

Student feedback collected via email from Allied Health students here at Saddleback College who viewed contextualized learning modules delivered via the Algebra2go website.

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I have had some sort of math phobia since childhood. I somehow satisfied Cal State Long Beach's math requirement and went on to get my B.A. in political science. I do very well in all other areas of academics. For whatever reason I get a feeling in my stomach that is similar to the one I get sitting in the dentist's chair when it comes to math stuff. Going to nursing school has become a dream of mine and wouldn't you know it, the several prereqs I have needed like to visit math from time to time.

I found the exercises very helpful for a couple of reasons. First, the attractive video format with the worksheets provided a refreshing departure from the traditional way of learning math. The ability to start and stop gave a person like me with a math allergy the ability to go at my own pace without feeling like Forrest Gump in front of my peers. Also, the upbeat attitude of professor Perez made it much more tolerable. It was a good idea to leave parts of the conversion problems blank on the worksheets because it kept me involved and attentive. It is nice to know that all I have to do is shoot over to the web site if I need a refresher.

The only suggestion I have involves our pal Charlie. It would have good to see him drop the ball a few times. Don't get me wrong, I'm a huge Charlie fan. It just would have been helpful to see some mistakes people commonly make. That way I could develop a mental list of possible "watch outs". That is very minor. The exercise was very worthwhile. Thank you very much for the help.

First of all, thank you Mr. Perez for assisting us with our chemistry course. I really appreciate the time you have given us. The refresher was...refreshing!

The first two videos on scientific notations were a little confusing to me. My first question: Do we in chemistry 108 have to follow the rule that the first number must be equal to or greater than one, but less than ten? Maybe add that to either the syllabus or the video itself.

I didn't need a refresher on scientific notation, but after watching the video I felt kind of confused. I think it is when you know how to do something well you skip steps, so when someone goes in to fill-in those missing steps that is when you get confused. At least I did. I feel that if you didn't understand scientific notation, the video was a little too fast paced. I did like the fact that Charlie always gave correct answers. That made it less distracting because everything that you heard was accurate information.

The video on metric prefixes reinforced my understanding on those prefixes. It was great for a more comprehensive understanding of the ratios within the metric system.

The video on metric review was great. I feel much more secure in my understanding of the metric system, and again, with my knowledge of the metric prefixes.

The video on conversions was one of my favorites. Mostly because as the problem was given, I could pause the video, do the problem, and then see if I was correct. It was reassuring to see that I was going in the right direction. I also liked that Dr. Perez stated over and over within the videos that there are many different ways to get the same answer. I found that I in fact did go in a different direction than Dr. Perez, but the end result was the same. I was worried about my thinking process, but after watching the video I now see that I just do a different conversion at a different place. Ultimately, it just follows the communitive property.

Lastly, the video on metric conversions was the most useful to me for where I am in this course. I was pleased to say that I understood everything that was said, and all my conversions were accurate.

I am glad that I chose to do this extra-credit assignment because I feel much more confident about doing the formulas and calculations for this class. Oh yes, I almost forgot, I also am most appreciative for the cross cancelling review while doing conversions!

Thank you both for helping me with this course. If there are anymore videos to watch that would benefit a chem. 108 student, let me know!

Thank you so much!! It was brilliant. I used the review for chem 108, and it really helped me, and was more entertaining than a "real" tutor. Thank you.

Hello!

Thank you for that production it was fun and fast. I was able to see where I was strong and where I needed to practice more.

On the 5th practice sheet I was able to imagine that the negative sign in the scientific notation, was pointing to the left to move the decimal that way. Before I would always make a note that if the unit was smaller the number would have to be larger. Which still works of course it just takes longer.

In the metric review you explained ccs again, which was excellent because I couldn't find any conversion for it in the book and didn't write it down from the lecture. So that really helped!

On the page where you convert 15 yards to cm why aren't we using significant figures? It would be useful to round to significant figures. I understand that would be another video on describing that but necessary.

