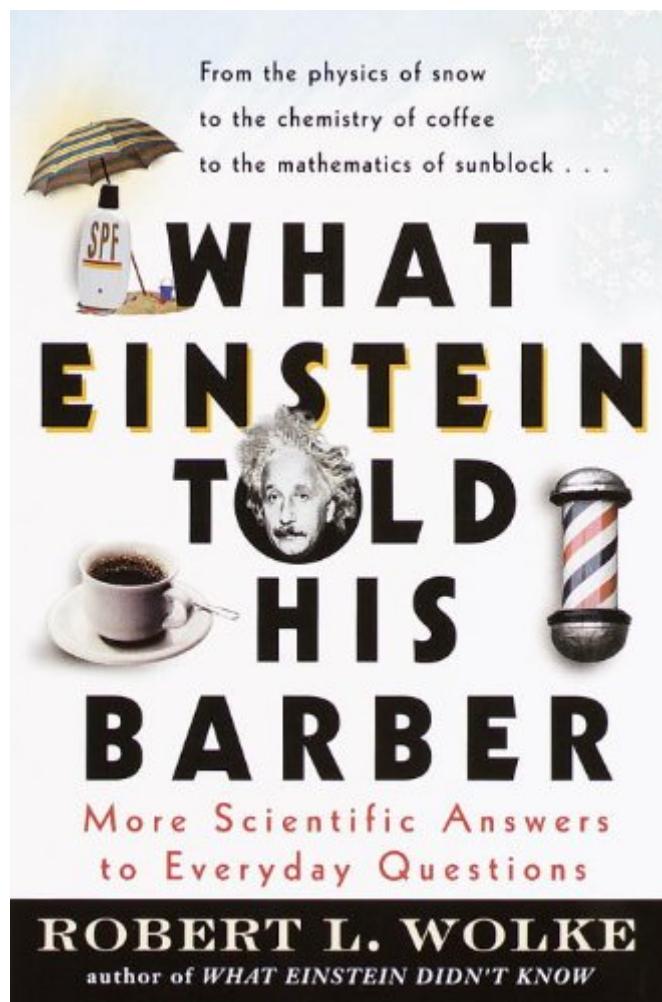


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# What Einstein Told His Barber: More Scientific Answers To Everyday Questions



## **Synopsis**

What makes ice cubes cloudy? How do shark attacks make airplanes safer? Can a person traveling in a car at the speed of sound still hear the radio? Moreover, would they want to...? Do you often find yourself pondering life's little conundrums? Have you ever wondered why the ocean is blue? Or why birds don't get electrocuted when perching on high-voltage power lines? Robert L. Wolke, professor emeritus of chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh and acclaimed author of *What Einstein Didn't Know*, understands the need to...well, understand. Now he provides more amusing explanations of such everyday phenomena as gravity (If you're in a falling elevator, will jumping at the last instant save your life?) and acoustics (Why does a whip make such a loud cracking noise?), along with amazing facts, belly-up-to-the-bar bets, and mind-blowing reality bites all with his trademark wit and wisdom. If you shoot a bullet into the air, can it kill somebody when it comes down? You can find out about all this and more in an astonishing compendium of the proverbial mind-boggling mysteries of the physical world we inhabit. Arranged in a question-and-answer format and grouped by subject for browsing ease, **WHAT EINSTEIN TOLD HIS BARBER** is for anyone who ever pondered such things as why colors fade in sunlight, what happens to the rubber from worn-out tires, what makes red-hot objects glow red, and other scientific curiosities. Perfect for fans of *Newton's Apple*, *Jeopardy!*, and *The Discovery Channel*, **WHAT EINSTEIN TOLD HIS BARBER** also includes a glossary of important scientific buzz words and a comprehensive index. -->From the Trade Paperback edition.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Great little book full of intelligent good humor and science facts. Style and substance with just a little drama. ÅfÅ Å Å, Å ÆœÅ Å

In depth explanation of every day events we sometimes take for granted. Interesting read wish a little humor added..recommend. marion

This was a gift, but my grandson liked it very much.

This is a very fun read - highly recommended!

Great book to just pick up and read the different odd questions that most have a hard time answering. Very informative and fun to read.

Quite clever and entertaining, and for the most part correct. But the author is pretty sloppy with some basic concepts of physics. As a physics teacher I have to correct these wrong notions in my students' heads. It's tough enough just to clear their heads of junk science they get from movies. This is harder because Mr. Wolke has a lot of credibility. Here are two examples: Newton's 3rd Law: (p6) "When you are standing on the elevator floor and gravity (force #1) is pulling you down against the floor, the floor is pushing you back up with an equal force (force #2)." NO, NO, NO. An action-reaction pair of forces cannot act on the same object (you). The reaction to the earth (by gravity) pulling you down is you pulling the earth up. Second example: (p123) "they are subjected to an outward centrifugal force tending to fling them off the planet." NOPE. "centrifugal force" is a fictitious force. It does not exist. You tend to be "flung" because of The First Law: A body in motion tends to stay in motion in a straight line. To be honest I haven't read the whole book. It is possible he corrects these misunderstandings elsewhere.

To start, if you haven't already read the description, these things aren't actually things Einstein said to his barber. These are things the author figured might come up if he actually had conversations with his barber and what they might talk about. The book does a good job in identifying common scientific misnomers, issues and questions we have all probably had from time to time and presents them in a humorous and factual way. There are a ton of things in here, some stuff you might already know and some you may not have. If you're into science or just curious about things, this is definitely a good read.

If you have an inquiring mind, you need to read this book. That, of course, assumes you are interested in life around you! This book is a true gem and gives us some explanations of subjects of great pith in the scientific arena. I enjoyed the fact that it explained some of those pesky annoyances of life (i.e., why the hell does the windshield of my car fog up on the inside??) to something I've wondered about since I was a young child: If I'm trapped in a falling elevator, can I jump upward at the last minute and escape the inevitable damage to life and limb due to the impact? And yes, I've always been an inquisitive person!

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