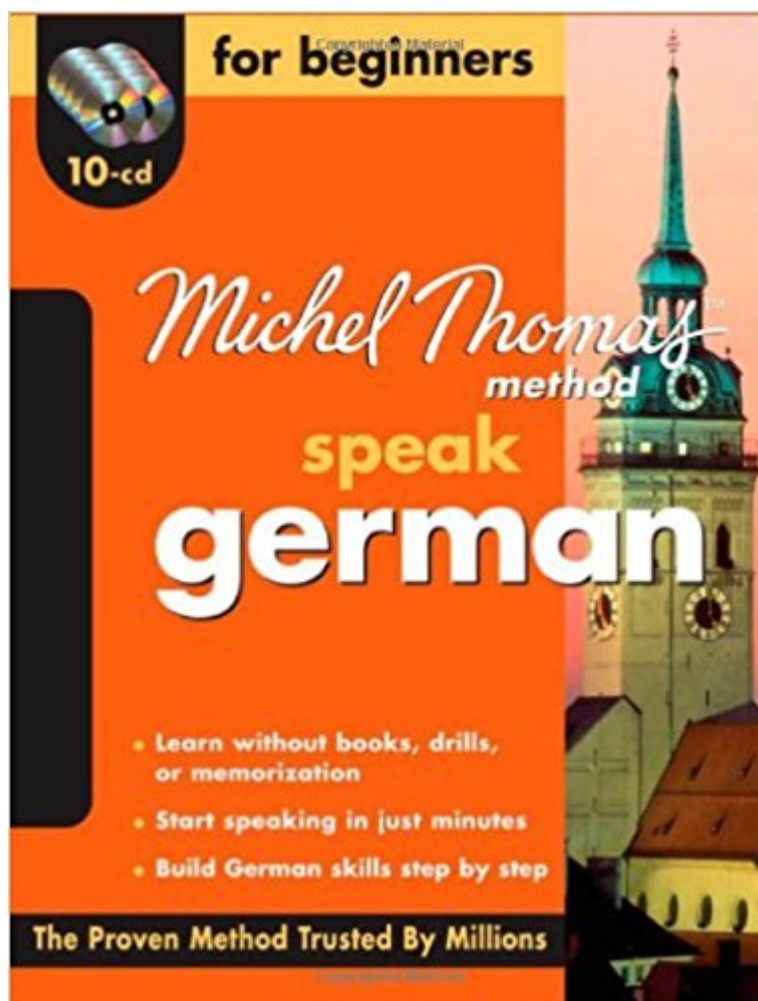


The book was found

Michel Thomas Method German For Beginners, 10-CD Program (Michel Thomas Series)



Synopsis

Experience the language learning method millions around the world have come to trust. Unlike most language learning systems, the Michel Thomas Method enables you to naturally and intuitively develop the building blocks for language comprehension. You learn at your own speed--listening, speaking, and thinking through the language. Guided by language teacher extraordinaire Michel Thomas, each CD takes you through an interactive lesson with two other learners. By the end of the program, you will have the ability to put together words and phrases together naturally and make your own sentences. You will have basic vocabulary, conversation skills, and the confidence to speak in German.

Book Information

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Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 20 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Michel Thomas taught languages for more than fifty years, developing a unique and revolutionary learning system that made him the world's leading language teacher. His method has been used to teach celebrities, diplomats, dignitaries, academics, and business executives.

As a PhD linguist and professional Spanish teacher, I adore languages and the process of language learning. I learned a little German years ago as a graduate student, but have always enjoyed using the little German I know and have wanted to learn more. Because we will be hiking in Switzerland next summer, my son suggested that I use my commute time to improve my German. I chose Michel Thomas over Pimsleur based on the reviews and have not been disappointed. In fact, Michel

