

Krzysztof Cywiński claims that mathematics is for everyone

Easy equations

Mathematics is as broad as sports, it has many disciplines. A perfect shot putter can be a lousy cyclist and might have no idea about rowing. It is the same with learning - it has ended up with specializations. Linear equations, however, appear on every level, just like the ability to run amongst sportsmen. It appears though, that neither the first, nor the second are that easy. Duh, a lot of us do not know how to begin with such activities and equations.

- And you just need to know an easy algorithm (a definite and indefinite line of clearly defined activities, necessary to complete a certain task) to handle this - says Krzysztof Cywiński of Zabrze, the author of this algorithm and the book "Mathematics for humanists, the dyslexic and... other hopeless cases".

- Teachers claim that it was invented and developed a long time ago, that it is used today... - but that's not true. Starting September, I bet a thousand PLN if someone proves that it had been invented before I did it! The prize money will be on the rise every next month in a geometrical line up to December, because I don't have more than 27 thousand PLN, and this is a legitimate contest! - says Cywiński.

Stubborn character. At high school of military he stood firm against his will to write his end-of-term assignment entitled: *The vulnerability of land forces military academy students to radio propaganda*. When the leaders came to the conclusion that the results would have been "wrongly used", he was forced to terminate his studies owing to his health condition. He went on to teach in a mining school. The atmosphere of the school and the teaching programme let him down quickly, and when the students began to think too highly of themselves, he threw the register down in protest. Exceptionally talented, he managed to get into a prestigious university in Moscow. *- That was actually a school for politicians and propaganda experts, but the education level was top shelf. According to the agreement, I was supposed to educate myself in the languages of Europe, but on the spot they decided to teach me... Arabian. So I said thank you very much. There was havoc. With a wild ticket I was accepted to work in a post office in Gliwice. When I refused to pass around some propaganda leaflets, they threw me out on the street. All I had left was working in a mine... So a year later I chose "internal immigration". - he recalls.*

And then, someone by chance - an old friend, now a person of a higher shelf - upon remembering that he would always be quick on the uptake concerning scientific subjects - asked him to give his children private tutoring on chemistry. The young ones went the right direction, another friend came with a similar problem. The avalanche began... Cywiński has been feasting on tutoring only. He has steel rules - he guarantees a passed matura exam, and if something goes wrong (and it is said it always goes right), he pays the money back. He also pays back if his pupil gets two E's in a row.

- I specialise in hopeless and very difficult cases. But it is only thanks to such students that the book was born. It is them who showed me how some mathematical things are unnecessarily

complicated. It is all about crossing some barrier, about abstract thinking, and not cramming formulas and "translating the programme", which is far from daily needs.

Mathematics for..., although costly, has spread across (appeared in better bookshops), has found many fans in all of Poland, even abroad. It has received good reviews from both experts of the subject (Cywiński remains in touch with professors of mathematics, and he himself also reviews the publications of other authors and prepares more scientific works), and his students and their parents. It contains an easy explanation of solving linear equations, puzzles and cheat sheets. The writing style is casual and amusing. Cywiński wrote it in about ten years and shortened it after every class with every "hopeless student". And he included a dedication to a few of his wonderful teachers of IV Highschool of Zabrze.