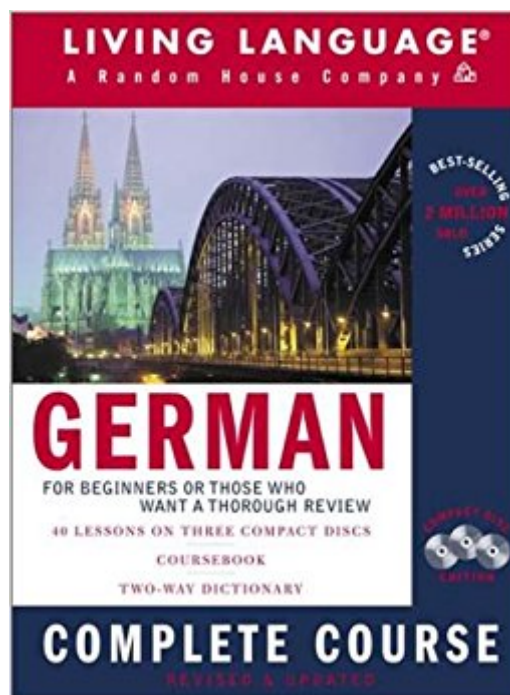




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# German Complete Course: Basic-Intermediate, Compact Disc Edition (LL(R) Complete Basic Courses)



## Synopsis

**SPEAK GERMAN WITH CONFIDENCE IN JUST 6 WEEKS!**The Living Language® German Complete Course teaches the basics of German language and usage. It uses a highly effective speed-learning method developed by U.S. government experts to teach languages to overseas-bound service personnel and diplomats.**THREE 60-MINUTE COMPACT DISCS WITH 40 LESSONS** • Begin with simple words and progress to complex phrases and sentences. • Just listen and repeat after the native speakers on the recordings to learn naturally, the way you learned English. **GERMAN COURSEBOOK** • 40 lessons from the recordings with translations, additional vocabulary, detailed explanations, quizzes, and reviews. • Verb charts, a comprehensive grammar summary, and a section on letter writing are also included.**GERMAN** • “ENGLISH / ENGLISH” • “GERMAN DICTIONARY” • More than 20,000 words, idioms, and expressions. • Examples show how words are used in everyday conversation. • 1,000 frequently used words are highlighted for easy reference.

## Book Information

Series: LL(R) Complete Basic Courses

Audio CD

Publisher: Living Language; abridged edition edition (April 16, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1400020077

ISBN-13: 978-1400020072

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 2.1 x 7.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,851,189 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 in [Books > Books on CD > Languages > Language Instruction > German](#) #648 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Foreign Languages > German](#) #2878 in [Books > Books on CD > General](#)

## Customer Reviews

**SPEAK GERMAN WITH CONFIDENCE IN JUST 6 WEEKS!**The Living Language® German Complete Course teaches the basics of German language and usage. It uses a highly effective speed-learning method developed by U.S. government experts to teach languages to overseas-bound service personnel and diplomats.**THREE 60-MINUTE COMPACT DISCS WITH 40 LESSONS**? Begin with simple words and progress to complex phrases and sentences. ? Just listen

and repeat after the native speakers on the recordings to learn naturally, the way you learned English. GERMAN COURSEBOOK? 40 lessons from the recordings with translations, additional vocabulary, detailed explanations, quizzes, and reviews.? Verb charts, a comprehensive grammar summary, and a section on letter writing are also included.GERMAN?ENGLISH / ENGLISH?GERMAN DICTIONARY? More than 20,000 words, idioms, and expressions.? Examples show how words are used in everyday conversation. ? 1,000 frequently used words are highlighted for easy reference.

