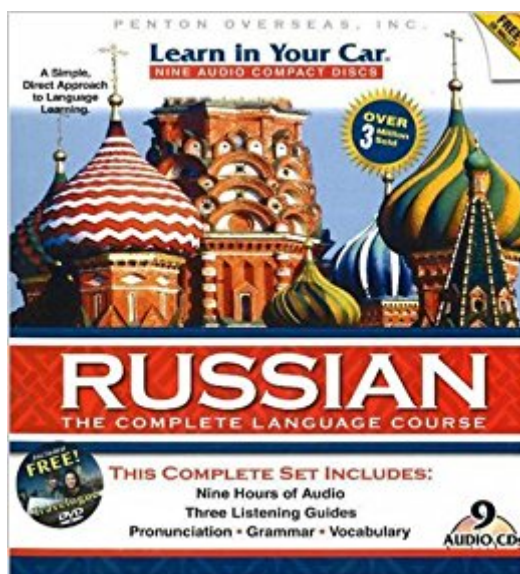


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Learn In Your Car Russian: The Complete Language Course [With CD Carrying Case For People On The Go And Travelogue DVD] (Russian Edition)



Synopsis

Our best-selling audio language-learning program provides comprehensive grammar and vocabulary to beginners and advanced students, offering guidance in pronunciation in addition to language fundamentals. Updated for the 21st century and re-recorded with fresh voiceovers, Learn In Your Car includes terminology for cell phones, computers and the Internet, as well as contemporary currencies and usages. Listeners learn pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar of a new language without the need of a textbook: Level 1: Key words and phrases, basic grammar skills, emphasizes travel needs; Level 2: Expands vocabulary, new grammar concepts, more day-to-day activities; Level 3: Broadens vocabulary base, more advanced grammar skills, enriches conversational ability. 9 hours of audio on 9 compact discs, 3 booklets with recorded text for reference & grammar notes, Zippered CD Wallet, Travelogue DVD.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

These things are great to listen to, to hear the pronunciation of various native speakers (they might use 3 different speakers over the course of the 3 volumes) but there is no way that you're going to learn a language this way unless you are a mimic. They are good for practice and pronunciation, though. They don't make you come up with the translations on your own. It's too easy to sit back and wait a few seconds and just listen to the correct translation. And it's far too distracting to try to drive and listen to this at the same time. It's cool to rip to mp3 and listen to on a hammock though. I've had

mine for 3 years and I've picked-up virtually no Russian at all this way. I've spent enough time studying languages to know that the only way to really learn them is to force yourself to translate back and forth between English and the foreign language and build-up your vocabulary. But still that will not give you the proper or even a realistic pronunciation, and that is where these CDs really help. That one part makes this set (or something like it, with native speakers & phrases) invaluable for anyone who is seriously considering the study of the Russian language.

I bought all 3 levels. I have been teaching myself Russian for years and have been through many cd's. I couldn't find anything except repetitive travel beginner programs. This program introduces vocabulary and graduates to full sentences. By level 3 you can feel conversational in most every day situations. It's very handy to be able to listen to each lesson in your car, and you can double check what you hear later with the companion booklet. Russian grammar is incredibly difficult, but you learn most of it by carefully planned sentences that allow you to get the feel of it without memorizing endless endings. It's the best program I've seen (and I've seen most of them!)

I purchased quite a few Russian courses being determined to learn it. This includes the Penguin course, the CD based courses by both Rachel Farmer and the one by Daphne West, and this one. Of the CD based courses, so far I like this one the best. I must say that I have really enjoyed this course to date. I have not completed it yet, but it is a great way to build one's Russian vocabulary to the point where you could converse and get around in Russia. The included manual contains the English and the Russian Cyrillic which I find helpful so as to see how the words are spelled in Russian. At least in the early lessons, there is not much addressing proper grammar, as Russian grammar is different than English, but I think that this is addressed to some extent in the later lessons. I am using the Penguin text as well to supplement this and they do complement each other well.

Basically, this CD is just an audio Russian-English dictionary. You can use it to pick up a few words, but it is a very tedious way to learn. It doesn't go far in describing how to construct entire sentences.

I am currently taking a Russian class and using Rosetta Stone. This helps me when I'm away from the computer on my daily 4 hour commute.

Really the best way to learn a language especially when you have a busy schedule

The basic premise of Learn In Your Car Russian (LIYCR) is to have an audio-based learning program which does not require book study, so it can easily fit into people's daily schedules while they engage in other activities. There are 9 hours of audio teaching 600+ words for the entire course. Level One is heavily oriented towards the traveler, and addresses important issues such as, transportation, money, hotels, finding your way around town, numbers, restaurants, shopping, time, schedules. Levels Two and Three go beyond survival words and phrases, increasing vocabulary and developing core grammar skills.

STRENGTHS I've been to Russia about 15 times, and can state that LIYCR teaches very useful vocabulary and expressions for a person who is actually going to put their feet on the ground in Russia. This is one of the few beginning study courses which does not shy away from the difficulties of Russian grammar for the English speaker. It gives practice in all tenses for verbs and all 6 Russian grammar cases for nouns. Also, this is one of the best courses I've seen for using a restricted vocabulary in almost all available grammar permutations, making it very good at showing how to form natural Russian sentences.

WEAKNESSES There are few conversational dialogs and no real story lines, so there's nothing here to particularly capture a person's interest. It definitely takes some fortitude and motivation to go through these rather dry lessons. For the absolute beginner, LIYCR is rather rough. There isn't very much repetition (unlike Pimsleur Russian), and the pace is very rapid fire. The result is that acquiring the presented vocabulary of 600+ words from the audio alone is difficult. As suggested by another reviewer, augmenting your studies with flash cards is very beneficial. LIYCR does have a small booklet with the Russian alphabet, pronunciation guide, and transcripts with translations of the spoken dialogs. However, it is really beyond the scope of the booklet to teach a person how to read Russian. This leads to my major criticism of LIYCR - if you are a total beginner and couldn't understand something from the audio (highly likely), the booklet doesn't offer much help since you can't read Russian either. Although the course's stated objective is to be a completely audio based program, it IS necessary to refer to a booklet, and the course does not prepare you to read the booklet.

WHO WOULD BENEFIT FROM "LEARN IN YOUR CAR RUSSIAN"? For students with some prior knowledge of Russian, this is a good addition to your study program. For what you get, the value is quite good. However, it is not a stand-alone course, and you will need other study materials. It really shines at developing intermediate grammar skills and providing a practical vocabulary for the traveler. Although I have studied for years, I still use LIYCR (mostly levels 2 and 3). It's great practice for pronunciation and reviewing fundamental grammar skills used in everyday speech. I've had numerous compliments from surprised Russians that I don't have a foreign accent and that I seldom make the usual grammar mistakes of an English speaker. I credit LIYCR for much of this

(Pimsleur Russian being the other main contributor).WHO DOESN'T WANT TO BUY THIS?For a one time traveler to Russia, even Level One LIYCR is probably more than you want to invest time wise. Buy something such as the book "Russian in 10 Minutes A Day" to learn how to read maps and signs in the Russian alphabet, plus a phrase book/audio CD.For an absolute beginner who is seriously interested in learning Russian and wants a completely audio-based program that truly lives up to it's claims (i.e. doesn't need a book or other 3rd-party study materials), I recommend just going straight to Pimsleur Russian, and coming back to this afterwards. The 2 courses complement each other well, and Learn In Your Car Russian is more appropriate for someone with some prior knowledge of Russian.

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