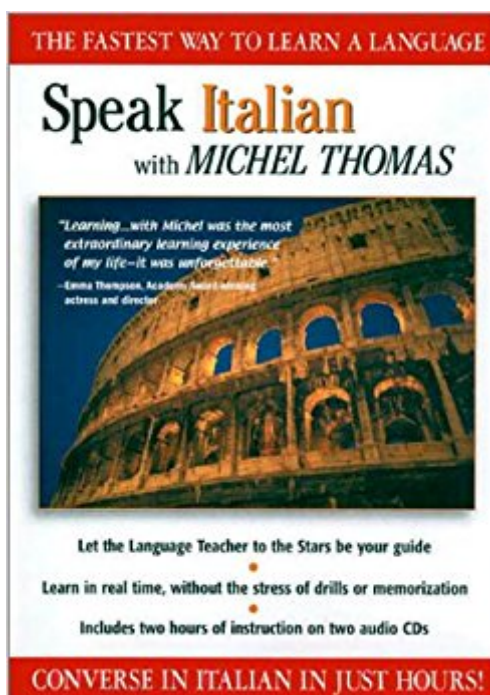


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Speak Italian With Michel Thomas (Speak... With Michel Thomas)



Synopsis

Anyone can learn a language with Michel Thomas--The World's Greatest Language Teacher. No books. No writing. No drills. And nothing to memorize--ever! With his unique program, Michel Thomas has taught celebrities, corporate leaders, and schoolchildren--with immediate and amazing results. Now the Language Teacher to the Stars invites everyone to join his class! Using Speak Italian with Michel Thomas, listeners learn in real time--fully understanding as they go along, turning words into short sentences, and then building them into longer, more complex sentences, until they are conversing in Italian. Michel will have listeners formulating their own thoughts and sentences from the very beginning, even if they have never succeeded in learning a language before. Michel has used this very method to teach celebrities such as Mel Gibson, Woody Allen, Barbra Streisand, Warren Beatty, and Princess Grace of Monaco.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michel Thomas (New York, NY) is head of the Michel Thomas Language Centers and has been teaching languages for more than 50 years. He has taught his revolutionary language program all over the world.

I also learned German from Thomas. It's effortless. A plus grade in teaching. CDs were in good condition.

Michel Thomas is the best teacher when it comes to learning a foreign language!

Great

The method really does work--I was surprised at how much I was retaining. He has a thick accent but is careful to enunciate and spell things out if needed. I would have liked more travel terms & vocabulary. This CD teaches enough to converse in Italian, but not really needed for our vacation.

Excellent CD!! I was speaking Italian in a half hour. It is highly effective and a must have if you want to learn Italian.

I've been bored to death with formal language lessons, and really have been turned off with most of the run of the mill tapes and exercises that were my only other excursion into the realm of language learning. I bought only the intro 2 CD set in order to quickly prep for a trip to Italy after I found it at a major chain bookstore. I wanted something simple that required no exercises so I could listen to it in the car during my commute to and from work. Despite Michele's aged look on the CD packaging and the fact that he touted that he was the psychic., uh,... I mean, "language teacher" of the stars, the packaging sold me on a method different than the usual, and at price far better than the competition. Talk about dumb luck! By the end of the second 6-minute lesson, I was hooked. (I actually did the first two while riding my mountain bike!) Mr. Thomas method really is effective. He starts very basically with words that are familiar to the English speaker, and teaches his two students on the CD ways to piece them together into useful and fairly complex sentences. You are expected to act as a third student, and by effectively using the "pause" button when prompted and thinking through his requested phrases, you immediately begin to learn. Importantly, Michele skips the usual annoying "hello, my name is _____" garbage common to most courses that makes you feel as if you've committed yourself back to grade school. Very quickly you are able to say things like, "I am sorry, but it is too expensive, and I do not want to buy it because it is not very good." -- and know how to use the words in a variety of other expressions! By the end of the first CD of 11 lessons, I caught language fever -- even though my trip to Italy was canceled. Mr. Thomas continues through his lessons by building in a circular fashion, combining the expressions and words you've learned with new words, ideas and phrases. He helps you understand more complicated areas such as how to manipulate tenses, or to convey nuances just a bit differently - all without letting you forget what you've already learned. By the end of the second CD / the intro course (which I took on

my vacation to the UK as I would have ordinarily taken a good book), not only was I kicking myself for having not bought the full package, wanting to chew into the next lessons. Anyway, after the first 2 CDs, I can now form some pretty complicated sentences and would have been comfortable getting around the basics in Italy with nothing more than the aid of a quick reference book for the randomly needed vocabulary. Wow. Like anything, you have to set some time aside to work with the CDs a bit, and obviously don't expect to be closing business deals in Italiano after only 2 CDs, but I think this system is about as close as I imagine I'll get to that old Peanuts (Charlie Brown) cartoon storyline -- when Linus used to put his school books under his pillow before bedtime to learn through sleep-absorption, in lieu of formal studying for his exams. In closing: I am amazed that I am more motivated than I have ever been for learning languages. The CDs make me feel like a natural. I have just ordered the full 8 CD set (will gift the starter kit of the first two in that set to someone else) and can't wait to keep learning even though I don't expect to visit Italy any time in the next few years. Enjoy!

I've studied German, Spanish, Italian, French, one or two in college, others by book or book/tape alone. Michel Thomas and Pimsleur are both audio-based, bit-by-bit, repetitive courses. Here, Michel Thomas (himself) teaches you a couple hours of introductory Italian ("That's not possible = Non e possibile, "I want to buy it here = Voglio comprarlo qui", "I want the same as that" etc). It's aimed at people who "hate languages" or got nowhere with them in school. I'd add my experience that even though Michel Thomas courses allow you to start from absolute zero, his products can also be great for jump starting real usage and conversation based on words you've already seen from high school, a Berlitz paperback, etc. For example, I can even read Italian at, say, the fourth grade level, and similar Spanish at high school level, but this CD set really helped me think and vocalize in Italian better. Like others have said, if your goals go very far, you'll get the 8-hr version, this is the first 2 CDs of that. If you happened to have a year or two of high school Italian or Spanish, rather than zero, you'll likely get way more out of these CDs than you'd expect.

I ordered the deluxe version of this program a few weeks ago and have gotten through the first 2 cds. I thought i would have alot of trouble with this because I have never been good at language studies. I must say that after the first 2 cds i have learned a great deal very quickly with good retention. Most of what is taught in the first 2 cds is understanding how to use verbs and make simple sentences (I want to buy it, are you staying home tonight?,...) While this is great stuff, I think the 2cd version will definitely leave you wanting for more. At the end of cd2 in the deluxe version,

Michel says "this is the end of the introductory course" so im sure that the deluxe set is this package plus another 6 cds. Basically, you will learn to understand how verbs and pronouns work in this version. He leaves you to memorize nouns on your own which is fine. As he says in the recording, "if you understand how verbs are used in the language, you understand the language." multo buono!

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