Also, converting areas and volumes to other units was very helpful as I don't recall EVER doing that before!! So thank you for that.

I need a video in converting Fahrenheit to Celsius and back again. Why do you factor in the 32 point difference first going one way but not the other??

So 2 more videos!! Yay!! One on F to C and back again and one on rounding to significant figures (early on in the sequence of course:-).

I'm not able to use my college email as I don't know how, so I used my personal email. Just finished with chem 108 math review. The videos were very informative and easy to understand. Thank you very much. Is there a way you could include a little section on rounding off?

About Charlie, you are doing very well without him. Charlie is funny but destructive at times. May be you should consider sending Charlie to another math class. Chem 108 math needs concentration.

The videos were informative, but moved a little too fast for me. And it would've been a little less distracting if it had just been straightforward. I have a very hard time with math, and the presentation was distracting at times. The dorky student was a little over the top.

It did help though, and thank you for taking the time to put that together, it was greatly appreciated.
Thanks!

Thank you so much for taking the time to construct these review videos. I took math 253 with you a few years ago and I feel you have great teaching style. I have found every aspect about them use full as I have seemed to have forgotten nearly everything. Thank you again for your time and keep up the good teaching.

Hello,

I just completed the math review and wanted to leave the required feedback. I think that for someone new to these math concepts, the videos are great. They move quickly through the concepts and are entertaining. The one thing that I would change is to condense the worksheets so that they don't take up so much paper to print. Possibly you could fit 4 screens to page.

Hello Professor,

I watched all your CHEM 108 Math Review videos and I love them. I have had math classes in the past, but I have a lot of trouble with it. I've taken Algebra before and tried to take Intermediate Algebra a few times and was unsuccessful at it. I believe that if that class was taught in the way you teach math in these videos I would have been successful. One thing that I think might be helpful would be to have some density formula problems. I had a little trouble with those.

Thank you so much for taking the time out to develop these videos. They really helped me a lot.

Dear Professor Perez,

I really learned a lot from watching your videos on scientific notation. I thought your explanations were very helpful considering math is not my strong subject. The only thing I think could be improved on is if the video would give pauses for those watching to attempt each problem on their own before the answer is given.

Hello Professor Perez,

I enjoyed your video lecture. It really helps me to hear and see, step by step, the process of figuring out the answers. Thank you also for explaining the reasoning behind some of the calculations. I realize there are times when I know what I'm doing and what numbers to use, but don't know why. Charlie is a very good student. He also helped to keep the lecture more interactive (and entertaining).

Professor Perez,

Your math skills review program is amazing!! It really helped me freshen up on my conversions and chemistry math problems. Thank you so much.

Good Morning Prof Perez-

I watched all the videos which were very helpful- I just didn't know that I had to click on the red check marks to get to each individual video, too easy, I was making my life more complicated- Perhaps adding a note /instructions to click on the red check marks would help others not so keen on computer usage as myself- But I did want to let you know that these videos are great refresher tools- Short cuts to exponents- if positive move to the right, if negative to the left-Little things make big differences-And Charlie rocks ! Thank you for all the effort, time and consideration you gave to other students that aren't yours- It is appreciated-

Thank you again

Math is not my best subject and after viewing the youtube videos & working on the worksheets was very helpful. The worksheets were simple and I was able to follow along while viewing the videos. I really like how useful the videos were, as I was able to go back & refer to them on certain spots where I usually have trouble on in my chem homework-- that being the Metric Conversions. Besides help with my chemistry, your other videos for math I have watched as well to help me with my other courses.

Thank you for this useful resource!

I would like to give my feedback response regarding to the videos posted online for students to review their math. First, I would like to thank you guys for the great inactive of providing this alternative tool; students that are having trouble with metric system and conversion would find this tool very helpful. Second, the video-cast is funny and presented an interesting approach to the subject matter; professor Perez and Charles made it looks easy than it appears by using the students' language and also by giving great examples of the material. Finally, I would like to suggest a video-podcast, which could be uploaded on iTunes, for example; iTunesU—iTunes University—is available for schools like Saddleback College; thus, uploading podcast or video-podcast on iTunesU could benefit students by giving to them the opportunity to have in their pockets the lessons anywhere on the go.

