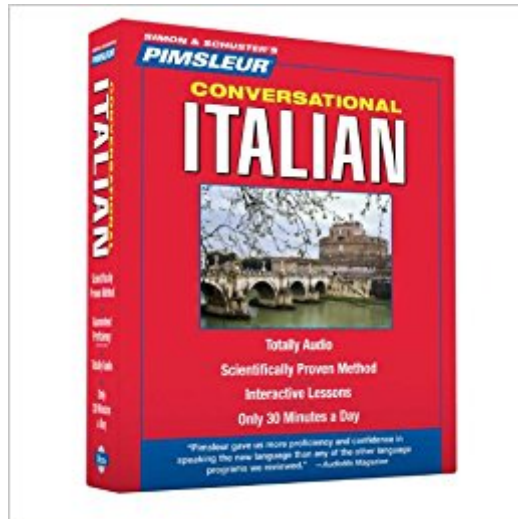




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Simon & Schuster's Pimsleur Conversational Italian



Synopsis

Pimsleur's® equals success. Just one 30-minute lesson a day gets you speaking and understanding like no other program. This course includes Lessons 1-16 from the Italian Level 1 program - 8 hours of audio-only effective language learning with real-life spoken practice sessions. Each lesson provides 30 minutes of spoken language practice, with an introductory conversation, and new vocabulary and structures. Detailed instructions enable you to understand and participate in the conversation. Practice for vocabulary introduced in previous lessons is included in each lesson. Topics include: greetings, numbers, meals, shopping, telling time, scheduling activities, and asking and giving directions. The emphasis is on pronunciation and comprehension, and on learning to speak Italian. Reading instruction begins in Lesson 9 to provide you with an introduction to reading Italian. A Reading Booklet PDF must be downloaded. The Italian Language Italian is the official language of Italy and San Marino, and one of the official languages of Switzerland, Croatia, and Slovenia. Italian is spoken by about 58 million people in Italy, 24,000 in San Marino, 840,000 in Switzerland, another million in other European countries, and approximately 5 million in North and South America. Historically, Italian is a daughter language of Latin. Italian uses the Roman alphabet and the pronunciation of the language follows the spelling very closely.

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Paul Pimsleur devoted his life to language teaching and testing and was one of the world's leading experts in applied linguistics. After years of experience and research, Dr. Pimsleur developed The Pimsleur Method based on two key principles: the Principle of

Anticipation and a scientific principle of memory training that he called "Graduated Interval Recall." This Method has been applied to the many levels and languages of the Pimsleur Programs.

These fully prepared me for our trip to Italy. I found the teaching method to be very effective. I knew no Italian before this set. Much much better than the living language series, which doesn't give you any time to absorb the material, and basically just reads aloud lists/sentences to memorize. The Pimsleur set engages you and makes you think and respond.

I have listened to these CDs to learn Italian during my 40 minute commute each way to work. I really liked the set - although after completing the 8 two-sided discs I feel that I should have learned more nouns, colors, basic stuff. Also, I would love to have an enclosure in the kit with how the words are spelled and what is masculine or feminine. So while I liked it and learned from the format, I think it could offer a little more bang for the buck! Now that I have tried the Living Language Series - I am revisiting my original review of Pimsleur. Really skip this product. You will only learn how to order Beer and Wine (but not red or white wine because you won't learn colors). You will be able to pay in dollars or euros but that's about it. You will be able to tell time until about 10 o'clock but you won't learn noon or midnight. You won't learn the days of the week or any basic nouns. Very Disappointing. Also there is no "next" edition of Pimsleur for about \$30...you have to spend about \$200 for the whole set.

This is the first time I have attempted to learn a foreign language outside of a classroom. I was dubious at first, but have found this system to be quite effective. I transferred the lessons to my iPod and do my practicing during a daily walk. So far I have made my way through all 16 lessons once, and am now reviewing, beginning with lesson 7, around where the content becomes more challenging. I feel that what I have learned will serve me well on my upcoming trip to Italy, particularly in conjunction with a Lonely Planet phrase book I purchased. The one drawback of this system is its lack of a phrasebook. It should come with a transcription of the lessons for the visual learners like myself. I have made myself a "cheat sheet" of what I have learned from the CDs that will serve as a review, but this was difficult and time-consuming (thank goodness for online translators that helped me figure out how to spell everything!). The so-called "reading practice" is useful for learning the rules of Italian pronunciation, but is composed of random words and phrases that are never translated.

If you are a fast learner of languages, you may find this a little slow. But for us, it was perfect. You don't learn a shipload of words, but you do learn the idea of how to conjugate verbs and simple sentence structure. If you are looking for a vocabulary lesson, this is 100% NOT for you. However, if you are a native English speaker, and need to learn how sentences go together in another language, then this is helpful. Just a note, this is just lessons 1-16 of Pimsleur's Italian 1. We ended up "acquiring" the rest of Italian 1 on the internet *cough cough MP3 downloads*. So if you are planning on trying to learn a lot more of Italian, then skipping this and just acquiring all of Italian 1 would be a better investment.

This is the third company I've used to learn the Italian language on CDs in my car. I mastered most of a 2 CD set and a 4 CD set. I'm glad I used the other companies first. However, these CDs ask you to respond to simple questions, in Italian. They don't just have you repeat what they say. After you are given a long enough pause to answer the question, the native speaker gives the answer twice and leaves time for you to repeat what he said. The only words you use in these responses are words that were previously taught to you on the CDs. The CDs also break down the parts of a word very distinctly. After studying Italian for 18 months, I really like these CDs.

My husband learned Italian as a grad student in Bologna many years ago. We're preparing for a vacation in Italy and I bought him these CDs to bring back his rarely used language skill. He LOVES them and plays them back and forth to work.

What a great way to learn quickly before I go to Italy! This was much cheaper than the latest version, but has all I'll need for touring and then some.

This is an amazing system for learning another language! I have never been very good at grasping foreign languages. I tried to learn Spanish in high school and French in college. I only "learned" those languages in the most basic of ways even after studying them for YEARS. I wanted to learn Italian for personal reasons and didn't want to risk the time and money of taking it in a classroom setting (surely, it would be a failure like the other two languages). So, I chose Pimsleur. I cannot tell you how much I am enjoying this program! It is intuitive and simple, yet I feel like I have actually learned something at the end of each lesson. Sometimes I will repeat the day's lesson another time or two just for good measure, so if you do not grasp at least 80% the first time do not feel bad about

repeating the lesson. Although I have no immediate plans of being a tourist, I feel that if I ran into an Italian speaking person in my daily life I could confidently converse with them in a basic way. That is a big thing for me. I never, ever felt confident to speak when learning in school. You had to push me to speak in the classroom and going up to a stranger? Forget it!! I plan to buy the rest of the Pimsleur Italian program (buying the series in MP3 from their website is cheapest. Buying everything on CD is a lot more). This program really does work. If you have never had success with language in the past, you ought to give this program a try.

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