

Example Find $\int_1^e \frac{\ln x}{x} dx$

Here it is not easy to determine what the inner function is. Your thinking process should go asking questions such as: Do we know the anti derivative of $\ln x$ or any function whose derivative is $\ln x$? Since the answer is No to these questions try using $\ln x$ as your u . Let $u = \ln x$ then $du = \frac{1}{x} dx$. Also for $x = 1 \Rightarrow u = \ln 1 = 0$ and $x = e \Rightarrow u = \ln e = 1$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_1^e \frac{\ln x}{x} dx &= \int_1^e \ln x \cdot \frac{1}{x} dx \\ &= \int_0^1 u du = \int_0^1 u du \\ &= \left. \frac{u^2}{2} \right|_0^1 = \frac{1}{2} \end{aligned}$$

Graphically you can see below that the area is transformed by our substitution into a triangular area on the second figure much easier to calculate even without calculating an integral.

