

Re: David's letter to sci.math

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- > *There is only one cure for that: work*
- > *problems – lots of them. No matter*
- > *who explains it to you in the context of*
- > *answering your question, you will*
- > *never understand how to answer each new*
- > *question you have unless you start*
- > *answering some questions yourself.*

Yes! This is what Feynman meant by the last thing he ever wrote on his blackboard (probably deliberately the last thing): "What I cannot create, I do not understand".

This was most striking to me when I read "introduction to special relativity". I forget who it was by, but on the back it said "suitable as a textbook for or a graduate class in special relativity". Amazingly, SR math is not beyond me and I remember once accidentally laughing out loud on the subway as I worked the problems.

It was a joy to work them, because not only is it fun, but the problems were not like a "test", but were stated so that you learned free bonus stuff by working them. I had so much fun reading that that I was truly sad when it ended.

Unfortunately, the internet doesn't have very many (serious) quizzes like that, particularly linked to course material, and particularly not in something as obscure as SR.

If you know of any Bilge, please let me know!

For some reason, when I ask something here, people assume it just occurred to me five minutes ago on the toilet seat, when in fact I spend literally hours investigating something before I bother you guys with it.

What I ask here is just the teeny tip of an iceberg of questions, most of which I figure out, thanks to the internet.

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