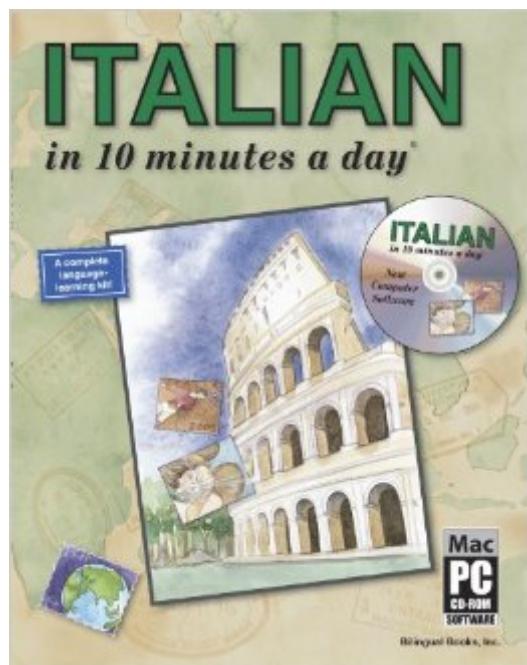


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ITALIAN In 10 Minutes A Day With CD-ROM



Synopsis

ITALIAN in 10 minutes a day® Book 132-page illustrated workbook Full color throughout
Organized in 25 easy steps, by essential categories 150 Sticky Labels for home and office
Ready-made Flash Cards Cut-out Menu Guide Pronunciation Guide Over 300 Free Words Glossary
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special activities. Now, learning Italian is faster and easier than ever! Soon you'll be able to ask for
directions to the Trevi Fountain, shop for souvenirs near the Ponte Vecchio, and chat with the locals
as you sit down to dinner in the Piazza San Marco. And with the cut-out menu guides, ordering a
meal, or un pasto, and that perfect glass of wine is an enjoyable and easy experience. ITALIAN in
10 minutes a day® with CD-ROM is a complete, and fun, hands-on language learning program it
will spark your passion for Italian and teach you everything you need for your adventures in Italy!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I recommend this entire series (... "10 minutes a day") as the best value you will find in learning a language at the basic level. They are well done, technically excellent and the layout of the graphics and type add to the remarkable clarity this book brings to learning a new language. The content is a

perfect mix of not only words and phrases but how to combine these so as to actually be useful while traveling as opposed to the boring and limited memorization techniques so frequently found in language texts. This will not make you "fluent" but will enable you to travel with confidence and communicate your needs without worry. This book is easy enough for children as well. My nine year old son easily completed the exercises and the material was not too difficult for him. I would make one recommendation as an adjunct to this book. Without exposure to native speakers it is somewhat difficult in regards to correct accent and pronunciation. I have bought and used many language tapes and found the "Pimsleur" tapes the best around. Even if you cannot afford the entire beginners set of 30 lessons on 15 tapes they now market an introductory set which is the first few tapes of the larger set and is priced at around twenty dollars here at . Even these few lessons will do wonders for giving you the exposure you need to speak more like a native. If you can afford the larger set go for it... this book is the perfect companion!

Last April I spent 10 days in Italy with my family. I am a language fanatic so I used the trip as an opportunity to try out a new language similar to two that I had already studied (French and Spanish). This book really helped me learn the basics of conversational Italian, without being bogged down by intense grammar sessions and cumbersome textbooks. It is arranged like a children's language book with pictures and workbook pages that really help you become interactive with your learning. Despite some reviewers, I enjoyed the fact that there were no tapes or CDs attached to this book. Listening to tapes for long stretches of time is, frankly, boring, and I know that I can just as easily fall asleep listening to tapes than actually learn the language. This book is fabulous for learning some Italian for a trip, but probably not for a long term study of the language. It is only an introduction and I know that I said I like the minimum amount of grammar in the book but a serious student would be stunted by those missing lessons. One more comment that I would like to add is that I did not have the recommended amount of time to study with this book before my trip. Nonetheless, I learned Italian that helped me be polite, but maybe not a stellar conversationalist. The people there (and I would guess just about anywhere) appreciate visitors attempts at the native language. It shows common courtesy and acknowledges that you are visiting them, and not vice versa. There is too much Anglophone superiority in our country and, no matter which book you choose, learning some Italian is really appreciated.

I really enjoyed Italian in 10 minutes a day. It is well laid out, and fun to study. A perfect introduction to learning Italian. After this book I can recommend Italian Made Simple, which will then take you

through most of the Italian grammar.

Italian in 10 Minutes a Day is a great book for beginners or those wanting only a superficial understanding of the language. The colorful presentation, fun activities, flashcards, and word stickers are all a great way to get started, but please understand before purchasing that you will NOT be anywhere near fluent regardless of how much time is spent with this book. You will be "speaking" in 10 minutes a day, but don't think small Tuscan villages where English is little spoken will be open to you, or Italian music or movies. My recommendation, get this book, use it and then get a more serious grammar and a tape course like Pimsleur.

One of the "gimmicks" of this book is that it comes with stickers you can place on objects around your house, labeling them in Italian. It may sound silly, but it works. I will never forget what to call the door, the mirror, the cat (okay, he's not really wearing a sticker), or dozens of other common items around the house. Writing a word or phrase over and over again and repeating it out loud may seem like tedious exercises, but there is a reason why these kinds of drills are used in schools throughout the world. Writing and saying words is an effective way to reinforce them. The pronunciation guide is helpful, although its weakness is that it does not tell you which syllable gets the emphasis. This book is a terrific way to get started, but you will also need some kind of audio course, or a live teacher, to master the sound of spoken Italian.

This is an excellent intro to Italian for the person who wants the basics for a vacation to Italy, or perhaps as a starting point for someone who wants to go on to study Italian more seriously. The idea that you are only to spend 10 minutes a day is reassuring for those of us with busy schedules...as someone else said, you actually end up spending more time with the book every day because it is fun...but knowing that my "commitment" is for ten minutes makes it easier for me to pick the book up at the end of a long day at work. The brevity of the exercises makes it perfect for those times when you have a few minutes to spare (e.g., waiting for a friend to show up). I also liked the sticky labels and the pocket guides. In general, this book is very strong in teaching a lot of good vocabulary, but I found it a bit weak in teaching structure. (Keep in mind that I am only about half way through it, though!) I am discovering that I have learned a lot of great vocabulary, but except for some basic phrases (Where is the...? Here is the...), I am not able to produce a lot of complete sentences. Again, the phrases the book DOES teach are useful for travelers, but not necessarily helpful for someone wanting to make casual conversation with an Italian speaker. Also, though they

do a great job teaching how to pronounce the different consonants and vowels, they don't talk much about where to place the stress in multisyllabic words. My Italian friends frequently corrected me because I've placed the stress on the wrong syllable (interference from Spanish, probably).

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