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Living Language Russian, Complete Edition: Beginner Through Advanced Course, Including 3 Coursebooks, 9 Audio CDs, And Free Online Learning



Synopsis

Russian, Complete Edition is a unique multimedia course that takes you from a beginner to an advanced level in one convenient package. At the core of Russian, Complete Edition is the Living Language Method, based on linguistic science, proven techniques, and over 65 years of experience. Our method teaches you the whole language, so you can express yourself, not just recite memorized words or scripts. Millions have learned with Living Language. Now it's your turn.

3 Books: 46 lessons, additional review exercises, culture notes, and a grammar summary plus a bonus notebook

9 Audio CDs: Vocabulary, dialogues, audio exercises, and more listen while using the books or use for review on the go

Free Online Learning: Visit our Language Lab (www.livinglanguage.com/languagelab) for flashcards, games, and interactive quizzes for each lesson To learn more visit livinglanguage.com

The Living Language Method Build a Foundation Start speaking Russian immediately using essential words and phrases. Progress with Confidence Build on each lesson as you advance to full sentences, then actual conversations. Retain what You've Learned Special recall exercises move your new language from short-term to long-term memory. Achieve Your Goals Don't just mimic or memorize. Develop practical language skills to speak in any situation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I picked this up at the bookstore expecting it to be too simple because of already completing several other courses (see my other reviews). Every course is different and seeing things from different angles helps a lot. I was wrong. The first of three booklets (essential) covered mainly stuff I already was familiar with and knew cold but was explained in much more detail than any of the other courses. The intermediate book was extremely useful. The course starts with a topic and introduces new words associated with the topic, then uses the words in numerous well chosen phrases, then the phrases are used in sentences related to the topic, finally the last section related to the topic contains a couple of dialogs covering the topic. The topics receive a fairly thorough coverage. The topics, such as going to the doctor, shopping, etc. have many more sentences and words than any of the other courses so prepares you end up better prepared to handle the situation. It may have less topics but the topics covered are usually in depth enough that you might be able to get by. Not just a snap shot of the topic. Another strength is that it gives complete conjugations for many words, with recordings to match. This is something I have not seen in any other course yet except for just a couple of verbs. For example, they will have all conjugations (at least present and past tense) of verbs like to eat, to drink, to have breakfast, to have lunch to have dinner, etc. By complete I mean (I eat, you (fam) eat, he/she/it eats, we eat, you (plural and formal) and they eat in the present tense, followed by all of the past tense conjugations, I found this very helpful. It drills the daylights out of the most basic of words. The recordings are very clear.

When Living Language first came out, my linguistic friends labeled it the toilet paper of language programs. However, over time this company has improved remarkably. The things that I have found positive about this set are this: The program is put together by a linguistic professor of Russian, the set comes with three lesson books including grammar and supplemental information to the audio discs and a fourth book for taking notes. What I don't like about this set: Program jumps very quickly between lessons; the information learned does not stick very well. Also by comparison this advanced set comes with 9 total discs. By comparison Pimsleur comes with 3 sets of 16 discs and the Barron's Mastering audio programs come in 2 sets of 12 discs (not available in Russian.) By those comparisons this set is in the dark! But then again there is price. This set is much cheaper the giants of language learning so for that reason alone it is worth buying; especially if you are only wanting to put in a minimal investment to language learning. The problem with this set is that it can lead to frustration; the fast pace of the course, lack of repetition and explanation of words is annoying. What I have done is supplement this course with free online language tools found all over the internet. In particular there are several sites that teach the Cyrillic alphabet and / or quiz you on

it. There are other sites like Bing Translator that help you understand the words you are listening too. So, all to say that if you are dedicated to this program you can get a lot from this, but understand that there may be frustration involved.

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