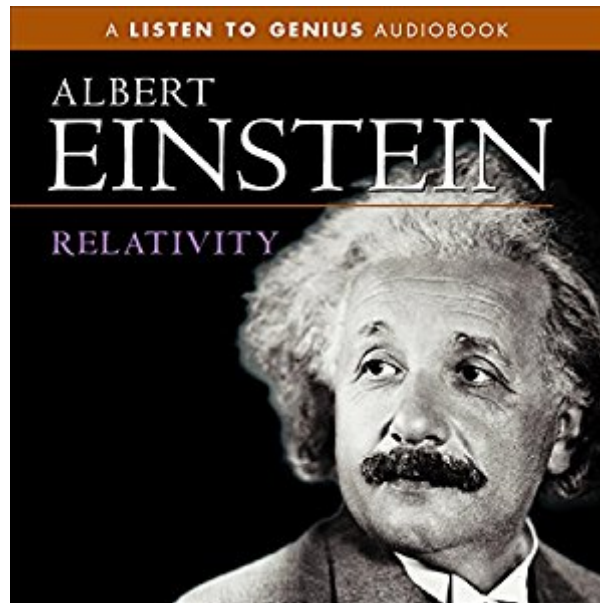




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# Relativity: The Special And The General Theory



## Synopsis

Relativity: The Special and General Theory This is an introduction to Einstein's space-bending, time-stretching theory of Relativity, written by the master himself. Special and General relativity explain the structure of space time and provide a theory of gravitation, respectively. Einstein's theories shocked the world with their counterintuitive results, including the dissolution of absolute time. In this book he brings a simplified form of his profound understanding of the subject to the layperson. In the words of Einstein: "The present book is intended, as far as possible, to give an exact insight into the theory of Relativity to those readers who, from a general scientific and philosophical point of view, are interested in the theory, but who are not conversant with the mathematical apparatus of theoretical physics." The book is challenging at times but, when approached patiently, proves itself one of the most lucid explanations of Relativity to be found anywhere. --This text refers to the Kindle Edition edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A Century later and still teaching us. Thank you Professor! Some of the language is archaic as well as the examples used to describe, such as Train Carriages, however the message is clearly defined.

Good read, and a great layman's introduction to Einstein's relativity theories. It isn't heavy on math and relies more on logic to deduce the characteristics of Special Relativity from the two postulates. The math is briefly presented for those who want to read it, and the appendices cover derivation in

more depth. The sections on General Relativity are weak, but this is expected given the target audience. Special Relativity is fairly intuitive (especially as presented in this book), but General Relativity is nearly impossible to understand without an in-depth study of the mathematics involved which this book tries to avoid.

Good but very hard to understand.

A surprisingly readable overview of Special and General Relativity by The Master himself. Einstein clearly wanted the general public to have an understanding of the counterintuitive aspects of Relativity. If you watched "Genius" on NatGeo, this is a great next step in appreciating Einstein's gifts.

Most scientific genius' are poor at communicating their ideas to lay people who aren't versed in their high level math and vocabulary. Einstein, on the other hand, is superb at explaining the complex in simple, non scientific, non mathematical, and NON CONDESCENDING terms! While, obviously, I am against any government forced reading list, if there were one, I'd put this one at or near number one on any such list. It should certainly be required reading for all college graduates, regardless of their major. Park your preconceived ideas of what you \*used to\* think what the universe was and prepare to be blown away at this incredible "theory" (It should no longer be called a theory as it has been proven over and over in real world experiment after experiment)! It will certainly open your mind to new possibilities and to new ideas of what the universe is (or at least, what it \*isn't\*). After reading this, go get "Quantum Electrodynamics", a collection of lectures by Richard P. Feynman, to continue your maddening journey through wacky, but true, insights into what's \*really\* going on and what this universe really is about. It really is a quantum leap forward in thinking. You'll just have to read it to believe it (possibly several times). After that, search .com for information about faster than light transmission for even more mind blowing ideas that are becoming a reality. If you thought science fiction was way out there, wait til you learn about science fact! Science truly is stranger than fiction.

What can you say? It's Einstein - it's not like he doesn't know what he's talking about. I write on technical subjects all the time - for an audience that is very unsophisticated. On that basis I can say that even though he wrote for the layman here, it could be a bit more accessible if he'd taken a bit different approach. But that's water under the bridge - a classic from the man himself - it's like

critiquing Aristotle.

Although the basic concepts of relativity and space-time are nicely illustrated in the early parts of the essay, I personally struggled toward the end as he delves into more detail. I would recommend this book as a starter for anyone interested in pursuing the difficult understand of the theories of relativity as this rather short white-paper deals with the subject in a very concise, straightforward presentation. I will probably go one step further now and read a more contemporary presentation of his theories (facts).

interesting but little math or tech.

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