Hey Mr. Perez!

I just wanted to e-mail you my feedback for the math review. The videos and the worksheets were very helpful and a great refresher. The videos were also very entertaining! I was having trouble with conversions, but the conversions video and worksheet really cleared it up for me.

It was very helpful and entertaining. I liked how the worksheets allowed me to follow along with the video because without something like that I probably wouldn't have been able to concentrate and learn as well. Thanks to this review, I believe that I am able to grasp the concepts that we have learned in Chem 108 much more thoroughly.

I think yo8ur website is great. Especially for visual learners. I am considered to be a visual learner from a document on learning style that my chemistry teacher Prof. Sharma gave us. I really thought it was funny too. it was good to have the hand outs because it makes the students pay attention or else they miss what they have to fill in. It would be nice if we had these for higher math classes. I know I would definitely use them in my trig class. Thanks.

I just reviewed the math videos and did the worksheets and all I have to say is that they are super helpful! The way that Professor Perez explains everything is very clear and simple for even me to understand since I am not mathematically inclined sort to speak. By putting everything in simple terms to understand, I can easily say that I am confident in doing conversions and scientific notation now without a second thought! Since I haven't taken a math class in over a year I think I'm pretty rusty, but this is a good refresher tool for me to continue and succeed in chemistry or in the nursing field for that matter. The idea of having a video to serve with the worksheets is brilliant as well since I am mainly a visual learner, but the video serves as an in class style method of learning. Before I would have to think quite a bit to finish conversions, but now I have finally got the concept down and am very comfortable with it all thanks to the videos and the worksheets! Professor Perez I thank you for making my mathematical skills from being rusty to being spanking new!

I thought your video worksheets were not only helpful in refreshing my memory of units of measurement, but they were also very entertaining and easy to watch. You taught us at a slower pace, as if we were relearning the material, but at the same time didn't make us feel like we should already know what we should be doing. I found these videos to be very helpful and should continue to do these.

My teacher advised me to watch your math review videos and then email you with a review and some feedback. First I would just like to say that your teaching techniques were very innovative and very helpful. Although I just finished math 253, it was till very helpful to go over metric conversions and prefixes, something I hadn't done in quite awhile. The only thing that I would change if you can, is the writing on the videos on you tube is a little fuzzy. Other than that I thought everything was great. Thanks for the extra help!!

I thought that the videos were very helpful. They really helped me understand the work, and I will use them to help me study in the future. :D thank you for taking the time to do this for us.

I think that the worksheets and videos helped me refresh things I already learned previously. It was nice to brush up on some of the math and conversions that I don't use every day. Scientific notation really helped because I never did study that much before. Thank you for having this aide. I think it was very useful to me.

I found the TeacherTube on Logarithms and pH to be very helpful! In fact, I wish I had this available to me for Saddleback's Microbiology class as well.

The "Introductions to Logarithms" and "Logarithms" were easy to understand, follow AND are directly applicable to Chem 108. I liked how the "magic microphone" translated the word problem into a math equation. This made a huge difference in my understanding. And sufficient examples were given to ingrain the concept into my mind. The pace of the lesson was also perfect - not too fast, not too slow =).

For Chem 108, I found the last few minutes of "Change of Base Rule" to be really helpful. It was very interesting and enlightening to understand the meaning behind base 10, base E and natural logs but probably only the last few minutes of this section is applicable to Chem 108.

The "Acids and Bases" lesson was extremely helpful for Pre-lab #3 and Chem 108 unit 2. It went at a very comfortable pace and helped me understand the relationship between pH and concentrations of H⁺ and OH⁻ in Molarity.

Professor Perez, thank you so much for putting in the effort to simplify logarithms for students. I suggest that you share this with the Microbiology students as well because we had to do logs for lab and I know many students had difficulty with it - some had taken the nursing pre-reqs out of order.

