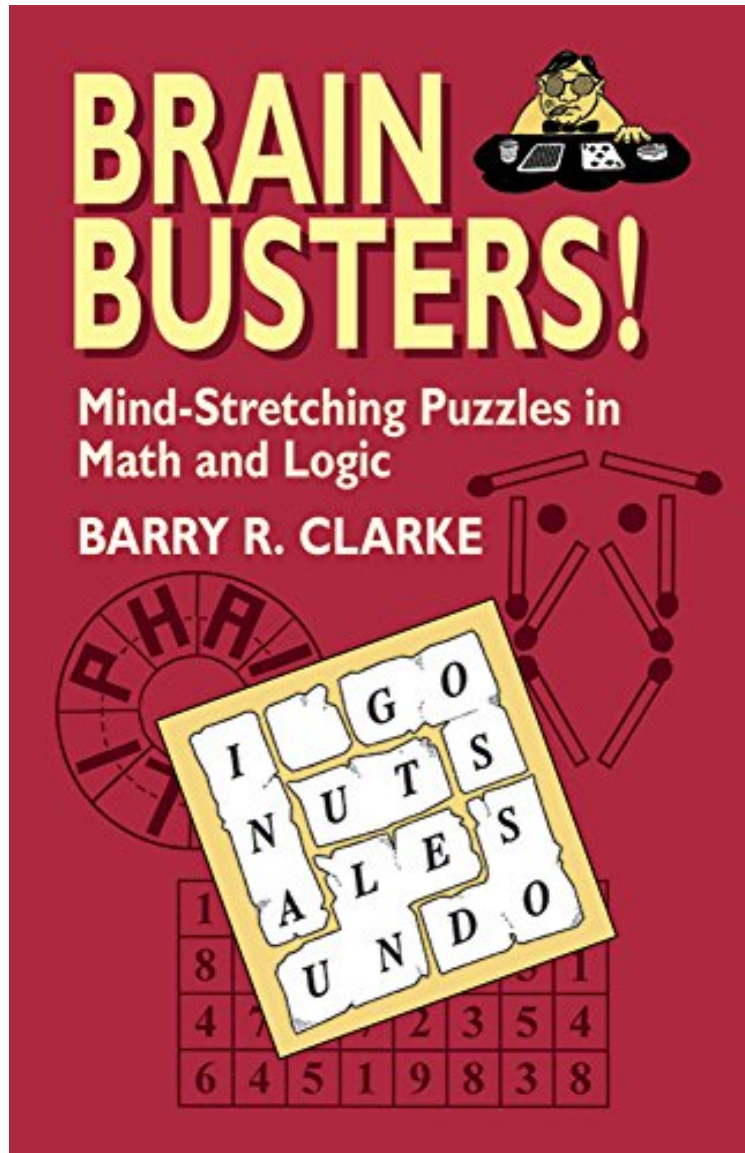


(Free) Brain Busters! Mind-Stretching Puzzles in Math and Logic (Dover Recreational Math)

Brain Busters! Mind-Stretching Puzzles in Math and Logic (Dover Recreational Math)

Barry R. Clarke

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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Brain Busters! Mind-Stretching Puzzles in Math and Logic (Dover Recreational Math):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good brain buster. By P. Kim Definitely good puzzles. Yes, it does

stretch your mind but the good thing is that there are difficulty levels. So you can train yourself with easy puzzles first before moving forward. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fun, fun By softballgirl I like to do brain busters to keep me in mental shape. For that reason I bought this book. It is fun, complicated and it really stretched my mind. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Not the mind stretching I expected By Minzoku Bokumetsu Non-blustery version: It's okay but nothing particularly special or memorable. Good for filling a rainy day at home, but there are better puzzle books for your money. "I have nothing better to do than read reviews" version: First, a caveat--I grew up on Raymond M. Smullyan's Alice in Puzzle-Land, so I have a particularly refined interest in puzzles, especially logic puzzles and riddles with especially clever answers ["Why do mathematicians get Halloween and Christmas mixed up?" (search Google for the answer, since I don't think this review forum does spoiler text)]. There are a few straightforward logic puzzles included in Brain Busters!, and the twist of including a list of all the answers with the catch that only one answer in each column is correct is interesting. However, that is about the extent of the cleverness in these puzzles. A number of the puzzles involve just trying to figure out the wording; e.g., from the introduction, "Did [your mathematical friend] know that square is a square?" I had to look up the answer to understand how that was a riddle! I even expected, for instance, the curious 4x4 word puzzle on the cover to have a clever answer, but the answer is just a different set of words with a convoluted meaning--no one would realistically write that kind of a message, so I was left wondering if I'd actually solved it or not. The Complex Crosswords are challenging but annoying; I ultimately ended up building a special spreadsheet in Excel to figure out the letter arrangements without any guides whatsoever other than the 10x10 grid. The Teaser Tales are even more convoluted, and I only figured out a few parts of each tale, even with hints. Also, seriously? A puzzle about how long does it take a party of six cannibals to eat each other until there's only one left alive? UGH. The artwork is middling but functional for the matchstick and other simple illustrations. I feel like for a professional publication, though, it couldn't hurt to have gotten a better artist, particularly one who pays attention to little details like the arrangement of the pips on dice--if you want to try to solve THE VERY FIRST PUZZLE by arranging physical dice, like I did, you won't get it to match, because the artist didn't bother to check actual dice to see that they won't line up. It's a small detail that ultimately doesn't affect the solution, but it reveals that whoever drew the picture Did Not Care enough to make them match. On the plus side, both hints and solutions are included in separate sections, and out of order, so it's harder to accidentally see the hint/answer for the next puzzle. This should be a feature of any good puzzle book. Of course, the hints/answers section takes up a good third of the 108-page book, so keep that in mind if you're looking for one with longevity. Granted, you may spend a long time trying to parse these puzzles as it is.

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