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Chemistry: The Science In Context (Fourth Edition)
Synopsis

Written and designed to help all types of learners become expert problem solvers. All general chemistry students face similar challenges, but they use their textbook differently to meet those challenges. Some read chapters from beginning to end, some consult the book as a reference, and some look to the book for problem-solving help. Chemistry, Fourth Edition supports all kind of learners, regardless of how they use the book, by helping them connect chemistry to their world, see that world from a molecular point of view, and become expert problem solvers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I highly recommend a different book such as one by Pertucci, Jepersen, or Timberlake- In my opinion all three of those are better. Gilbert's chem is required for my class, but I am using Jepersen and Pertucci to actually learn the material. If you do have to get Gilbert's chemistry for you class, I recommend the previous edition; The content is unchanged. The main difference between 3rd and 4th is that the diagrams have different colors and a few of the chapter numbers are transposed. Despite what is advertised, there is no online coursework, the expensive"smartwork" code is only for classes that are specifically using the publishers program. There is no online self-study materials (and no refund or new key issued if you don't use it). So definitely recommend another book or an older edition, or a used one. If you happen to need the key , you can buy it online and still get the older edition for less $$$. Also, I would get the hardback unless you plan to rip the pages out. The soft cover doesn't hold up well even with a proper break-in. Hope this helps.
I found this book to be really, really unclear. I referenced another Chemistry book for learning-purposes and used this strictly for assigned homework problems. And there seems to be a tie in to environmental/conservation issues in most chapters. While I could appreciate that as supplemental learning, it got old pretty fast when it’s inextricably tied into the central learning concepts. I care less about the ozone layer than I do about passing my classes.

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This is a horrible chemistry textbook. My university used it for one semester and then changed the book, because it had to many mistakes in it. It was also very unclear on it’s explanations of problems.

Worst chemistry book ever. I feel like the information is not organized well. There is a lot of unnecessary information that could have been left out, and more practice problems, because that’s where we get confused in chem!
If this is the text book you have for your class, hope your teacher backs it up with some organized lesson plans. This is like a years worth of lectures in a book and it is not organized in step by step approach. Seems to jump around a lot and clear examples are not always given. Additionally the publisher couples this with on-line homework that is not well aligned with the book. The homework book linkage is not there and your basically left on your own. A real shame because all the information is there, it is just not well thought out. The publisher also has online lectures, if they used the online lectures and made the homework align to that then that would work, and then you would not need this book.

Do yourself a favor, even if your instructor ‘instructs’ the class to purchase this lousy book, don’t. All General Chemistry books have similar curriculum, their books however aren’t filled with loads of useless garbage as this one is. The thickest, heaviest and most useless book I’ve ever purchased from all the class I’ve taken (and I currently have 70 something credit hours).

I am a current Engineering major at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, and this is definitely my choice of chemistry book. The language is accessible, and the pictures provided help with concept understanding. Whenever I needed a comprehensive review, this is the book I would turn to. An illustrative and understandable look at chemistry concepts, one of the only texts I referenced frequently for assistance. Excellent text -- highly recommended.

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