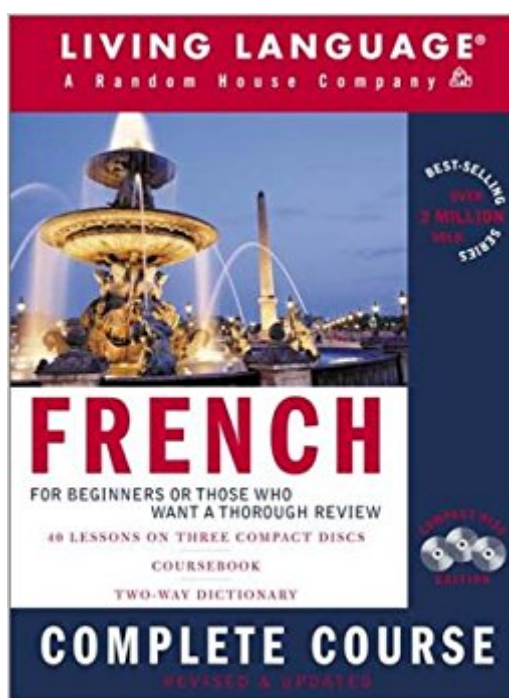


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# French Complete Course: Basic-Intermediate, Compact Disc Edition (LL(R) Complete Basic Courses) (English And French Edition)



## Synopsis

**SPEAK FRENCH WITH CONFIDENCE IN JUST 6 WEEKS!**The Living Language<sup>®</sup> French Complete Course teaches the basics of French language and usage. It uses a highly effective speed-learning method developed by U.S. government experts to teach languages to overseas-bound service personnel and diplomats. **THREE 60-MINUTE COMPACT DISCS WITH 40 LESSONS** – Begin with simple words and progress to complex phrases and sentences. – Just listen and repeat after the native speakers on the recordings to learn naturally, the way you learned English. **FRENCH COURSEBOOK** – 40 lessons from the recordings with translations, additional vocabulary, detailed explanations, quizzes, and reviews. – Verb charts, a comprehensive grammar summary, and a section on letter writing are also included. **FRENCH – ENGLISH / ENGLISH – FRENCH DICTIONARY** – More than 20,000 words, idioms, and expressions. – Examples show how words are used in everyday conversation. – 1,000 frequently used words are highlighted for easy reference.

## Book Information

Series: LL(R) Complete Basic Courses

Audio CD

Publisher: Living Language; abridged edition edition (April 16, 2002)

Language: English, French

ISBN-10: 1400020034

ISBN-13: 978-1400020034

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 2.1 x 7.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #168,768 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in [Books > Books on CD > Languages > Language Instruction > French](#) #139 in [Books > Books on CD > General](#) #240 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Foreign Languages > French](#)

## Customer Reviews

I haven't tried to learn a language since I was in high school in 1965. I looked a several courses and found this one in our local library. After one week, I understood pronunciation, some verb conjugation and some common expressions. I probably learned around 500 words. What I liked about this course is that it combined audio CD's where I could hear the words being said correctly with a course book that explained the pronunciation in writing so I could see the correct spelling. A

week after starting this course, I decided to purchase the program so I would have it for future reference.

I was looking for a CD that I could practice with while in the car. I can do that with this CD, but the book is needed to get the full benefit, which makes it a little inconvenient for me.

I am satisfied with the approach used in this package to learn French. I was satisfied with the condition of the materials, but disappointed in how long it took to get the package delivered.

Great items. Thanks

I've had this set for a few years, where it has sat on my shelf gathering dust. I was starting with zero knowledge of French when I first tried to use this set. It starts describing all the various pronunciation rules, using lists of example words. The Audio CDs contain only the French words (no translations), and so are useless without you following along in the book (unless you're only interested in listening to someone repeat French words). This pattern is seemingly repeated for all the lessons: lists of words and phrases that you're supposed to memorize, but lacking much in terms of context or conversation that might help your brain retain them. I'm a little perplexed by the other high ratings. Maybe it's just me, but I can't think of how anyone would find this format useful to learn, whether they were a newbie or just reviewing. To give you an indication of how much material this "course" offers, Lesson 40 (the last one) is on conjugating regular and some common irregular verbs (in which you'll probably be looking up 'pluperfect' in an English dictionary). Aside from a ton of conjugation rules you're expected to memorize all at once, there are two sample conversations given- 'Discussing Vacation Plans' (12 lines), and 'At the Pharmacy' (13 lines). I feel like I've learned more French just from the free content you can find online, including sample tracks of Michel Thomas and Pimsleur offerings, Learn French by Podcast, etc. You do get a French-English dictionary, so that might be worth, but at 259 pages, it's not very comprehensive. If you're looking for review material, or something to supplement a class, I would recommend something like Learn French by Podcast (the audio is completely free, you can buy pdf guides for the lessons *à la carte*). If you're looking to learn from scratch, I would keep looking. *À* Michel Thomas *À* or *À* Pimsleur *À* may work for you (you can read more about them on their own product pages, and download sample lessons from their respective websites), or try some software. I just started with *À* Fluenz, so we'll see how that goes, but it's already light years beyond where

this Living Language set took me.

you *can* get a working knowledge of the French language. I wouldn't recommend the Living Language series as the be all and end all of language instruction. This is a definite beginner/refresher course, designed to familiarize the person with basic everyday expressions, the alphabet, numbers, cognates (words that are similar in French and English), and so on. The main point of language instruction is memorization - something we all had to do in elementary school all those years ago. I understand the majority of the reviewers' gripe about the series not putting what you've learned to use. I echo that sentiment in wishing that this series would include more exercises other than match this expression with the correct answer. It may seem a bit empty to just have a native speaker reading off a list of the alphabet, numbers, and everything else in the course book but to hear a native speaker pronouncing the language is key. If you can pick up from that person the way words in that language are pronounced, chances are pretty good that you can be understood by native speakers when you do your own pronunciation. Language instruction is different for everyone. If you have the time and the money, perhaps a course at the local community college will do (although those tend to be immersion courses - where the instructor starts right in with the language whether you understand it or not) or you could go to the local French society for some classes. In Philadelphia, we are fortunate to have the Alliance Francaise de Philadelphie that offers French language courses. They are a bit expensive (for members and non-members) but the teachers are directly from France. Can't beat that! Treat the Living Language series as a primer for more in-depth language instruction.

I can't recommend this product. The sections aren't really lessons as there is no explanation to the rules of grammar. Also the sections are subjects as opposed to say a section on a particular verb. Really the only thing you can learn here is if you have a perfect memory. Even repeating the phrases with the CD's is darn near impossible as it goes really fast and each phrase is so different from the last that repetition isn't being used. I gave the second star for price and hearing the pronunciation on the CD's has some value.

I was so excited to start listening to this CD in my car! What a disappointment when I realized that all it is is a series of French words being spoken. I have been trying to bone up on my French for an upcoming trip and have tried 3 other courses loaned from the public library. This is by far THE WORST! I have 5 years of high school and college French, so I do know what they are saying on

the CD, but if you do not have the advantage of already knowing the language, I am not really sure how these lessons could possibly help. Steer clear!

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