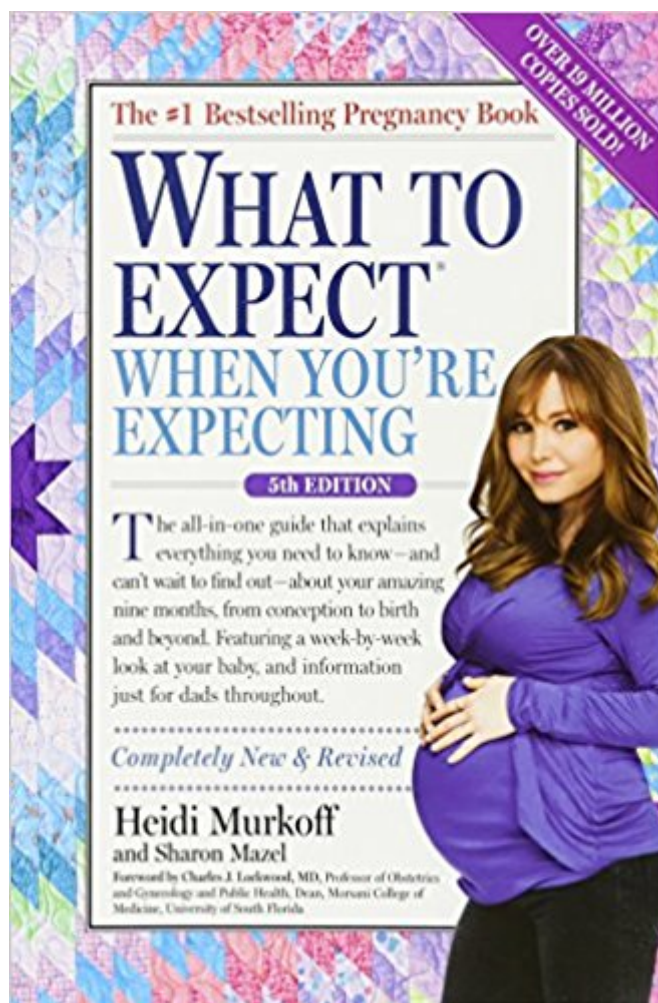


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# What To Expect When You're Expecting



## Synopsis

A completely revised and updated edition of America's pregnancy bible, the longest-running New York Times bestseller ever. With 18.5 million copies in print, *What to Expect When You're Expecting* is read by 93% of women who read a pregnancy book and was named one of the "Most Influential Books of the Last 25 Years" by USA Today. This cover-to-cover (including the cover!) new edition is filled with must-have information, advice, insight, and tips for a new generation of moms and dads. With *What to Expect's* trademark warmth, empathy, and humor, it answers every conceivable question expecting parents could have, including dozens of new ones based on the ever-changing pregnancy and birthing practices and choices they face. Advice for dads is fully integrated throughout the book. All medical coverage is completely updated, including the latest on Zika virus, prenatal screening, and the safety of medications during pregnancy, as well as a brand-new section on postpartum birth control. Current lifestyle trends are incorporated, too: juice bars, raw diets, e-cigarettes, push presents, baby bump posting, the lowdown on omega-3 fatty acids, grass-fed and organic, health food fads, and GMOs. Plus expanded coverage of IVF pregnancy, multiple pregnancies, breastfeeding while pregnant, water and home births, and cesarean trends (including VBACs and "gentle cesareans").

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Heidi Murkoff is the author of the *What to Expect*® series of pregnancy and parenting books. She is also the creator of *WhatToExpect.com* and the *WhatToExpect* app, which reach over 11 million expecting and new parents, and the *What to Expect* Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated

to helping underserved families expect healthy pregnancies, safe deliveries, and healthy, happy babies.

I just read this book cover to cover. No, seriously. And man, am I glad I was not pregnant at the time. This is far from the first pregnancy/childbirth/parenting book I've ever read. I'm a health and research nut, and a librarian, so I do a lot of research and reading before I do anything. I try to consult a variety of sources from different viewpoints. Since this is the #1 most-recommended pregnancy book, I figured I might as well read this one too and see what all the fuss is about. I have yet to figure it out. 1) The main issue I have with this book is the clear lack of research that went into it. There are absolutely ZERO references in the entire book (and it is a beast of a book). The author's credentials also seem to be limited to a) she's a mom, and b) she is the author of this book. Yet she spouts "knowledge" and information like it's gospel. The forward is written by an esteemed OB/GYN, and I can see why he endorses the book, which I will point out below, but as for any type of verified medical or research-based advice, that is it. She tells you exactly what to do, but offers nothing in the way of an explanation about why you should do it. Oh, she says "Do this because . . . ." and "Studies show . . . ." but gives no names or authors of those studies so that you can check it out for yourself. Maybe that works for some people, but not for me. I need more than the word of one woman who happened to have two children and write a book about it. 2) This book perpetuates (possibly unintentionally) an increasingly disturbing (and increasingly outdated) "medical management" view of pregnancy and childbirth. The author repeatedly tells you not to worry about your pregnancy, but goes on to list the MYRIAD ways something could very possibly go wrong if you don't exactly follow her advice. There's nothing wrong with being aware of the various pregnancy complications, but the tone of this book is very "Do absolutely everything your practitioner says and don't worry your pretty little head." Every single question is answered with "Ask your practitioner." There is a section near the beginning about making sure you have a practitioner whom you like and respect, but basically, as long as you find someone you're socially compatible with, that person's word is it. Especially during the childbirth section, she describes the various medical interventions as inevitable, doesn't discuss the reasons WHY such procedures are performed, doesn't cite studies about how effective or ineffective they are, doesn't mention or explain informed consent AT ALL (I mean, if your practitioner ordered it, don't ask questions, just go with it), and shows a strong bias for OB/GYNs, hospital births, C-sections (after all, almost one-third of women in the U.S. give birth that way -- don't you want to as well?), and all the pain-relief drugs you can get your (and your baby's, I might add) hands on. Again, there is nothing wrong with

