to rest, *Why Do Buses Come in Threes?* is the solution. --Rob Lightner 'An interesting read for even the most maths-phobic' - The Good Book Guide

From the Inside Flap

Why Do Buses Come in Threes? Why is it better to buy a lottery ticket on a Friday? Is bad luck just chance, or can it be explained? Is it possible to win every time without cheating? And can math greatly increase your odds of getting a date and even falling in love? If you've had the sneaking suspicion ever since the third grade that math is conspiring against you, you're right. Math and the laws of probability are constantly at work in our lives, affecting everything we do from getting a date to catching a bus. *Why Do Buses Come in Threes?* is a delightfully entertaining ride for anyone wanting to remind themselves or discover for the first time that math is relevant to almost everything we do. Buses that bunch, identical potato chips, and slicing a cake evenly for an odd number of guests all have their links to intriguing mathematical problems. With great humor and a genuine love for the subject, the authors present the solutions to such conundrums as how fast one should run in the rain to keep dry and who was the greatest sportsman statistically. Discover the mathematical explanations for the strange coincidence of two Presidents dying on July 4, the uncanny "accuracy" of horoscopes, the number of petals on a flower and seeds in an apple, and other not-so-coincidental coincidences. Eastaway and Wyndham also reveal how television ratings work, which numbers are more likely to be big winners in the lottery, and why bad things, just like buses, always seem to happen in threes. It's a fascinating journey through the logic of life where Newton's laws explain bar fights, exploding rabbit populations, and why showers always run either too hot or too cold. For the kids, the authors have devoted an entire chapter to tricks that entertain, teach, and baffle children with the magical properties of numbers. So climb aboard, take a ride, and discover the hidden mathematical code to some of life's greatest (and most irritating) questions.