Thomas is one of the two or three best language teachers I have ever encountered. I am about halfway through the Beginning course and am really having a blast, practicing like crazy during my commute and laughing out loud along with Mr. Thomas and his two students. I don't mind Mr. Thomas' French accent or the farcical difficulties of the male student. It all helps to make what could be a sterile process more human and enjoyable. It's interesting to compare Mr. Thomas' pedagogy with current second language learning theory. New language teachers are taught to minimize their use of English, of translation exercises, and of explicit grammatical explanations. Mr. Thomas breaks all these rules but does a great job regardless! In fact, my enjoyment of and progress from the CDs is making me question my training -- at least a little. I am curious how his techniques ramp up to a full classroom environment instead of the semi-tutorial setting of the CDs. It's also interesting to note Mr. Thomas' radical, yet effective, decisions about which aspects of German to teach. His biggest decision was to sidestep German's nasty gender and case system by focusing almost entirely on verbs, basically omitting nouns. The pedagogical advantage of this decision is that it's easier to build fluency without trying to remember the correct gender and number for every noun you use in a sentence. The other big decision was to only introduce the formal "you" pronoun Sie, omitting familiar "du" and informal plural "ihr." The pedagogical advantage here is that Sie verb forms (at least in the present tense, which is all I know so far!) are identical to the forms for "wir" (we) and the infinitive. Again, this means fewer reasons to stop and think when trying to assemble a sentence. My one criticism of the course was that it omits some expressions and vocabulary that are very useful for a tourist, from greetings to restaurant and hotel vocabulary. But these can easily be picked up from any decent guidebook.-----A post-Switzerland addendum: I got through most of the course before my trip and was amazed at how well it prepared me to communicate. It definitely enhanced my pleasure in visiting a German-speaking country. I'm planning to finish the Beginner's course for the fun of it and then move on to the Advanced course.

Having taken Spanish for a total of four years (three in high school and one year in college) I can tell you honestly that Michel Thomas' method is BY FAR, a faster and superior way to learning a language (I am actually enjoying learning German!). It involves constant interaction where at the end of just one hour of listening, I could say (and understand what I was saying and why the sentence was constructed the way it was) complex sentences in German such as "I am sorry, I don't know where it is, I can't find it". That is far better than taking 4 hours of college to finally learn the alphabet and a mere simple phrase like, "Hola, me llamo es Jeremiah". Many other reviewers have already written out, in detail, Mr. Thomas' exact format, so I won't bother here. What I will say





is that you really do learn fast and, believe me when I say, languages don't come "naturally" to me. But the way Mr. Thomas does his program makes language learning a natural process of listening, thinking about what you listened too, and then finally speaking. You will HONESTLY be able to make your way around in practical situations by the end of this 10 CD program (about 12 hours). Then take the advance to become fluent (a mere 5-6 hours more). That is FAR SUPERIOR to the 200 hours of time I spent in a class room over 4 years, to only finally barely become a little fluent. FIVE STARS ALL THE WAY!

The best thing about this CD is that all you do is listen . . . no pen and paper exercises. So you can really sit down, close your eyes, and concentrate on what is on the CD. The explanations are in English, though, so it is not a strain. Also, it is designed to lead you into understanding the grammar of German naturally; for me it worked. Altogether after I would listen to these CDs for an hour or two, I would notice that when I went out into a German store later in the day, I was understanding the German being spoken around me better - my ability to sort out the various sounds of German had improved.

Really enjoyed this method of learning a foreign language. Perfect for commutes to work.

As an American Diplomat stationed abroad I suddenly discovered unexpectedly that I had to learn German for my next assignment. In preparation for my 6 hour per day German language instruction I purchased a couple highly recommended German CD courses available on this site. After four months of intensive German language training I stumbled upon Michel Thomas' German CDs. As they were on sale I purchased them. Wow! I should have had these CDs before I took the intensive language training! This teaching technique sticks in your head. No memorization, no drills. His philosophy is that it is the teacher's responsibility to teach so the student remembers. It works, too!! now buy these as gifts for friends and family going on vacation or before an assignment and language training. This sets you up to converse confidently in a language (hey, fluency comes with time and much practice). These CDs are great. Buy them. R. Curtis[...]

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