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Behind The Wheel Express - French 1



Synopsis

Book by Behind the Wheel

Book Information

Series: Behind the Wheel

Audio CD: 3 pages

Publisher: Behind the Wheel; Unabridged edition (July 6, 2010)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.7 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #870,888 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in [Books > Books on CD > Languages > Language Instruction > French](#) #64 in [Books > Books on CD > Languages > Language Instruction > Spanish](#) #737 in [Books > Books on CD > Nonfiction](#)

Customer Reviews

Product Description Behind the Wheel Express â€” French 1 covers beginning to intermediate level French, providing a flexible, solid, and universal foundation in speaking, understanding, and creatively expressing yourself in French. The program features an English speaking instructor to guide you through the lessons and native speakers to aid with your pronunciation. Includes a companion book to reinforce and enhance the audio experience. Take a Look Inside Behind the Wheel Express â€” French 1 (Click on Images to Enlarge) [Basic Sounds](#) [Vocabulary Building](#)

â€œThe audio-only lessons build upon one another, using a native speaker to help you learn useful words and actually construct sentences from the get-go.â€• [Minneapolis Star-Tribune](#) â€œUnlike other audio language programs, this series encourages students to create their own sentences, making it more fun and conversational than other more expensive programs.â€• [The Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) â€œFocuses on real-world conversation...Great value.â€• [Men's Health magazine](#)

Very good French lang program to aid DIY learning. The CD's and book are well organized and EZ to follow. Use them in my car regularly to reinforce vocabulary and correct pronunciation. Studying the info in the companion book will speed up learning and establish a good foundation in French.

The very first thing taught on the very first CD is "what is your name". You just parrot the phrase back. There is no explanation as to which word means "name" or "what" or "your" or anything. This is the method used throughout. It seems it would be much better to teach each of the words FIRST, then proceed to put them into a sentence. Familiarize the listener with basic words on the first CD then move on to putting them into sentences on the second. I am someone who likes to know "why" I am doing something. So plan to do a lot of googling as you go if you enjoy clarification. But googling while driving isn't exactly a good thing to do. You will need to familiarize yourself with French in other ways and use these CDs as a refresher while driving. There are a number of free apps for your phone which are great. My friend got this same set and her gripe was the same as mine. She is Australian so it isn't an American thing. :) But the CD quality is excellent. Very clear. Price is very reasonable also. Instructor has a pleasant voice and the French speaker as well. But be prepared to listen to this while NOT driving to make better sense of it. Follow along with the book as well (there is a transcript in the back) to get a visual understanding of the words. I think if the instructor spelled words as he went it would be very helpful since it is meant to be listened to while driving and breaking out a book isn't really advisable. I am one of these people who needs a visual with a word. I like to know how to spell things as I learn. I think most people like to know how words are spelled to get a better overall understanding rather than just mimicking sounds without any explanation. I think many people without any knowledge of French will end up a bit frustrated. This is better for someone who maybe took French years ago and needs a refresher or for someone who is also supplementing their language learning with another method as well. This is not something you can use on its own and come away with a firm grasp of anything. It leaves you feeling like a parrot. Mimicking entire sentences without much explanation.

This set features three CDs and a 78 page book which provide a basic introduction to French. The CDs are clear and have an English speaker and a French speaker. At first, I had a bit of difficulty following the French speaker. It seemed that she spoke a bit rapidly but as I acclimated to the accent and inflection, she became easier to follow. The book is logically organized with succinct but understandable explanations of grammar and pronunciation. In the back there is a much appreciated transcript of the CD sessions. If you work with the book first, listen to the CDs, review the book and repeatedly listen to the CDs, you will develop a good basic command of the French language. It is not a fast track where you can just pop the CDs in and voila, *parlez vous francais*. It takes time, work and study. So although touted as the express lane to learning the language, this

set requires quite a bit more effort. If you want a good intro to French or if you want to refresh your memories of language classes of long ago, you will be satisfied with this set.

The idea of learning a language while driving was appealing to me. Like so many others, I believe myself too busy to dedicate time to one task and find the car a good place to listen to "Books on Tape" and other not too serious educational pursuits. I was pleased by the cost, the good presentation and lesson plans. I found the lessons more interesting and memorable on long trips rather than during short, traffic laden drives. I guess that is my learning style. After finishing the discs, I am not fluent but I am far more confident and excited about returning on vacation to the south of France. I'll still feel like the tourist but I will be comfortable getting into basic conversations and expressing myself. Finally at dinner parties, I will not have to wait for my cousins to translate for me and can venture into conversations on my own. When you think about it, that's where most of us want to begin. The 3 discs and small grammar/vocabulary guide easy and help quickly build language structure.

I have tried many language products and this one is well worth the \$15.99 that charges. It is one of the better audio CDs that provide the listener with explanations of words and then has a French woman say the words and phrases with very clear French diction and allows the listener to repeat what she says several times. Thereby using repetition to remember and pronounce in a more correct way. It comes with three CDs that are each about an hour. They are audio so they can easily be listened to in a car during a long drive. My only complaint with these CDs are they they do not have autoplay enabled so they must be manually started within the computer. The CDs also come with a reference book of the material though it is quite small (only 70 pages of lesson material). The French presented here is very basic with things like telling the time, the days of the week and phrases of rudimentary small talk. Don't expect to master French with these CDs. They will give you an excellent starting point.

these cds are a good introduction into french. if you are a little rusty and revisiting french after many years, or if you are wanting a quick intro into french this set is good. i like the booklet that comes with the cds because i am definitely an auditory and a visual learner. it is easier for me to pick up on new words when i can visualize them too. most of the time for learning a different language its either one or the other -- a book or a set of cds. or if it does come with a book it's not complete, and vice versa. i like this cd to fill my time on my commute to and from work and the price makes this deal

that much better.

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