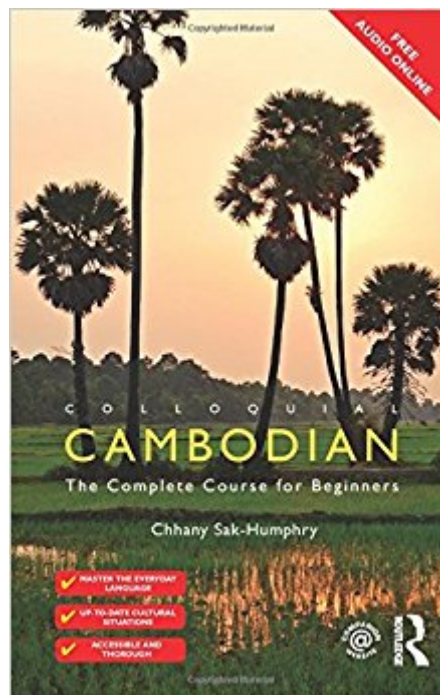




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Colloquial Cambodian: The Complete Course For Beginners (New Edition) (Colloquial Series)



Synopsis

Colloquial Cambodian provides a step-by-step course in Cambodian as it is written and spoken today. Colloquial Cambodian has been developed by a linguist and an experienced Cambodian language professor and combines an accessible approach with a thorough treatment of the language, equipping learners with the essential skills needed to communicate confidently and effectively in Cambodian in a broad range of situations. No prior knowledge of the language is required. Key features include: progressive coverage of speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills jargon-free explanations of grammar an extensive range of focused and stimulating exercises realistic and entertaining dialogues covering a broad variety of scenarios coverage of the Cambodian writing script useful vocabulary lists throughout the text additional resources available at the back of the book, including a full answer key, a grammar summary, bilingual glossaries, and translations of dialogues and reading passages. Balanced, comprehensive, and rewarding, Colloquial Cambodian is an indispensable resource both for independent learners and for students taking courses in Cambodian. Accompanying audio material is available for free download from www.routledge.com/9780415524070 in MP3 format. Recorded by native speakers, the audio complements the book and will help enhance learners' listening and speaking skills.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Chhany Sak-Humphry is Associate Professor and Coordinator of Khmer Language Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, USA

This is a decent book for self-learning (I got this out from my university library, so no 'verified purchaser' label). Positives: Explanations of grammar and vocabulary are easy to understand. The units are very intensive but that just means breaking them up into smaller lessons for oneself. Diagrams on how to write Khmer characters are also helpful. Negatives: Another reviewer (Colloquial Cambodian: The Complete Course for Beginners (New Edition) (Colloquial Series)) has pointed out a very extensive list of typographical errors; in working through the units I have found that even this list is incomplete. One particularly egregious example is the female speaker for exercise 5 in unit 1 reading out only 9 consonants instead of the listed 10 - needless to say, extremely confusing for the beginning Khmer learner when the audio stops matching the text. There is a sense that the book has been rushed out and not adequately copy-edited. The transliteration system I gather is improved from the first edition but is still inconsistent and unclear. I'm not sure why authors writing Khmer learning books are so reluctant to just use IPA transliteration but it would make learning pronunciation a lot easier, especially for the difficult vowel sounds that English speakers have trouble differentiating. The interruption of an English speaker translating each sentence during the example dialogues is poor practice from a pedagogical point of view - it's hard to switch out of L1 and listen in L2 if someone keeps offering English translations. Much better to have the audio in one Khmer-only chunk then break it down afterwards. Overall this is probably the best resource available for Khmer self-study, but there is still room for a definitive work.

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