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Complete German: The Basics (Book And CD Set): Includes Coursebook, 4 Audio CDs, And Learner's Dictionary (Complete Basic Courses)



Synopsis

With Living Language Complete German: The Basics, youâ™ll start by learning words, and then youâ™ll progress to phrases, sentences, and conversations. This simple four-step building block approach will have you speaking with confidence right from the beginning, and youâ™ll be able to learn gradually and effectively. Best of all, this comprehensive course includes everything you need â” pronunciation, vocabulary, grammar, culture, and practice â” and itâ™s designed to be effective in a short period of time. So what are you waiting for? With Living Language, youâ™re just a few simple steps away from speaking German! This comprehensive course package includes: â€¢ 40 step-by-step lessons in a convenient coursebook â€¢ 4 audio CDs with all the important course content â€¢ A comprehensive grammar reference section â€¢ Supplemental sections on e-mail and internet resources â€¢ An English-German/German-English learnerâ™s dictionary â€¢ A bonus pocket travel reference

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I had purchased this set primarily to learn conversational german for a two-week stay in Germany, although I did have some interest in learning the language for a long time. While this set does provide a good method for learning a large amount of the language, it is not easily approachable for casual learners. For instance, it will take a while to get to lessons involving important phrases for travelling. However, if you are looking for a rather in-depth introduction to the language, this may be just your ticket. Considering the sheer number of lessons, the coursebook will likely take a few

months to get through (at least if you intend to retain the knowledge). The requirement to use both the CD's and the book make it quite difficult to set time for learning. Also, the CD's are filled with German phrases or words without any actual dividers, making for a very muddled and confused rambling of German words - you really need to follow along with the book! I feel that I am learning little bits, but this program is not as easy to use as others have been.

I used this course before visiting Germany after I graduated from High School. Prior to my trip I studied French in high school (the boring grammar, drills, verb conjugations, teacher saying, "Ecoute tout le monde, repete..."). At first I worried that I had picked up a phrase book that would not be helpful in forming sentences. I was also wary of the idea that only German was spoken on the cassette tapes. The German-only tapes turned out to be more helpful than a burden. It turns out that the proper way to study the course is to review the book prior to and then along with the audio a few times. Then you must use only the audio. When you hear and repeat the audio try thinking of the meaning of the sentence in terms of images and feelings instead of the English translation. The results that I experienced were that my listening comprehension in German was better than that of the French that I studied for 3 years in high school. I was able to form sentences more intuitively than by trying to remember verb conjugations. Later in college I studied German and I was well ahead of my classmates. In Germany I was able to communicate even though I could not have a full conversation. This course will not get you to fluency but if you learn that way I learned (intuitively with little emphasis on rules) then it is a great beginning. There is very little in the way of grammar, but hey, do you really diagram your sentences in the middle of speaking English? The only drawback is that there are numerous helpful drills in the text that are not included with the audio.

I'm enjoying this conversational German text. It builds on words taught in lists, recycling them into conversations at the end of each unit. It seems relatively fast moving to me, but I am a first time German learner and it keeps me interested. Commendably it uses words and phrases in rich, multi-layered social situations which make the language more memorable. I would recommend this course.

I followed the Chapter sequence. At first I thought this was a tough course. But, I said to myself: "let me take 1 week for each chapter, following the audio of the CDs". Let me tell you that I learned very much German in those 10 weeks. I advise that you learn the numbers in German with other learning easy programs. There are a lot sold here on . Leave everything else to this book. Every night that I

repeated a chapter I learned something new, or a new light was lit in my learning. German is no easy language. Don't expect to learn in 10 days or one month. Don't desperate, after all, you will be advancing because you are in good hands with this book and CDs. Remember that you are at your own pace. The proof that this book is a very nice tool for learning German is that I am now taking the Deutsche Welle online free course, a course that is not easy to follow. I also can read simple writings. This book was helpful in all its aspects. Try it but study, study and study, that is the best task to learn. My next step is to see German language movies and hear music. I recommend this book as a great tool for learning German.

Pleased with CDs and workbook... the speakers have very clear voices and the language is spoken slow enough to decipher the words... there is a slight pause in between to allow me to repeat the word... listening is pleasant... it does take time to study with the workbook but this is a good learning tool and price is great!

This course is great for someone who is best at learning a language by hearing it, and having a little book to refer to when hearing the conversation that's being spoken. One thing I have to note -- like another reviewer -- the booklet doesn't cover every single thing that is said in the audio, it only translates what's said in the main conversation in the beginning of each lesson and the new words that are introduced. It's not a major problem, not something that should have you looking elsewhere for another course, but it would be nice. Oh yeah, at the end of the booklet is little but helpful grammar guide. This course won't make you fluent in German -- as if any course does btw -- but it will give you a good foundation to begin your road to fluency. How do you get fluent? Simple, by speaking German with German speakers and constantly hearing German through any means necessary, be it TV, radio, people... That way you get practice so that you reach the point where you can begin to speak without thinking about how you gonna say something, and also so that you get quicker at understanding what someone says. Also, it won't make your grammar perfect. That matter should be left to other resources like books that teach grammar, or excellent German speakers who can help. In all, despite its shortcomings, I give it a 5/5 because it's effective. The shortcomings that I've mentioned in this review are not a problem because I don't see how it would help you anymore than the text that's already given in the booklet.

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