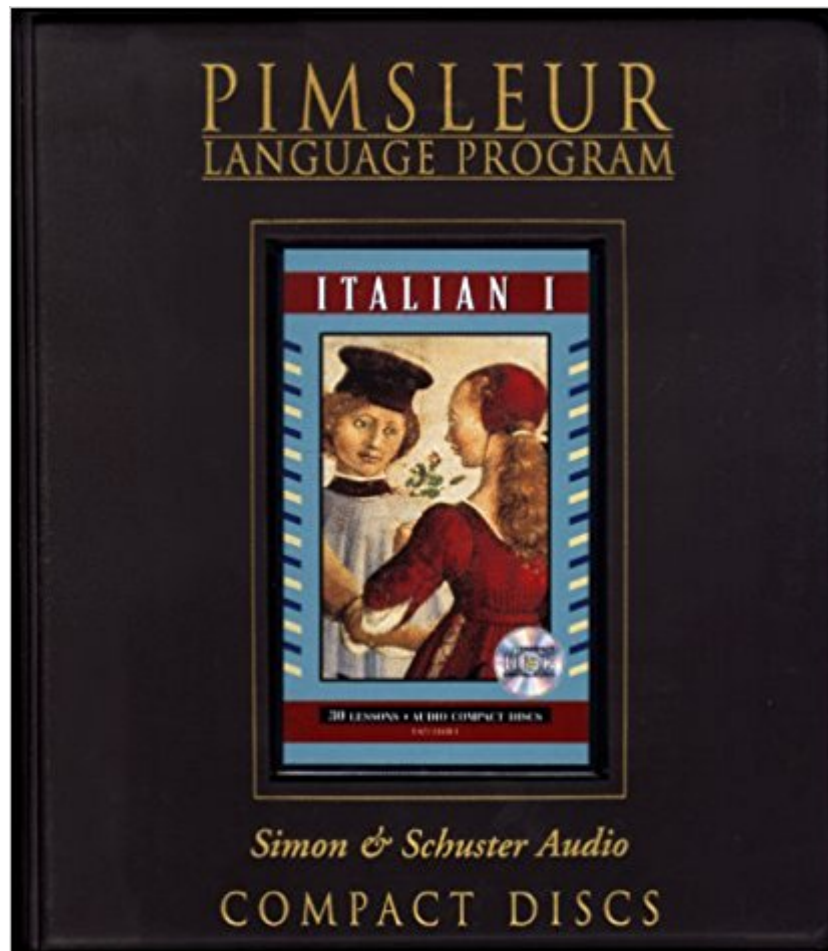




The book was found

Italian I : Pimsleur Comprehensive (Pimsleur CD Series)



Synopsis

With Pimsleur Language Programs you don't just study a language, you learn it -- the same way you mastered English! And because the technique relies on interactive spoken language training, the Pimsleur Language Programs are totally audio -- no book is needed! The Pimsleur programs provide a method of self-practice with an expert teacher and native speakers in lessons specially designed to work with the way the mind naturally acquires language information. The various components of language -- vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar -- are all learned together without rote memorization and drills. Using a unique method of memory recall developed by renowned linguist, Dr. Paul Pimsleur, the programs teach listeners to combine words and phrases to express themselves the way native speakers do. By listening and responding to thirty minute recorded lessons, students easily and effectively achieve spoken proficiency. No other language program or school is as quick, convenient, and effective as the Pimsleur Language Programs. The Comprehensive Program is the ultimate in spoken language learning. For those who want to become proficient in the language of their choice, the Comprehensive programs go beyond the Basic Programs to offer spoken-language fluency. Using the same simple method of interactive self-practice with native speakers, these comprehensive programs provide a complete language learning course. The Comprehensive Program is available in a wide variety of languages and runs through three levels (thirty lessons each) in French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. At the end of a full Comprehensive Program listeners will be conducting complete conversations and be well on their way to mastering the language. The Comprehensive Programs are all available on cassettes and are also on CD in the six languages in which we offer the Basic Program on CD.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I bought this course to learn some Italian before going on vacation to Italy. It served me very well. I was able to talk to hotel people, waiters, cabbies, and people on the street in Italian, having remembered enough vocabulary to have something to say in some common situations, and with the confidence that my pronunciation would be understood. I credit Pimsleur's approach of (1) really drilling the student in listening to and speaking like native speakers (the CD uses both a man and a woman), and (2) a good selection of what's covered in the 15 hours of material. For example, I found it particularly useful to know numbers, to be able to ask for directions, to be able to order in restaurants, and to know greetings/politenesses. The audio format is convenient - I listened in my car going back and forth to work. That makes it a little tricky to learn grammar subtleties, but the course manages to teach enough to get by. I liked the reading exercises - these gave me practice in pronouncing written Italian (even without knowing what the words meant), which was handy in asking about things on a menu, etc. I also found it very easy to use an Italian phrase book/dictionary after taking this course. I found the 15 hour course fairly intense. I often needed to repeat a lesson, to feel I was getting most of it (they say to go on to the next lesson after you get 80%). That's probably partly a function of distractions while driving. My guess is I retained about 50% of my speaking learning, and at least 90% of listening, on my first pass through the lessons. (I would benefit from a second pass.) And, as indicated above, what I did retain served me very well in Italy. (By the way, you can do fine using English in Italy, but it was a lot more fun trying Italian.) The two things that would have made the course better for me would have been: (1) some of the subject matter could have fit my needs a little better; I didn't happen to need to talk a lot about family members and relatives on my trip, and it would have been helpful to know more about transportation situations (trains and boats and planes); and (2) the last CD, a compilation of all the reading lessons, would benefit from being broken up into separate tracks, instead of being one long track. It would then be much easier to review.

