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Ultimate Italian Advanced (Book And CD Set): Includes Comprehensive Coursebook And 8 Audio CDs (Ultimate Advanced)



Synopsis

Available September 2003 Created for the serious language-learner, our deluxe Ultimate Italian Advanced course has been revised and updated. It teaches a sophisticated level of conversation and grammar and is equivalent to two years of college study. Free additional exercises are now available on line! Perfect for the businessperson and anyone traveling or living abroad, Ultimate Italian Advanced course contains a 400+ page book with eight 60-minute CDs covering 20 lessons. Each lesson includes lively, up-to-date dialogues, vocabulary, exercises, culture notes, and detailed explanations of grammar and usage. KEY FEATURES: • Ideal for anyone planning to live or conduct business abroad • Includes extensive business vocabulary and details of business etiquette • Free extra practice on line with more than 100 additional practice sections • Updated with new vocabulary and information about culture and everyday life; and now include references to the euro • Now available on CD for ease in moving between lessons • "perfect for use in the car, at the gym, or anywhere you please"

Book Information

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Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (20 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This set is great, and it's actually the only tape set that I found appropriate for advanced level Italian. I think a minor drawback is that the length of time in between some of the phrases doesn't give you enough time to practice repeating the phrase completely. However, I still think the set is fantastic. It puts idioms, different grammatical constructions and vocabulary in the context of realistic conversations.

Definitely for the advanced speaker, this program is best when the book is used along with the tapes. The accents are easy to understand and a good variety of topics (shopping, travel, computers, wine, architecture) is covered, although there is a strong emphasis on business and technology. The 2nd set of tapes has portions of the conversations on the 1st set, with language review in English and Italian interspersed. My biggest problem with this series is the length and spacing of pauses -- some really long sentences are rattled off all at once with only a short time to respond (really inconvenient while driving) and are then followed by a one word phrase. My Italian has improved since buying these, though, so all in all I would recommend it as a thorough review and practice for the advanced speaker.

I have been through this book twice now and am working on my third time through. I can't imagine a better format for self-teaching than this one. Each chapter starts with a 2-3 page dialog which is spoken on tape ("Learn at Home" set) once and then replayed again with time given to repeat each segment of the conversation. This is followed by 2-3 grammar sections, a short essay on an aspect of Italy and concluding with a quiz. Unfortunately, I have found the "Learn On the Go" tapes to be utterly worthless. They are far too fast and difficult to follow, especially when driving. If anyone is interested, I have copied the vocabulary for each chapter onto an Access database. I can also copy the list onto either Word or Excel.

Listening to the tapes (unfortunately it doesn't come on cd yet) gets you thinking in Italian and it is a great way to further your skills. Not only are the dialogs well spoken, they also present some funny material- not your usual dry, run-of-the-mill texts that you encounter in some other language books. The book that comes along with it is also very informative regarding the grammar that is used in the dialogs and has a nice dictionary in the back of the book. I highly recommend this to anyone that is looking to acquire the skills needed to engage in an-everyday-social conversation.

Excellent course for those that have studied Italian. The CDs are the perfect complement to the course book. I have not found a better, more comprehensive "advanced" course on the market.

I am constantly searching for new materials to advance my Italian and I was not disappointed with this set. After just three weeks of listening and reviewing the materials I feel that I have improved my comprehension, vocabulary and pronunciation. I listen to the CDs repeatedly when I work out. As a

result, idioms, word order and ways of expressing ideas in Italian area seeming more natural to me. As a result, I feel confident carrying on conversations with my Italian friends. I am not tired of the set yet, and continue to get more and more out of it everytime I listen. Very meaty and helpful material. Great job!

I am very pleased with the quality of this product. I studied Italian for four years in college, but haven't really had the chance to use much of it in the 20 years since. I was planning a trip to Italy and wanted a refresher course, and this was just what the doctor ordered. The dialogues are relevant, entertaining, and realistic. The grammar is--well it's grammar, what can I say? A very good choice for someone with a good yet rusty background in Italian.

I found the tapes intensely irritating to listen to. Just when you are getting into the dialogue, it gets interrupted with English speaking. There is far too much English on the tapes, and far too much mindless repeating of phrases verbatim. This is supposed to be an Advanced course!

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