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Physical Chemistry (3rd Edition)
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**Customer Reviews**

When one peruses Engel's chapter headings, one gets the impression that he/she will get a clear, practical exposition of topics of use to the chem student, or working chemist. When reading through the text, this expectation is invariably dissapointed. Topics are presented in an ad-hoc, haphazard manner, with no apparent unifying reason. Engel does have reasons for choosing the topics and examples he does, but I only knew what they were because I studied the same material in other sources. If you want to develop an intuitive sense for this material, and wish to think stategicly and conceptually about how to solve these problems, you wont find much guidance here. The text comes off rather more like a hodgepodge of science trivia. Engel does present much valuable information, but his great weakness is his inability to distinguish a conceptual framework from the details of his exposition. In chapter two, for example he presents, out of the blue, a detailed discussion of the dependence of heat capacity on temperature, having not yet shown the role that heat capacity would play in solving energy conservation problems. One cannot help being misled, and ultimately wasting much time and effort in trying to apply concepts in a context where their application is innapropriate. In retrospect, Dr. Engel's text could be made much more effective were
it re-written, with more emphasis given to conceptual development. In presenting a text, one must constantly have in mind the questions, what is my goal, and what tools am I developing to enable me to reach it. Engel seems not to have had these questions at the forefront.

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