I just watched the video about Logarithms on youtube that Sharmau wanted the class to watch and wanted us to give you our feedback. I think the video was helpful and helped me to refresh my memory on logarithm that I had studied a couple years ago. It was an easy-to-follow video that was easy to understand. Thanks for the video!

I spent several hours watching the videos you put together. I went over them several times (especially the pH and pOH one). I am sure that for your math wizards it was an easy follow. I did have some trouble with figuring out how to use my calculator for some of the problems. I think my math is just really rusty. Is there anyway, if you could add in your video what buttons to push. I got it by trial and error. I know you are probably thinking, "Are you serious?", but unfortunately, I am. The problems with dividing exponents confused me until I realized that I had to do the exponent separate from the whole numbers. Anyways, just a thought.

Professor Perez

Once again I find it very interesting that you are able to make these videos. I really like how the hand outs still make you pay attention or else you miss something. The characters in the video are funny in the appropriate time which continues to keep your mind focused but yet at the same time kind of makes you forget this is math and sticks in your head easier!! You have great video skills and it's very entertaining to watch. You should do trig and pre-cal cause those would be great to see too. I am currently in trig and I know I would definitely watch the video after each section. Keep up the awesome work!!!!

I just finished watching the videos for the log review and wanted to give you some feedback. The videos were actually very helpful because they go right along with what I'm learning right now in my college algebra class. They cleared up some questions I had.

I just completed the videos on logarithms and I must say just like the math reviews earlier, they make my life so much easier! Considering that I haven't had a decent math class in a while, this review is definitely refreshing. It makes a confusing subject quite clear and understandable even to my level. The worksheets and video are the solution to my problem since I refer myself to being pretty rusty when it comes to math. I can now say that logarithms aren't my worst enemy when it comes to some sort of algebra! I am actually pretty enthusiastic now to conquer those problems when I am faced with them!

Thank you so much!

Thank you very much for doing another review, I need all that I can get! Once again it was very enjoyable, Professor Perez makes math fun. I did think the review went a little faster this time, (or maybe I was just slower) but it was still very good. Thank you!

This was great to see the relationship of the base to the exponent to the log.

If Log and ln do the same thing on the calculator why do we need both buttons? Can you work 8 with the exponent $-2/3$ backwards? to get 0.25? I couldn't get that to work. Just wondering why the earthquake example was in there. My resolution on the video didn't allow me to see if it was a sub zero or a sub nine, but I listened to it again and went by the audio. This example put into the worksheets would be helpful.

LOVE!!! The pH and pOH explanation!! I also learned what sequence to push the buttons on my calculator to do the problem correctly and discovered that 2 segments of my LCD are not showing up, which means I will be shopping for a new calculator today!

I wish I would have had this instructional video 20 some years ago the first time I took chemistry!!

I just watched your videos on logarithms and found the beginning to be helpful in refreshing my memory, but once you got into the fractions and negative fractions, you went a little fast, and it was harder for me to grasp the concept. But overall I'm pretty sure I have the jist of logs all over again. Thanks!

I am emailing in response to the math videos online. I found these extremely helpful, both as review and also when doing my homework for chemistry. The conversion factors and scientific notation videos were the two that were of the most importance to me. This helped clarify a lot when I was completing homework.

I feel that these videos are very handy. It helps a lot to be able to go online and get a basic summary of the topic you are having trouble with. Sometimes it is needed to hear the lecture one more time in order for the material to soak in! I was glad that these videos were there to help!

I watched over the videos on your website for professor Sharma's chemistry 108 class and found them to be a good refresher course. I like how you and Charlie added some humor to it and you try to explain the easiest ways to do the problems without confusion. I have a lot of trouble with figuring out whether to move left or right of the decimal when it comes to scientific notation so that video in particular helped clear it up for me. Also, the metric conversion video helped me with doing some problems from our homework assignment for chapter 1. Overall, I thought the videos were very helpful and were very entertaining to watch, rather than sitting through a boring lecture about it.