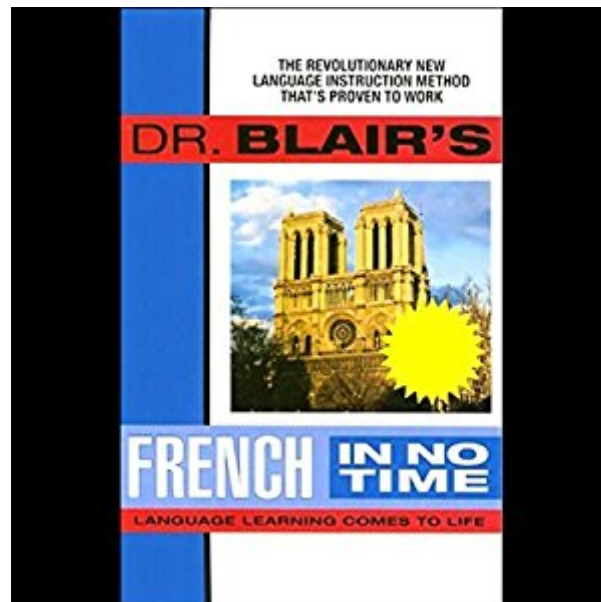




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Dr. Blair's French In No Time



Synopsis

An acclaimed linguist offers a breakthrough method that incorporates the best teaching strategies from around the world, accelerating the learning exponentially. In these two entertaining presentations, listeners are guided to imagine themselves as undercover spies who must learn enough Spanish or French to pass themselves off as a native speaker. Unabridged. 3 CDs plus a practice CD-ROM. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 hours 44 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Original recording

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Language: English

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Customer Reviews

This concept has helped me learn this and two other languages. I'm not fluent but I have a fair understanding of what is being asked of me, and how to ask something from someone.

I like the drills and "storyline" that gives substance to the "conversations" to practice. No pronunciation help, but good basic vocabulary.

Perfect!

This was really bad. Dr. Blair tries to teach you French by putting you in an adventure story. I got this on sale for a few dollars and it wasn't even worth that. If you want to learn French using the auditory method then use Pimsleur or Michel Thomas which are so much better than this product

This learning program was very poorly executed in almost every way. The story that is supposed to

interest you is a very contrived and uninteresting story. It is only used in the first couple or so tracks and then ignored through the remainder of the cd's until being picked up again for only the last two tracks of the third cd. And how is the story once you finally get to hear it at the very end of the program? Boring, contrived, and really stupid. So what happens during almost all of CD 1, all of CD 2, and the majority of CD 3? You are mainly just force fed vocabulary and phrases. You might as well just pick up one of those cheesy tourist phrase books. And the French used by the female speaker on the tape is not very good. Her accent is a typical American speaking French accent and she even makes mistakes in a couple of places. Her French might sound ok to a beginner but I spoke French as a small child and took it throughout middle and high school and have visited French speaking countries on vacation a couple times as an adult so the times when she spoke French incorrectly, it did sound really bad to me and I wondered why they didn't use a native speaker. And many times, her accent was just bad. If you want to hear an English speaker who has a really nice French accent, listen to Jodi Foster being interviewed in French on youtube. Just in case you are wondering why I bothered with this program since it is not for intermediates--I saw it at the library when I was looking for books on cd. Our sad little library doesn't have any French materials for intermediates on CD. I wanted something that I could listen to when I am driving. I don't even think the big county library does because I searched the library catalogue for it. And it looked like an interesting concept so I thought maybe it might at least just keep the French fresh in my mind. We are going to France for Christmas vacation so I wanted to get French back at the top of my head since usually I am studying Japanese. So that was why. Anyway, the whole thing was just bad. It was bad enough that I am sort of suspicious of the good reviews. I mean I know people have different taste, but it is a little hard to believe anybody really liked this program. I guess to each their own.

I think this is one of the best beginning French products I've come across. It takes an original approach that I found to be very effective, not to mention very refreshing after trying some other products that just have you saying and repeating everyday phrases. The stage is set with the introduction of an adventure-type situation which requires you to learn French to complete the mission and save the world. The mission is not at all plausible, but it is not meant to be. The audio does not take itself too seriously, and the mission gives the lessons a sense of objective and purpose. I imagine it could be especially appealing for younger learners. However, this product is not for those who already speak French as it presupposes little to no knowledge of the language. The French instruction is split up into a series of tasks and makes use of several original

methods:-The audio is in a mix of English and French. In many cases, French words are not explicitly defined. Rather, their meaning becomes clear from the context, and new words are usually repeated in several different contexts. I think this is brilliant and what really differentiates this product. I especially liked the "diglot weave" stories told in a mix of English and French and would like to find more of them. I was surprised that I could understand and remember so many French words without having them defined beforehand. In addition, by skipping the explicit definitions, I found that instead of translating the words from French to English and back, I was identifying the French words directly with the concepts they represent.-There are stories told in English in which French words that sounds like English words from the same part of the story are introduced. This wasn't my favorite method, but it was clearly explained and seems to be similar to the approach taken by the author of "Moonwalking with Einstein," where he associates what he is trying to memorize with a story. It also seems similar to what Michel Thomas does in his approach when, for example, he says that it is fair to do or make something to introduce the French word for to do or to make, which is faire.-There are natural conversations using basic French words. For example, a mother talking to small children shows them the parts of the body or a child talking on the phone answers simple questions. These words are used naturally in what could be realistic situations, which helped hold my interest. Another thing I enjoyed about this product is that there are multiple speakers and voices rather than just one monotonous computer-based voice like in some other products. I feel like hearing the same word said by different speakers helped me get a more general sense of what is important in pronouncing a word.-There is a funny ditty or song for the question words.-Many newly introduced words were used in somewhat surprising but meaningful combinations.I think this would work particularly well with the Michel Thomas introductory course. While Michel Thomas focuses on verbs and sentence structure, this product focuses more on building up vocabulary. I've been using both of these and finding that they complement each other well.

What I liked most about this product was the was they went through each exorcise multiple times in different ways and gave pauses to try out words for yourself. Plus, the walk through stories and unique voices of the people speaking really made the words echo in your head. I learned every single new word and grammar structure they presented. This was the best learning tape I have ever found, I would highly recommend it.

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