



Albert Einstein

Relativity: The Special and General Theory

Relativity: The Special and General Theory

by Albert Einstein
Translated by Robert W. Lawson



Total running time 3:39:23

This is an introduction to Einstein's space-bending, time-stretching theory of Relativity, written by the master himself. Special and General relativity explain the structure of space time and provide a theory of gravitation, respectively. Einstein's theories shocked the world with their counterintuitive results, including the dissolution of absolute time. In this book he brings a simplified form of his profound understanding of the subject to the layperson. In the words of Einstein: "The present book is intended, as far as possible, to give an exact insight into the theory of Relativity to those readers who, from a general scientific and philosophical point of view, are interested in the theory, but who are not conversant with the mathematical apparatus of theoretical physics." The book is challenging at times but, when approached patiently, proves itself one of the most lucid explanations of Relativity to be found anywhere. (Summary by Kelly Bescherer)



Read by Kelly Bescherer, Linda Leu, Peter Eastman, David Barnes, Laurie Anne Walden, Annie Coleman, Meredith Hughes, and ML Cohen.

Due to technical errors in creating online texts, and because of less-than-clear fonts in some printed texts, the variables as read in some of the equations here are not as Einstein intended. For example, the numeral 'one' has frequently been printed and read as the letter 'l.' In addition, some equations do not translate well into the spoken word. If you require completely accurate renditions of Einstein's mathematical formulas, we suggest that you consult a published text.

Cover art: Gravity Probe B and Space-Time: The Relativity Mission (image credit: NASA).
Albert Einstein, official 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics photograph. CD cover design by LA Walden.

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