

Chemistry: The Awesomest Science

About this book:

Hi. I'm Ian Guch, the owner of the Cavalcade o' Chemistry website (www.chemfiesta.com) and the author of a bunch of chemistry books for both students and other teachers – the most popular is The Complete Idiot's Guide to Chemistry, which is in its third edition.

I've long known that the textbook my school district has issued to students is lousy. It's got way too many irrelevant and unnecessary pictures and way too many references to dead people that nobody cares about. One of the pictures in the book is, I kid you not, a photograph of somebody's closet with a caption giving the chemical name of mothballs. This goes on for a thousand pages.

Clearly, that textbook isn't handy for me and my students. However, when I looked at other textbooks, they were all pretty much the same, with too much garbage and not enough clarity. Given this sad state of conditions, I decided that I'd write a textbook that I actually liked and that students could actually use. That's the book you're reading now.

I do have some words of warning before you launch into this book:

- **It's not done yet.** In fact, I doubt it will ever be fully done. My goal is to keep building on this book and keep improving it for years to come. I plan on adding problem sets, teacher resources, and other stuff over time, but for now I'm focusing on just getting the content together. Stay tuned for more as I get to it.
- **There are mistakes in this book.** I don't have fancy editors, so I need you to let me know when I screw things up. If you find mistakes in this book, please email me at misterguch@chemfiesta.com so I can fix them.
- **This book is not in any way associated with or endorsed by my employer.** All of the writing of this book is done on my own time in my own home and the book is not used with my classes in any way, shape, or form. For those of you readers who may be my students (or the parents of my students), this means that you don't actually ever have to read this to do well in my class – in fact, all of the material in this book is also discussed in class, so your kids won't be missing *anything* if they never read this.
- **This book is written according to my sense of humor.** Because my sense of humor is sometimes different than yours, please don't get too bent out of shape if you see something that you don't like. Unlike most textbook publishers, I haven't tried to eliminate the humanity and personality from the writing, so if you don't like my personality, you may not like the book.
- **The pictures and illustrations in this book are used either because I find them useful for the material or because I find them funny.** You know that example I mentioned above about the picture of a closet – some of the pics in this book are *way* weirder than that.

Anyway, that's what I wanted to tell you about the book. I hope you like it enough to use it as a supplemental resource, and that you let me know what you think of it.

Best,
Ian Guch
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