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Speak In A Week Italian Complete: See, Hear, Say & Learn



Synopsis

Easy-to-carry, easy-to-use and fun! A simple, straightforward four-week course in Italian! You'll be fluent in no time! No bulky books! Carry everywhere, learn anywhere... in the car, on the bus, even at the beach! In four 240 pp. wire-O bound books of eight sections apiece, you get a comprehensive overview of Italian grammar, plus nearly 70 pages of vocabulary. The thirty-one colorful, illustrated lessons, a comprehensive review, and detailed glossaries provide all the basic tools to learn Italian. Each page features Italian on one side and English on the reverse, with an illustration providing the visual clues and memory hooks to increase speed of comprehension, plus extra grammar tips, helpful hints, and cultural insights to enrich your learning experience. An audio CD provides native pronunciation of all material presented plus Mastery Exercises for comprehensive review.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have the Speak in a Week French, which I love. So, I decided to buy the Italian. I'm not enjoying it at all. The voice of the woman speaking Italian is very high and very sort of pinched, almost like it has been slightly sped up. In addition, she mispronounces a lot of words. Like, "Dov'È" ... which means "Where is..." is pronounced "DOH-veh" but she mispronounces it like, "DOO-vay", like the French word for quilt cover "duvet". But then in the next chapter, she pronounces it correctly as "DOH-veh" Why would she mispronounce it in one chapter and then pronounce it correctly in another? This makes me think that she is not actually Italian. The purpose of these CDs is to go through it with the book and then have it playing so that you can get the sound of the language from

a native speaker in your ear, but when it's mispronounced, it defeats the whole purpose! In addition, many times the pronunciation they have written down phonetically is wrong so I have to look it up in my Italian book to see who's right: Her pronunciation or the book's pronunciation... Example: Pg 49, the Italian sentence reads: "Dov'è la scrivania?" (Where is the desk?) She speaks, "DOO-vay [wrong] lah scree-vah-'NEE-ah [right], but the pronunciation in the book says, "dohv-EH [right] lah skree-'VAH-nyah" [wrong]. I had to get my Italian book out with IPA to decide who to follow; the woman's voice or the book, and they were both wrong.... oh my God... What a waste of time!

I just finished book 1 and already I've learned a lot for someone who was a complete beginner when I started. By the end of book 1 you will be able to understand this for ex: "Ho una racchetta ma non ho una palla" and much more. If you want to be able to read/write as well as speak Italian, this a good place to start -- especially if you're looking for a book, that's small, portable as well as one that has a simple, uncluttered format -- there's just a phrase per page (one side in English, the other in Italian) and the CD follows along w/ the book. If you literally want to complete each book in a week, you'd have to spend ALL day studying - It took me a month to get through the first book, studying 30 mins to an hour, 4 or 5 days a week (I'm in no rush) - Of course, the more you practice, the faster it will go. I also listen a few minutes a day to the CD in the car. If you just want to learn enough to get by for a trip -- I would try something else. However, if you're a beginner and you want to learn how to read/write and speak Italian, this set is a great start. Note: there are a couple errors where the CD doesn't match what's in the book and some lists of words in the book that are in the wrong columns -- but you can go online and find the info you need to make the corrections (there are a ton of websites for students of Italian)

This series on learning Italian follows in the admirable footsteps of the series on learning Spanish. Penton Overseas has got a winning formula for teaching languages. I purchased the Spanish series and was so impressed that I decided to obtain other Penton Speak in a Week series i.e. French, Chinese, and Italian. I just wish the German series was available in a four book/volume set. At the present time I am dual learning both Spanish and Italian as there is a great amount of similarities in both languages. Anyone interested in learning a new language or brushing up on a language (my Spanish was learned 40 years ago), would be well advised to invest the time and money in purchasing these excellent language series.

I used the Speak in a Week French to learn French before we went to Paris in 2008 and it was so

helpful! I have been working on learning Italian for years and decided to get this product. It didn't disappoint. The key, when learning a language, is practice, of course, and I don't always have the time to devote to practicing. But when I do put in the time, I am pleased with the results. This is easy, and a great tool for learning some basics before you go to Italy.

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