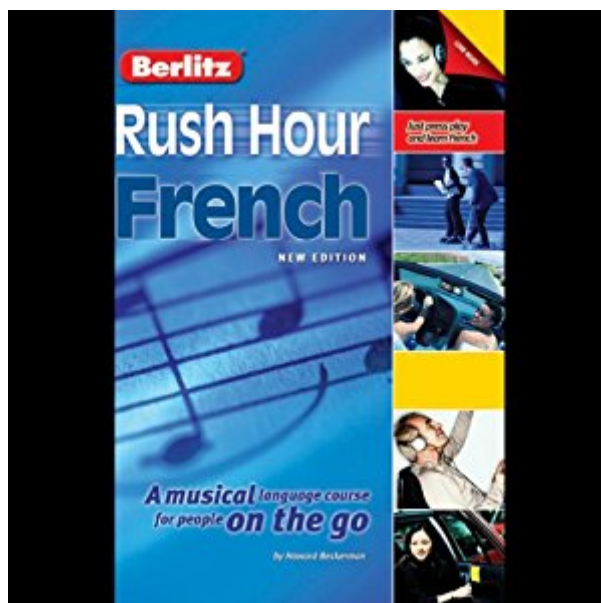


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Rush Hour French



Synopsis

Sing your way to a new language, anytime, anywhere! The new enhanced edition of Rush Hour French includes two audio programs, a bonus music-only version of favorite Rush Hour songs, and a free downloadable word game (see www.berlitzbooks.com for link). Original music and catchy songs help you remember everyday words, phrases, and sentences, and the exciting storyline keeps you involved. Fun to use alone or with your family!

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 2 hours and 31 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Original recording

Publisher: Berlitz Publishing

Audible.com Release Date: March 25, 2004

Language: English

ASIN: B0001ZYZOG

Best Sellers Rank: #90 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Language Instruction > French #4804 in Books > Reference > Foreign Language Study & Reference > Instruction

Customer Reviews

Good for learning the basics, the songs are catchy and def provide a different method for helping to embed the information in your mind.

Although I have been studying french for many years, I can only impress people who do not know french, and when I am in france I can get any of its citizens to speak impecable english - after only 2 of my french sentences. Now that we know I am not the one to ask for advice ... This is a great tool - especially for singular, plural, masculine, feminine and basic communication opposites - all delivered enjoyably. I bought the \$10.00 single CD and within two weeks I ordered the 3 CD version with the book which includes the transcript - for only about \$8.00 more and I am pleased I did - so the 5 stars apply to it also. This has been more fun than any of my CD's and when I wake up early and cannot sleep I play and listen and learn - especially pronunciation. C'est tout

I bought this for a 6 hour car ride so I could learn French while I commuted back home from college. Since I'm already fluent in Spanish, I expected that this would be pretty easy to use to learn French.

I don't mind all of the cheesy gimmicks and songs because they actually do help you remember phrases. What I DO mind is that the audio balance is really off. The voice is about the same level as the music, so I had to strain to make out what they were singing over the super exciting music. Another problem is that although the voice actors repeat everything multiple times, they don't enunciate well enough to understand what they're trying to say. You can hear something a million times, but if you hear it wrong every time, you're still not going to learn. This is helped a little bit by the fact that if you buy the physical copy, they include a booklet of words from each section, but that isn't practical when you're trying to learn something during a commute. There's no way I could whip out the booklet and just check to see how something was spelled to crosscheck it with their pronunciation. It almost sounds as if they're muttering for most of it, which makes it useful that they use both a male and female narrator. If one of them isn't clear, MAYBE the other one was clear enough. The only phrase I really remember from the CD is "Je voudrais un café s'il vous plaît", which translates to "I'd like some coffee please." That was the only lesson I found clear enough to retain information from. Like I said earlier, the catchy songs were great, but the pronunciation made me unsure of if I was even hearing things right. Maybe this would be more useful as a supplement to a French course instead of a stand-alone product?

I agree with the previous comment. It is very cheesy - but it does stick in your head. I wish they would do a less corny version. While I realize they are trying to get you talk full speed, I think it would be very helpful if they slowed down initially on the phrases so you can pick out the words and conjunctions. The other issue, is when I use google translator, the french does not in some cases seem to match the lyrics, or I am just way off in pronunciation. It would be great if the CD came with a written transcript in English and French. I think the concept is better than Rossetta Stone, it is much more effective in my opinion. If they could make the songs less cheesy, the story line less obvious and slow down a bit - it would be perfect.

I've tried different methods but, for me, this has been the most effective way yet of learning a new language. Some reviewers call the songs corny but I actually thought the singers could carry a tune and the songs communicate the grammar and vocabulary in an associative way that facilitates recall. I've played the CDs on several occasions while in the car with my wife and five-year-old and the alphabet song in particular caught their fancy. Now my wife and child are motivated to learn French and my wife thinks Rush Hour French is an excellent way to get started.

Rush Hour French uses catchy songs to help implant the French words for certain situations so that they are easier to recall. I thought they did a good job in this respect. Seems that many one-star reviews are put off by this approach. So if you have limited musical taste or can't crack a smile with a corny/catchy tune, then this product probably isn't for you. But if you don't mind singing along and learning some French in the process, this is right up your alley. It is only 2.5 hours long so don't expect to learn the whole language with this. But it targets some common/useful situations and does alright with that. I think the voice talent is pretty good, especially the main woman who has a wonderful singing voice. The script they follow might not be the best, but the main deal is the way each song is unique and thus easy to remember. That is the whole point and it works for me. It also helps to follow along with the accompanying book(have to print it if electronic purchase). Then it is easier to visualize the French word when they say it.

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