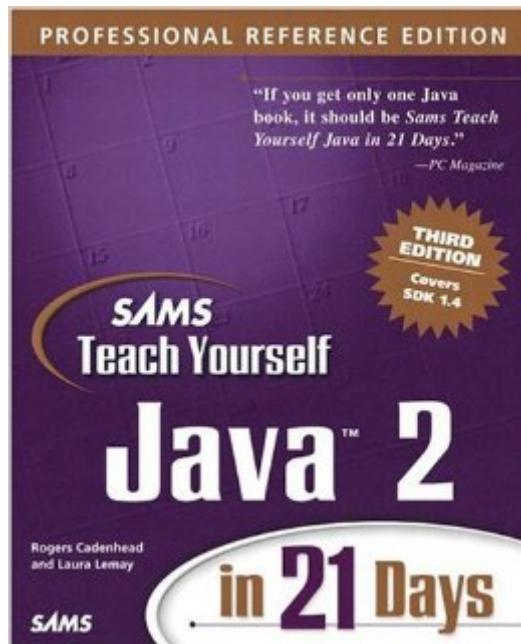


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Sams Teach Yourself Java 2 In 21 Days, Professional Reference Edition (3rd Edition)



Synopsis

Sams Teach Yourself Java in 21 Days, Professional Reference Edition, 3/E continues to be one of the most popular, best-selling Java tutorials on the market. Written by two expert technical writers, it has been acclaimed for its clear and personable writing, for its extensive use of examples, and for its logical and complete organization. This new edition maintains and improves upon all these qualities, while updating, revising, and reorganizing the material to cover the latest developments in Java and to expand the book's coverage of core Java programming topics. The Professional Reference Edition includes seven additional bonus chapters, a complete Java reference section, and a CD containing Sun's Java SDK.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I found most of the content in the negative reviews here bewildering. To take some examples: "The code doesn't compile" - yes it does. "They teach you deprecated code" - yes they do. This is because if you want to write applets, you have to use deprecated code. This is reiterated frequently throughout the applet section. They also teach you Java 2 code. "They don't explain the examples" - yes they do, often giving line-by-line explanations. There are a couple of early examples that use yet-to-be-explained code, but they tell you this (it would be impossible to write functioning code with all you learned in day 1). "They don't build on a foundation" - yes they do. The class concept is clearly explained, then the syntax, data types, then you move onto applet writing. I suspect most of

the negative contributors here are merely venting their frustration. My only problem with this type of book is that it is unrealistically titled - you will only get through it in 21 days if you don't have a day job, don't take notes, and don't revise. Other than that, it was one of the better tutorials in this series.

As long as you understand Object-Oriented Programming basics, this is a good place to start for learning Java. Good as a primer before you get into a book that covers Java more deeply. Of course, to really learn any language you need about 8 books on it, so don't be surprised if there's some things this book doesn't cover. It teaches you the basics of class structures, etc. and spends a lot of time on applets. I'd say that if you wanted to learn to write applications in Java 2, this is not the book for you. It mentions nothing-to-little about the implementation of data structures in Java (i.e. stacks, trees) and reading from / writing to files. Also, it assumes knowledge of SQL for the later, advanced chapters.

I'd only recommend Teach Yourself Java 2 in 21 Days if nothing else is available. First, let me say that a few have eluded to the "cutesy" writing style the authors intersperse throughout this book. It's not as sickening as they claim; in fact, it's actually one of the saving graces of the book, adding enough humor and "down-to-earthness" to keep the reader somewhat interested in it. My beef is the confusing teaching style Lemay and Cadenhead present. It often leaves the reader frustrated and perplexed by jumping around back and forth in the book searching for a clear explanation on how to do anything within Java. Here's what I mean: frequently, new terminology is only briefly touched upon within a chapter (and it usually doesn't tie in directly with the chapter's subject matter), only to abruptly conclude with "We'll get into this topic more tomorrow" or "we'll cover this more next week". When the topic is reconvened later, you're automatically expected to have a thorough knowledge of it. This leaves you thumbing through previous pages trying to look for any explanation on it. I found that the first seven chapters are especially good (or should I say bad) at this. I can realistically say that at the end of the first week, some beginners still won't know the differences between variables, statements, and methods -- all basic elements taught "in detail". The examples sometimes include elements that aren't even mentioned until several chapters later. As you're going through lines of code, there's the odd syntax with no details on what it actually does within the example. You're just expected to accept it. If you're new to Java, and like to know what's going on at all times, this would prove to be quite mind-boggling. While this is admittedly unavoidable, there are so many times the authors could've started out with simple concepts (and examples to match them) and "build up" gradually. Speaking of the examples -- I feel there should have been more in each chapter. Unless

you're the type who remembers everything after being told only once, you'd need more examples and sample applications and applets to help the material "sink in".

This book does not try to help you if you are a beginner. It has codes which do not explain what the programming lines do, only what the program does. If you want a good java book and have no experience at all, get Java 2 by Ivor Horton.

I am a beginner in the world of programming. In addition, I know that Java is quite difficult to grasp. Thus, I knew it will take time for me to learn the language. When, I first read this book I had trouble understanding it. I was quite frustrated. However, I stuck with it and read it another time and another time. It took me about 21 days to read the book three times. Meanwhile, the Java light bulb in my head finally lit up. Nevertheless, here is my advice to the beginning Java programmers of the future:(1) BE PATIENT and eventually you will learn the language of Java. (2)Preview the chapters and read their summaries before studying them. (3) Read the parts or chapters of the book that were difficult to learn again and again, until you master them. (4)Try to understand and utilize rather than memorize the concepts of Java. (5) Read more than one related book on Java; you will realize that some books explain certain concepts of Java better than others and cover concepts of Java that some books fail to cover. Afterwards, you will agree that this book deserves 5 stars.

I am a mainframe programmer and I wanted to branch into Object Oriented Programming (OOP). This Java book is an excellent source for learning both Java Programming and OOP concepts. All of the code samples were great and the authors explained in detail what the code was actually doing. I was very pleased and would recommend all of the "Sams Teach Yourself..." books especially to beginners. I have also have the HTML and XML books and they are great as well.

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