choosing an OB/GYN, a hospital birth, or pain-relief drugs -- but women deserve to have all of their options (and studies demonstrating the pros and cons thereof) laid out for them without scaring them into just doing everything their practitioner says. Again, I can see why the author of the forward endorses this book and it's routinely handed out at prenatal appointments: it begets compliant patients who don't ask questions. God forbid you be "difficult" when someone is just trying to help you have a healthy baby!3) The lack of alternative viewpoints is astounding. Obviously every pregnancy/childbirth book has its own ideology, but for a book that claims to include everything you need to know about pregnancy and childbirth, it should not take a one-size-fits-all approach. So many women only ever read this book and aren't even aware that other philosophies (with actual research to back them up) exist. Times are changing. More and more women want to take research- and evidence-based approaches to something as important as conceiving, carrying, and giving birth to their children. Blind faith in the medical profession is no longer the norm. This book is an outdated remnant of a dangerous and uninformed past --giving it to every pregnant woman just prolongs the torture (and those compliant patients everyone seems to want).

What to Expect When You're ExpectingÂ This is a wonderful book to have if you are expecting your first child. It makes a great gift if you are looking for something to give the newly expectant parents. I purchased this book 20 years ago when I was expecting my daughter and now we purchased a new edition for her as she awaits the arrival of her daughter early next year. The information in this book is invaluable for new parents. It walks you through the many stages of pregnancy through birth with real life examples of what's going on both inside mom's body with her growing little one as well as what to expect from everything else parents have to experience. It is written with clear, simple language and is very entertaining as well as practical. It makes the journey a little less scary for someone who has never been there. My daughter refers to this book almost every day to find out just what's going on and it has also helped her to be more informed when she sees her OB. I wore my copy out and my daughter is doing the same with hers.

When I was searching for answers and became overwhelmed by the internet, I turned toÂ What to Expect When You're Expecting. Heidi seems to have ALL of the answers! It's almost as if she was reading my mind some days. I loved this book due to the awesomely thorough glossary. Her chapters begin with what you should be expecting at any point in your pregnancy and she even describes what your OB/GYN visits will probably include. This book helped relieve a lot of anxiety for me. It's a great read for any first-time mom! When I have my second child, I will most likely refer to it

just as much as I did the first time!

I found this book to be very informative. I am entering my third trimester and it has been pretty spot on with everything. It's an easy read and I always look forward to reading what is coming next. I highly recommend this book for new mamas. There is A LOT of information in here but I am the type of person who wants all the details so it worked for me. I highly recommend this book!

I ordered this for my son and his wife when they were expecting. They told me that it taught them a lot on what to expect. I also got more books on different topics of pregnancy which they enjoyed all through their 9 months. I wish these were around when I had my first child. **What to Expect When You're Expecting**

Got this for a friend that is expecting, I had this bought for me when I was pregnant and it was a lifesaver! It has amazing information and it's so helpful in what to expect during pregnancy. At a price like this it's stupid to not have it if you're expecting. Definitely makes a great gift!

A tried and true book for every expectant mother. I've bought many of these books over the years for friends and family who are expecting. It has tons of great information. It was recommended to me by my OB years ago and is still the go-to book for expectant mothers.

I read this along with my wife. Helps me better understand what she is going through as the baby sucks the life out of her literally. I am not naturally a caring or nurturing person, but the book does a good job of going into detail about what she may be experiencing and inspires me to make sure everything around the house is handled, because it's hard enough on her as it is. The book does a great job of explaining symptoms, emphasizing empathy and understanding, and describes what the baby is looking like every week complete with illustrations. It's interesting to follow along with the baby's development and understand how it coincides with the various symptoms. Excellent book. Would HIGHLY recommend to any first time mother and father. Probably don't need it after that though. By that point both of you already know what to expect (goodbye fun, hello misery) when you're expecting.

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