

# LECTURES ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF MATHEMATICS, CAMBRIDGE 1939

AUTHOR: [LUDWIG WITTGENSTEIN](#)

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## BOOK DESCRIPTION

For several terms at Cambridge in 1939, Ludwig Wittgenstein lectured on the philosophical foundations of mathematics. A lecture class taught by Wittgenstein, however, hardly resembled a lecture. He sat on a chair in the middle of the room, with some of the class sitting in chairs, some on the floor.

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He sat on a chair in the middle of the room, with some of the class sitting in chairs, some on the floor. He never used notes. He paused frequently, sometimes for several minutes, while he puzzled out a problem.

He often asked his listeners questions and reacted to their replies. Many meetings were largely conversation. These lectures were attended by, among others, D.

A. T. Gasking, J.

N. Findlay, Stephen Toulmin, Alan Turing, G. H. von Wright, R.

G. Bosanquet, Norman Malcolm, Rush Rhees, and Yorick Smythies. Notes taken by these last four are the basis for the thirty-one lectures in this book.

The lectures covered such topics as the nature of mathematics, the distinctions between mathematical and everyday languages, the truth of mathematical propositions, consistency and contradiction in formal systems, the logicism of Frege and Russell, Platonism, identity, negation, and necessary truth. The mathematical examples used are nearly always elementary.

## ABOUT AUTHOR

Ludwig Josef Johann Wittgenstein (26 April 1889 – 29 April 1951) was an Austrian-British philosopher who worked primarily in logic, the philosophy of mathematics, the philosophy of mind, and the philosophy of language. Described by Bertrand Russell as "the most perfect example I

have ever known of genius as traditionally conceived, passionate, profound, intense, and dominating", he helped inspire t Ludwig Josef Johann Wittgenstein (26 April 1889 – 29 April 1951) was an Austrian-British philosopher who worked primarily in logic, the philosophy of mathematics, the philosophy of mind, and the philosophy of language. Described by Bertrand Russell as "the most perfect example I have ever known of genius as traditionally conceived, passionate, profound, intense, and dominating", he helped inspire two of the twentieth century's principal philosophical movements: the Vienna Circle and Oxford ordinary language philosophy.

According to an end of the century poll, professional philosophers in Canada and the U.S. rank both his *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* and *Philosophical Investigations* among the top five most important books in twentieth-century philosophy, the latter standing out as "...the one crossover masterpiece in twentieth-century philosophy, appealing across diverse specializations and philosophical orientations". Wittgenstein's influence has been felt in nearly every field of the humanities and social sciences, yet there are widely diverging interpretations of his thought.

Lectures on the Foundations of Mathematics 1939: Cambridge by Ludwig Wittgenstein, 9780855270391, available at Book Depository with free delivery worldwide.Â Lectures on the Foundations of Mathematics 1939: Cambridge. 4.26 (86 ratings by Goodreads). Hardback. By (author) Ludwig Wittgenstein , Volume editor Cora Diamond. Share. List price: US\$48.65. Currently unavailable.