I bought this course for a girl in the United States and she likes it very much. I'm German and we changed our spelling in the last years. Our language is very difficult. The spelling of German has become better but is still partly illogical - as well as the grammar.I think this course is great. To make a German course 100% perfect is in my opinion not really possible.Goethe once said that it would take 20 years to learn the German language.:D

I bought this item because I have never learned German and this has audio. I will not buy any language program that does not come with audio. I'm concurrently using it to supplement my work through the three volumes of Pimsleur German, and am more concerned with vocabulary building. Studies have shown that there is no limit to how many languages the human brain can absorb. This has emboldened me to try my hand at different languages and has made me an enthusiastic language learner. Thus, patience and enthusiasm are needed to make this program useful, for it is not effective for learning German instantly. For one thing, the phrases are said just once. In my experience, phrases should always be repeated at least twice, if not three times. I am thus forced to continually rewind my cd player, and waste time rewinding instead of practicing. Secondly, I strongly feel there should be the English translation on the audio, before the word is said in German. Without it, I am beholden to the text book. I cannot be mobile or do anything else while practicing, which is a hinderance to my busy schedule. On the up-side, I am pleased with the pleathora of basic vocabulary and basic grammer it offers and the audio is very clear. In figuring out how to learn another language (I've taught myself basic Cantonese and intermediate Mandarin), I've realized that repition is key. If you want to use this program and really learn from it, I recommend you do as I now do. I listen to a set of 3-7 vocabulary words, and as each word is said I repeat it fast for 3 times, in the silence before the next spoken word. I do two rounds of this, dividing each round with other sets of vocabulary. Then on the third and fourth rounds of the same set of vocab., I do the same as normal, except that I pause the audio before each word is said, look at the English word, and try to

recall from memory how to say the German word. This really forces me to learn it. I do this routine for at least four days. So, by the end of the fourth day I've heard a given new word 100 times, said it 240 times, and recalled it 40 times. Chances are, I'll then know that word and the correct pronunciation forever, and I'll go back and review from time to time. This routine is time-consuming, but yields highly satisfying results, and makes an otherwise ineffective program a highly effective one. If you follow the course as the instruction manual tells you, as I have attempted, then good luck with that. After I've gotten through this, I'll probably move on to the Ultimate German series, which I hear is much better. The excellent Pimsleur series is really helping me to make sense of this program as well. Thus, I think this program is good for building a basic foundation but ought to be supplemented with other programs.

I had already been trying to teach myself German for a little while before I bought this course. I primarily purchased it for the CDs, so I could listen to German while driving to work. I have found the CDs quite helpful; they are a great way to practice pronunciation and after listening to them over and over I've unconsciously memorized many phrases. My major problem with this course is with the written materials. Compared to the other German coursebook my friend brought me from Germany (Deutsch in 30 Tagen/German in 30 Days by Langenscheidt) the Living Language course is abysmal. For example, the book never once mentions the existence of the double 's' letter (it looks like a capital B), which is a common German letter. The grammar explanations are hopelessly inadequate for a beginner, and if I hadn't had the other more helpful text I would have had no idea what they were talking about. I asked my German friend about some of the words and phrases, and found out they have included many old-fashioned words--like teaching people learning English to say "my Lady." The dictionary also is just terrible compared to the other German dictionary I've purchased, and I gave up using it altogether after consistently trying to look up words that weren't included. I would only recommend this course if you, like me, want CDs to listen to; however, I would highly recommend finding a superior text to learn from.

I've been living in Germany for two months now and bought this before I left the US to start learning a little German. The lessons consist of hearing & repeating and short explanations of the rules of grammar. To get the most of this, my advice is to imagine yourself actually using & hearing a word/sentence in conversation. Shortcomings: 1. There are a few typos in the text...which is unprofessional. 2. A few of the terms in the book aren't really used in practice. (I've tried them out and have gotten blank stares.) 3. The explanations of grammar are TOO concise to be especially

helpful. You'll end up learning some German, but not enough to "put it all together." I ended up buying Na Klar! and am teaching myself from a more comprehensive source (textbook). My German friends approve. All in all, this Living Language package will get you started, but you'll need to do more if you want a two-way dialogue in German.

Of the purely audio language learning systems I have used Living Language and Pimsleur. (Rosetta Stone, which I have also used, is computer-based). Of the two audio systems, Pimsleur is the most effective at building up the ability to speak. This is mostly a matter of approach -- Pimsleur builds from very simple questions and answers up to beginner conversational abilities; Living Language is focused on memorization of words and drills. If you are taking a language course with a human instructor, Living Language provides some good supplementary practice and drills. But, if you want to learn to speak, Pimsleur is the right choice.

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