

MATH 221 Calculus I – Fall 2015  
Discussion Sections 90D-93D

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### MYMATHLAB RESOURCES

If you are having difficulty with homework or a specific type of problem, or just if you want some more help, MyMathLab (MML) has such a plethora of resources that I thought this small guide would be handy. Mostly I wanted to extol MML's Study Plan.

#### Study Plan:

This is, in my opinion, one of the best resources available to you. As you complete homework, MML keeps track of what kinds of problems you answer. The more work you do, the better it understands what you excel at and what you struggle with. If you go to Study Plan, it will tell you what you need to practice. Study Plan presents you a number of questions in categories you need to work on, and gives you the chance to practice questions like them as well as take on a specific problem or set of problems in that area. If you succeed at answering the question you earn a Mastery Point. This is meant to be a measure of your overall progress.

#### Homework:

While answering homework questions, there are two buttons in the upper right labeled "Help Me Solve This" and "View an Example." The second walks you through a similar problem to the one you are on, though with different numbers. The first walks you through the exact problem you are on. Do not think this will answer the question for you. You still have to do the work, but MML lays out exactly the steps necessary to complete it. Additionally, if you get an answer incorrect, MML provides active feedback on what you messed up. This is a good way to get familiar with the method of solving a particular kind of problem. I hope it goes without saying that you should not use this all the time; you should learn how to solve a problem and then be able to apply that solution without outside assistance.

#### Tools for Success:

The most interesting thing about this tool is the interactive figures. If you are having trouble visualizing how certain graphs or other things work, this tool at the bottom of the page has a list of a good number of examples from the book that you can manipulate and play with as you wish. You do need a program to see the graphs, but it's free and provided on the page.

#### Multimedia Library:

This contains all sorts of aides – PowerPoint presentations, video lectures, the interactive figures (from above), animations, and a copy of your textbook. In addition, this database is searchable by chapter and section, making it easy to pinpoint help for whatever you have difficulty with.

Quizzes and Tests:

This portion of MML has a host of practice exams that do not affect your grade (or your Mastery for your Study Plan). Each chapter has a pre-chapter test and a post-chapter test, which you can take as many times as you'd like.

Gradebook:

You can not only see your grades here, but access past homeworks as well. This may be useful to review old work, methods of problem solving, or to go back and try old problems with new tools.

Pearson Tutor Services:

I am putting this here for completeness more than anything else. You can access a tutor at any hour of the day to help you with work, but only the first half-hour or so is free per semester. After that, you have to pay to continue using them. I recommend you do not use this, as I imagine it can go wrong in a whole host of ways (becoming dependent on them, spending far too much money, ignoring other resources, etc). I highly suggest trying all the other resources first if you are really struggling, and talking to a TA or your professor alongside that, before you try this.