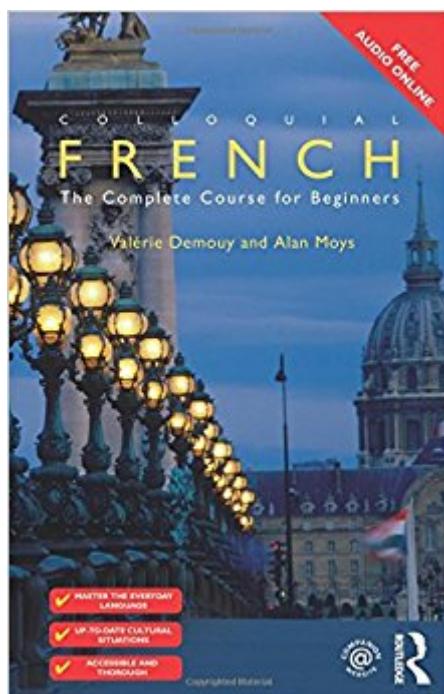


The book was found

Colloquial French: The Complete Course For Beginners (Colloquial Series (Book Only))



Synopsis

Colloquial French: The Complete Course for Beginners has been carefully developed by an experienced teacher to provide a step-by-step course to French as it is written and spoken today. Combining a clear, practical and accessible style with a methodical and thorough treatment of the language, it equips learners with the essential skills needed to communicate confidently and effectively in French in a broad range of situations. No prior knowledge of the language is required. Colloquial French is exceptional; each unit presents a wealth of grammatical points that are reinforced with a wide range of exercises for regular practice. A full answer key, a grammar summary, bilingual glossaries and English translations of dialogues can be found at the back as well as useful vocabulary lists throughout. Key features include: A clear, user-friendly format designed to help learners progressively build up their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills Jargon-free, succinct and clearly structured explanations of grammar An extensive range of focused and dynamic supportive exercises Realistic and entertaining dialogues covering a broad variety of narrative situations Helpful cultural points explaining the customs and features of life in France. An overview of the sounds of French Balanced, comprehensive and rewarding, Colloquial French is an indispensable resource both for independent learners and students taking courses in French. Audio material to accompany the course is available to download free in MP3 format from www.routledge.com/cw/colloquials. Recorded by native speakers, the audio material features the dialogues and texts from the book and will help develop your listening and pronunciation skills.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Valérie Demouy completed her M.A. in teaching French at the University of Pau in France. While teaching French in various British institutions, she developed a strong interest in beginner and intermediate levels. She is currently a Lecturer in French at the Open University, UK, where she has contributed significantly to the new beginners course. ^ ^

I purchased this as a supplementary book to Assimil French. The course is structured into "Units", which have 2-3 dialogues per each, with various grammar points and exercises added. I actually like the actors and actresses in the audio, and it's been pleasant to listen to them. They actually sound like they are alive and interacting, not just in some bleak studio. There is a bit too much English narration on the audio, but that seems to be pretty standard from these courses. I decided to spend (at most) one week per unit, do every exercise, and memorize as much as possible without flash cards -- i.e. just by repeated listening and reading along. This usually meant 1-2 sessions plus some incidental review of other units. So far, it has been a very productive journey and I can definitely feel an improvement in listening and reading comprehension. I like to mimic (aloud) the speakers, but that's about all the speaking practice you'll get. I would say that each unit will need about 2.5 hours if you follow this, plus a few minutes to review other units. You probably can skip many of the exercises if you want - some are just machine-like conjugation or fill-in-the-blank, but some are listening comprehension or force you to explain a picture, which are actually worth doing. If you are skipping the exercises, you can probably get much further in a single week, but because written French is also important to me, I've been focusing on these as well. The audio is freely available online as MP3s, so don't bother buying any CDs. Search for "Routledge colloquials audio" and you'll find it. Finally, if you aren't sure how good the audio quality is -- simply download it and listen to some of the tracks.

great book

It is great french learning book, although it could be a little bit challenging for a beginner to study on their own if he does not have any prior knowledge of French at all. For example for the first few chapters, probably because translations are provided for the dialogues, there is absolutely no vocabulary list so the learner would have to look up the word one by one if he wishes to know what

each word means. For me, since I studied French before, it was no problem at all, but you can certainly imagine how frustrating that must be for a total beginner! Otherwise, this book is excellent, especially because its material reflects colloquial language people actually use in daily life.

Kindle Edition: It says "MP3 Pack". I bought the kindle edition thinking that it would provide me with a download link to the mp3 audio. I never found a link to download the audio, and buying the CD would cost an additional \$21.78. Be careful when you place the order and make sure you buy the CD's, I think the kindle version without CD's would not be as effective especially because of need of audio to have the correct pronunciation.

Previous reviewer is a bit crazy. How can you brush up on your 'speaking' skills with a beginner's course book? Don't pay attention to him, the Colloquial series is usually very user friendly and very grammar friendly, explaining most grammatical points in a quick, easy to understand manner. And this course book does have A LOT of grammar. Way better than the TY French.

I learned French in high school for five years, so I am basically familiar with the language, but I am not comfortable speaking it. I bought this set (with the CDs) to try and brush up on my speaking skills. I was not impressed. The dialogs don't always focus on practical situation--these was one that was a call-in talk show! They also seemed a bit short. I use Audacity to cut out the English from the exercises in language books, and when I was done there wasn't a lot left that was useful. The Living Languages Ultimate series is not much more expensive, and focuses more on useful dialogs. I would recommend buying that instead.

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