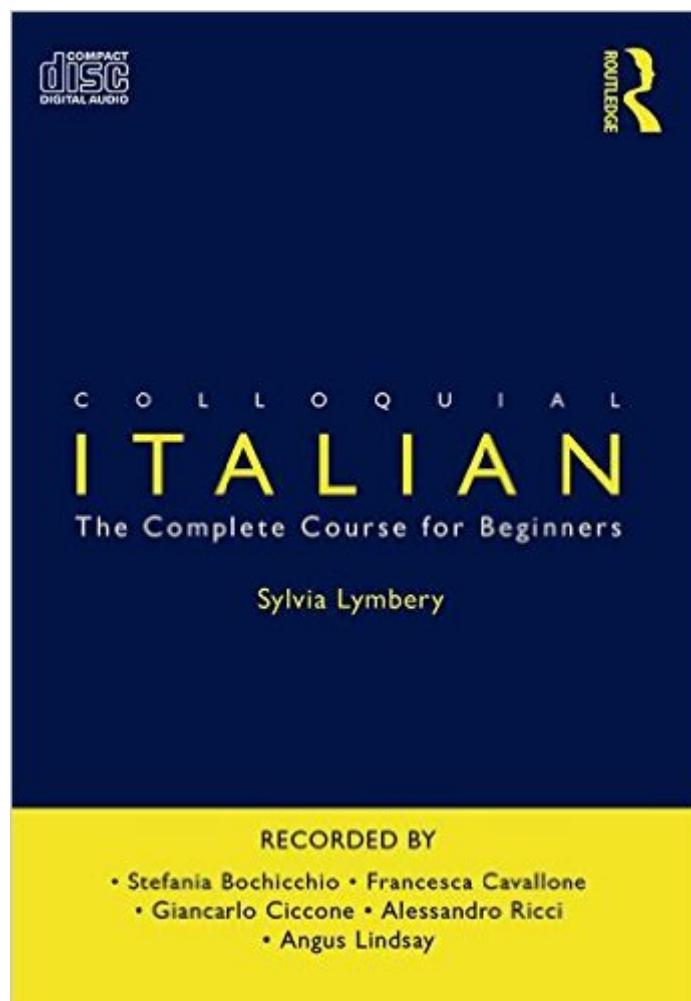


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# Colloquial Italian (Colloquial Series)



## **Synopsis**

These two 60-minute CDs, recorded by native speakers of Italian, are an invaluable component of the Colloquial Italian course. While reinforcing material from the book, the CDs also contain a variety of additional exercises, including role-playing, and a useful guide to pronunciation. Course components: The complete course comprises the book and audio materials. These are available to purchase separately in paperback, ebook, CD and MP3 format. The paperback and CDs can also be purchased together in the great-value Colloquials pack. Paperback: 978-0-415-36268-9 (please note this does not include the audio) CDs: 978-0-415-36270-2 eBook: 978-0-203-01272-7 (available to purchase separately from [http://ebookstore.tandf.co.uk/audio\\_viewbooks.aspx](http://ebookstore.tandf.co.uk/audio_viewbooks.aspx). Please note this does not include the audio) MP3s: 978-0-415-47081-0 (available to purchase separately from [http://ebookstore.tandf.co.uk/audio\\_viewbooks.aspx](http://ebookstore.tandf.co.uk/audio_viewbooks.aspx)) Pack: 978-0-415-43489-8 (paperback and CDs)

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

If you're new to Italian, this course is an excellent choice. The material covered is relevant to everyday life while still providing enough tourist-conscious text to help both types of learners : those interested in studying the language itself, and those interested in gaining conversational skills for travel purposes or otherwise. The course is well organized and informative, providing plenty of vocabulary and example sentences to steadily build a strong working knowledge of the language. You'll learn everyday conversation in tandem with needed phrases and words for getting by (such

as asking about prices, making plans, and so forth), and there are also cultural notes in the reading passages from the get-go to help you become more familiar with Italian life. The recorded material accompanying the course is strongly recommended -- toward the beginning of the course, dialogues and reading texts are presented at a fairly even-toned pace, and soon afterward it switches to a speed closer to that of everyday speech. Exercises to test your knowledge are presented throughout, and the answer key is of course provided at the back of the book. Almost all verb tenses are introduced, with the historical past tense omitted (although in the grammar section at the back of the book, it does list the regular conjugations alongside some of the most common irregular forms -- it's not essential that you learn this tense for your own use, but being able to recognize it when it you hear/read it is definitely recommended). What definitely impressed me about this course is that it summarizes the numerous Italian dialects into a comprehensive guide of which terms and phrases are most common.

I bought this from the Colloquial languages series because I had used the "Colloquial Japanese" in 1983 and found it exceptionally useful - I still use phrases from that book. What I liked at that time was the speedy pace, the intelligent and full discussions of Japanese grammar, and the relatively wide standard vocabulary for both reading and speaking. What I was trying to get away from was the Phrase Book approach - which treats you as if a) you are stupid and scared of grammar, b) only interested in buying souvenirs. So how was Colloquial Italian? On grammar, about middling. I found it irritating to have to learn the first person singular, then a little later the first and second person singular, and then again later the first second and third person singular. My feeling is that we need to learn paradigms, lets get on with it. Postponing it does not make it easier. In Colloquial Italian you only get the plural of first conjugation regular present tense on page 77, halfway through chapter 5. Still the discussions of grammar, when they come, are intelligent and informative. On vocabulary, I was again disappointed, for the book is directed primarily at the American tourist. Again, one needs to learn a good deal, so let us not hang back. The chapters are broken into several little sections, with a few words each. Much better to have one place with all the vocabulary listed in some rational order. Then one could start by learning it all by rote before working through each chapter. This would reinforces memory and also makes systematic study / revision far easier. Still, at least the book has a glossary that covers words used in the text so if you cannot recall which list it was in, you still have some recourse.

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