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Behind The Wheel - German 1



Synopsis

Behind the Wheel German Level 1 covers beginning to intermediate level German, providing a strong, yet flexible foundation for speaking, understanding, and creatively expressing yourself in standard German. The program features an English speaking instructor to guide you through the lessons and a native German speaker to aid with your pronunciation. Includes a companion book to reinforce and enhance the audio experience.

Book Information

Series: Behind the Wheel

Audio CD: 8 pages

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Customer Reviews

“The audio-only lessons build upon one another, using a native speaker to help you learn useful words and actually construct sentences from the get-go.”
— Minneapolis Star-Tribune
“Unlike other audio language programs, this series encourages students to create their own sentences, making it more fun and conversational than other more expensive programs.”
— The Cleveland Plain Dealer
“Focuses on real-world conversation...Great value.”
— Men’s Health magazine

MARK FROBOSE is the founder of the Behind the Wheel series. A foreign language instructor for more than thirty years, he has built a career on "taking the foreign out of language." He is a nationally recognized foreign language speaker, teacher, and author.

Slow and offers limited vocab and grammar. Mostly lists common phrases and prompts you to repeat them. You'll learn more with Duolingo on your coffee break.

I love the "Behind the Wheel" language series. I've used it to learn Spanish, Italian, French, and now, German. If you spend any time at all commuting to work or school every day, it's the perfect way to use your time.

I didn't finish this, though I might go back to it at some point. I had a hard time with it though--it's billed as the natural way to learn a language, but I personally found it very awkward and...kind of low budget. I think partly I'm used to starting out with things like, "please" and "thank you" and "hello" and "goodbye" and sort of beginning with a conversation with someone. This CD starts out with the days of the week, the months of the year, numbers, and saying "I would like..." or "I am going to..." There's no variety in exercises, just endless repetition. And although it's called Behind the Wheel, it seems that a lot of information is only available in the book that comes with it, which just isn't what I was looking for. I do feel like the CDs are somewhat helpful for getting pronunciation down--the German is spoken slowly and repeated twice every time. But it's...boring. Which is not something I expected, because I think German is a pretty fun and interesting language. I'm going to give the Pimsleur CDs a try instead. P.S. Now that I've done the first 30-minute Pimsleur Conversational German lesson, I am even more convinced of how much this one sucked...

Vielen Dank to Annagret and Mark for helping me break through my inordinate fear of learning German. I had previously stuck to Romance Languages like Behind the Wheel Spanish (my favorite all-time language program), French, Italian, Portuguese, etc ...After mastering most of this material, I even went on to BTW German 2 with Veronika and Mark. Fabulous program. I've just returned from a European trip that cost a fortune, but that netted me some of the finest travel memories of my and my family's lifetimes. One of the greatest memories of all are those of the French, Italians, Spanish, and Germans that complimented me on my ability to speak their respective languages. I owe all of this to the Behind the Wheel programs I have been using over that past few months. They really work. All of them I have tried. I love the French with Celine, the Spanish with Luis, the Italian with Ana, and the German with Annagret. My best advice is to tell you to try these and then use them regularly in your car or on your iPod whenever you have a chance. I never even use the book, since I'm always on the go, but I'm sure it's useful too.

This is incredibly dry compared to all but one other program I have tried. For just a list of words it does ok, but it would be dangerous to use in the car because I think it would put me to sleep!

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