Great way to learn Italian. Much cheaper than the Pimsleur website.

I have tried THREE other programs prior to Pimsleur and was disinterested or unimpressed with

each of them. From the very first lesson I was quickly absorbed into the material. I enjoy the cd's so much that I now seem to get to my office miraculously quicker. I like that the program has limited reading material because my only real free time to study Italian is while I'm driving. If you prefer, you can always buy some reading materials to supplement it, such as a good dictionary and phrase book, however, I like that the program is not dependant on that.

Great way to learn a language. I love that I can do it while commuting, and I can repeat a lesson to really make it "stick."

Pimsleur is the best. It really works and changes how we think about language.

This program is so simple because I can learn while I am driving. It makes me fluent enough for my 2 week Italy trip.

Pristine set and excellent service.

The Pimsleur courses German I and French I are well organized, paced, and progressively developed. Each new lesson builds logically upon the previous, with sufficient review to allow plenty of practice and reinforce retention. Italian I, by contrast, is very disjoint. It appears to have been designed by three separate committees, each oblivious to the others' work. Unless you have prior experience in Italian language or can get your hands on separate learning materials (Italian-English dictionary, a Barron's or Berlitz phrasebook, an Italian grammar textbook, etc.), you WILL get lost halfway through Italian I. Specifically, Lessons 1 through 14 (referred to in the course material as Italian IA) engage the listener/speaker in endless repetitions of VERY simple phrases and sentences, typically "Thank you, I speak a little Italian" and "I want to have one beer with you at your place at eight o'clock tomorrow evening." A little tedious but foolproof. Lesson 15 (first unit in Italian IB), however, begins with commands for the listener to translate into Italian, without any prior explanation or instruction, the following words (among several others): "he", "him", "your", "because", "January", "February", "vacation", "United States", "France", "city", "week", "next", "again", "always", "never", "to depart", "to see", "to know", "to visit", "to go", "to prefer", "to wait", "to work", "we can", "we would like to", "there is/are", "how do you say?", "time", "weather". In addition, the pace of the Italian speakers in Lesson 15 onward is light speeds faster than in Lessons 1-14. Just as frustrating, prior mastery of Italian verb conjugation (including the irregular and past tense), choice and

declension of pronouns, possessive adjectives, and prepositional cases is assumed. Again, this is most noticeable in the HUGE gap between Lessons 14 and 15. If you can bridge this gap with independent (non-Pimsleur) course materials, you will probably survive to finish Italian I. The reading practice is a joke, having absolutely no bearing on or connection to the audio lessons. The text appears to have been rifled entirely from nonrelated teaching materials, and you absolutely must have an Italian-English dictionary to get through the vocabulary therein. You may notice that Pimsleur never lists in their promotional product descriptions or in the written course materials anything remotely resembling a syllabus. No structured outline of concepts, grammar, or vocabulary to be presented. With their French and German courses, this is puzzling. With Italian, however, it is pretty clear why - there is little structure.

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