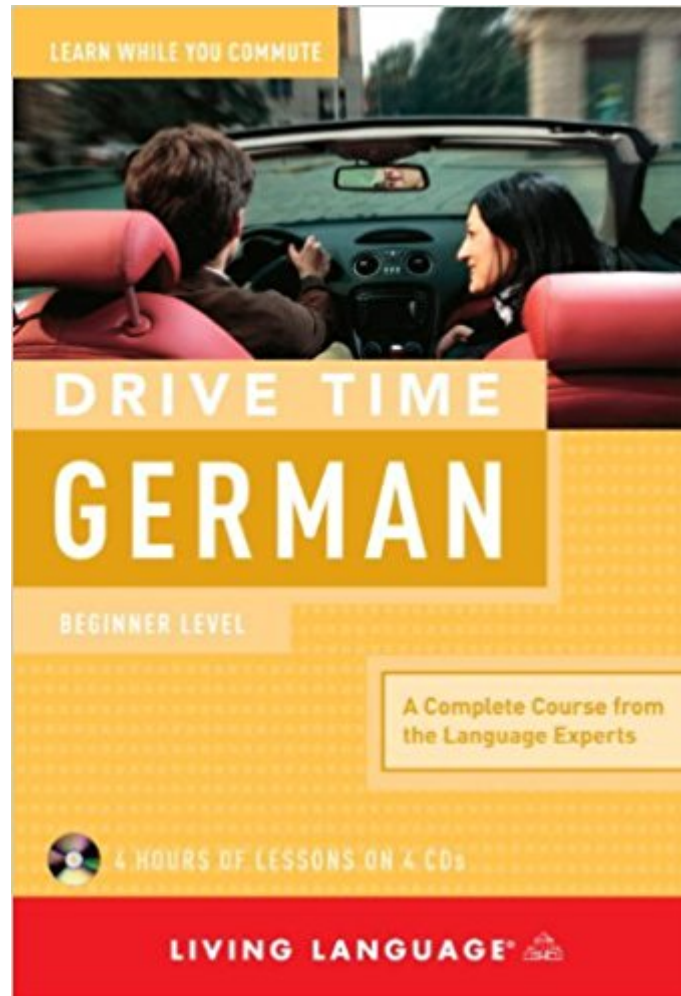




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Drive Time German: Beginner Level



Synopsis

Learn German without a book! The experts at Living Language present a simple, hands-free way to learn. Drive Time German is an innovative German language learning package that includes 4 hours of lessons on four CDs. It's a portable course that teaches German vocabulary, German grammar, German pronunciation, conversation and even culture. Pick up the German language while you're commuting to work, running errands, taking a trip with the family, or even while jogging or working out! The Drive Time German course package includes 4 CDs with conversational lessons so you hear how German is really spoken. Lots of warm-up German pronunciation exercises, simple explanations, examples, and real conversation practice. A 64-page learning reference book with German vocabulary lists, dialogue scripts, and a German grammar summary for extra practice.

Book Information

Series: Drive Time

Audio CD

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German

Customer Reviews

I am getting my money's worth out of this but I have had four years of German classes and spent some time in Germany and Austria. It is a great review, but this is by no means a beginning course, and while I am only 3/4 through the course, I am fairly confident that this course will not make one fluent in German or even able to follow normal conversation. If this were "billed" as a refresher, I would rate it very high, but it is simply not a beginners course. By the third CD it is through Nominative, Accusative, and Dative cases (explained fairly well) and associated endings for pronouns

and adjectives as well as contractions (like zum, zur, im, etc.). In short, this advances way too quickly for a beginner course. It is also somewhat dated in that some money references are in German Marks although some refer to Euros as well. This is more closely a highly condensed formal language course (without the spelling) than a conversational course and, as such, it is worth the money. On the positive side, the people talking seem to be native German speakers who also speak perfect American English. This is a good way to hear and practice proper pronunciation and usage. I needed a review/refresher course, and so for my purposes, this is what I wanted.

I'm in a car 200 miles a day so I'm tired of music. Tried something different, learning a language. Drive time German. The first cd very good. (sehr gut). The narrator would repeat words and meanings at least 3 times so I was picking it up. I got to the second cd and it was ok but they would only say words and sentences one time so I had to keep back tracking to memorize or understand. Dangerous fooling with the cd player while driving on a turnpike at 75 mph. I'm still on the second cd listening repeatedly. Another thing is they talk too fast and it's difficult to get a grip on what they are saying. I'll keep at it. Auf widersehen Jim M

Good product to learn German while listening in car or at home. Course is 90% audio-taught, but they do provide a workbook with the vocabulary and exercises used in the audio CD. I personally used both the book and audio because I like to see how the words are spelled as well as pronounced. The German alphabet and English alphabet are pronounced slightly different, so it helps to have the words spelled out. I have had previous foreign language classes (Spanish) in High School, so I understand it ok. However, some of the exercises would be difficult for someone who never took a language class in school or have had a large gap in time between learning a new language in an academic setting. Some of the exercises are rushed, and they speak too fast at times in CD 2 and beyond for a rookie trying to learn German.

This was good for someone trying to refresh their beginner level German (I'd made it to an intermediate level years ago, but then had decades of not speaking). I'd suggest a true beginner use the CDs somewhere other than the car. The first CD is very introductory, and would probably be fine in the car, but the following 3 CDs moved along at a good clip and I found myself needing to constantly rewind to rehear the section so that I could understand the pronunciation or grammar rule being talked about. I also had to pause the CD to give myself time to formulate an answer before it was fed to me automatically during those sections. (the pauses are just long enough to immediately

repeat what was said, which is not ideal for the sections where you need to think a bit before speaking.) This rewind/pause wasn't great in the car for the first time listening through and I could definitely see it leading to a bit of distracted driving. That said, I have continued to run through the CDs (I'm now listening to the set for the second time) and each time through there's less of a need to rewind/pause so I'm feeling safer using it during my commute. It is helping me refresh some of my vocabulary and grammar rules that I'd forgotten over the years. Note, I'd almost give this a full four stars with just a distracted driving warning, but there is no followup CD that I could find. The lessons provided are truly basic ones. If you have a brief trip planned, or want to wake up your German after years of not speaking, this could be a good set to start with. If you're looking for something a bit more in depth, I'd suggest a site like Babbel. I recently got a subscription and they start basic, but continue through to higher levels for a much better price. The only drawback being that it is screen dependent, so no learning while you drive.

The first CD is fine. The next three are rushed and difficult to follow. There is way too much English explanation on the last 3 CDs, with only a quick word in German, so you don't get to learn the German, instead you have to listen to an English monologue about the German language, which is just so boring and does not help you learn German while driving.

I purchased this for myself and significant other to brush up on German before a trip this summer. I lived in Germany for a couple years when I was young, but had not been back in 30+ years and was very rusty. I wish I would have read the other reviews on this more closely because they accurately depict what is wrong with this course. CD1 = beginner's German, CD2 = moderate to advanced German, CD3 = highly advanced German grammar, etc. I would expect that most people taking this course are simply going to visit and want to become conversational. Who cares about the nominative and dative cases of the vocabulary? It might be correct, but who cares unless you plan on writing a book or teaching GSL? My experience with German allows me to keep up - but for a beginner, this program is WAY too advanced. It either needs to be for beginners (CD1), or for advanced grammatical analysis (the rest) but it cannot be both. The novice will become frustrated very quickly, and most likely give up.

This is great for listening in the car. I read the little book every evening to get some background for the next lesson and move forward in the lesson the next day while driving to work.

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