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Italian: A Self-Teaching Guide, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

Learn Italian the quick and easy way! Whether you're learning Italian for the first time or just brushing up on your skills, this updated edition of the bestselling *Italian: A Self-Teaching Guide* is the ideal way to master the language at your own pace. In fifteen simple lessons, you'll learn how to engage in everyday conversations from ordering at a restaurant to asking for directions to making special arrangements with a hotel concierge. Written in a lively, personable style by a native Italian, this practical guide combines the quick-reference virtues of a phrasebook with the learning tools of a full-fledged language course. Designed to acquaint you with the basic skills you need to speak, read, write, and understand the language, *Italian: A Self-Teaching Guide, Second Edition* demystifies grammar, common usage, and pronunciation with step-by-step lessons on numbers, days of the week, telling time, and special rules of speech. It also includes extensive vocabulary and culture notes. Mini-dialogues from real-life situations provide a vibrant introduction to Italian culture and customs while a fun assortment of exercises, self-tests, and practice activities constantly reinforces your reading and conversational skills.

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Customer Reviews

This book is packed with value for the money. There are many books out there that are much more expensive, but are not as coherently put together. I am an older student who last studied Italian in the 1950's. I decided to sign up for an adult education course in Italian this fall as an Advanced Beginner. I bought this book to get me up to speed. I have not been disappointed. I find the

explanations of irregular verbs and nouns to be easy to follow, and the exercises are actually fun to do, with all the answers in the back. You have to work, but it is worth it. I find I love Italian as much as I did when I was young.

I am currently using this book as a student in an adult beginner Italian course with great results. The book immediately plunges into some of the more difficult concepts which normally would perplex the English speaking student with great ease. Each page consists of sidebar type boxes where verbs are conjugated, vocabulary lists abound, and grammar rules are succinctly laid out. Each chapter begins with new vocabulary revolving around a specific event like "Buying a Ticket in a Train Station" or "A Family Birthday". Dialogues using the vocabulary words in typical uncomplicated sentences accompany each topic and a variety of exercises follow along with detailed grammar explanations. All exercise answers are provided in the back of the book. Unlike some of the more colorful workbook type language guides, this book omits the cutesy pictures and cartoons and concentrates on what's really important: getting the rules of the language down by engaging in the variety of exercises included. If there is one thing that would add to the value of this text, it would be the inclusion of an audio CD with recitations of the dialogue and some practice exercises to train the ear and the tongue to the cadences of the Italian language. Bear in mind, that I am using this book in conjunction with having an instructor who, of course, corrects pronunciation and comes up with imaginative composition assignments to augment a course outline that closely follows the format of the book. As with any new language, an instructor to correct misconceptions and misunderstanding, I feel, is paramount to ultimate understanding and prevents the student from creating a language that only he or she understands.

The book introduces basics of the Italian language in a logical and rational way, giving the student a good grounding in the grammar and a reasonable vocabulary basis. After going through the book, one should be able to read an Italian newspaper with the aid of a dictionary. (Or without one if you already know another Latin language)

i'm a lucky one, with natural language-learning ability, so with 1-hour of daily tutoring in Italian while in Italy, and a total dedication to covering a chapter a day, I was speaking basic Italian in three weeks. This book was essential to my success. Very intelligently designed by someone who knows how and what to teach. Chapters have real-life dialogs that increase in complexity; a useful and appropriate vocabulary; clear explanations of grammar and sentence structures; and exercises

that proved useful as practice but which also test. compact and accessible, but as the title states, this is a self-teaching guide, only for those who will put forth the required effort.

Lebano is a very good self study guide. The exercises are comprehensive and challenging and answers are provided. I would give it higher marks if it had a decent index. If you learn everything in this one book you will have a solid basic knowledge of Italian.

This book is working great as a review source for studying Italian. I'm learning Italian at home and started with a couple other books that are pretty good. Then I started this book a couple months in to my studies and it has been a great source for reviewing. It has excellent descriptions of grammar and useful exercises (although there are a few typos in the answer section - just an editing problem that's pretty obvious). I'm not sure if I would recommend this as a sole source for your Italian studies as it does cram a lot in to a little space, but definitely get it for a back up for tough concepts along with some audio lessons (Plimseur is working well for me)

This is a nice text for the serious learner. Because there is no CD, it helps to be a self-starter. Writing out all the exercises helps to imprint the information. The material is presented logically, but not overwhelmingly. Nice find.

I bought this because it was required for an Italian class I was taking. It's not the best book to use for self-teaching though! Better to use with a tutor or in a class because there are some errors that are best explained by someone who already knows the language.

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