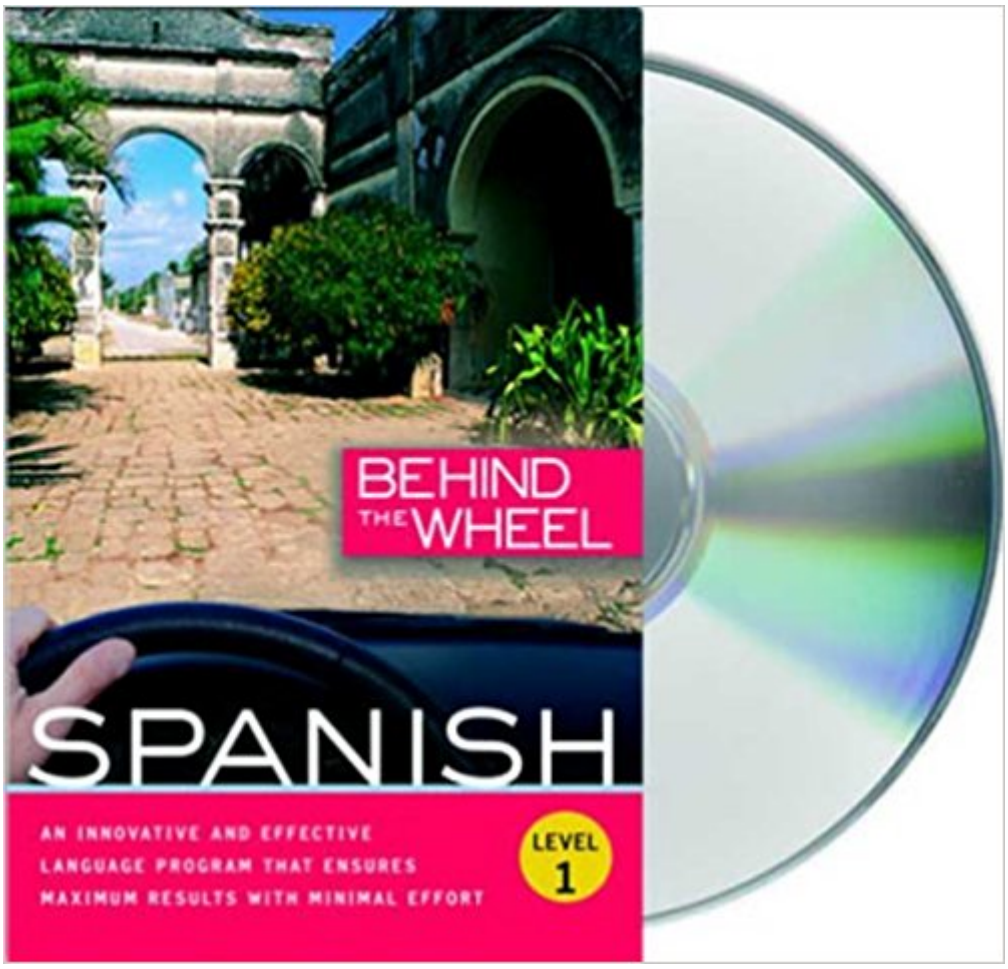
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Behind The Wheel - Spanish 1



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Synopsis

Behind the Wheel Spanish Level 1 covers beginning to intermediate level Spanish, providing a flexible, solid and universal foundation in speaking, understanding, and creatively expressing yourself in Spanish. The program features an English speaking instructor to guide you through the lessons and two native Latin American Spanish speakers 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

Publisher: Behind the Wheel; Unabridged edition (September 16, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1427205558

ISBN-13: 978-1427205551

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 2.2 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 154 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #241,642 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 inÃ Â Books > Engineering & Transportation > Automotive > Foreign #19 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Languages > Language Instruction > Spanish #140 inÃ Â Books > Books on CD > Nonfiction

Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“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.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢Minneapolis Star-TribuneÃ¢â ¬Å“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.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢The Cleveland Plain DealerÃ¢â ¬Å“Focuses on real-world conversation...Great value.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â ¢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.

I wanted to wait until I had used this language course for a while before posting and I have to tell

anyone who wants an easy, fast, efficient way to learn some basic Spanish that this is the course to get!!! I have used this for about two months, listening at least once a day while driving to work (roughly 25 minutes each way) and it has given me all the basics I had forgotten (I am Mexican American) and our parents didn't teach us much Spanish growing up, choosing to speak Spanish when they didn't want us to know what they were saying. We assimilated much of the language having many Spanish speaking relatives, but for many years, I could understand more than I could actually speak! And any time I would travel overseas, I would be embarrassed that I wasn't more proficient in the language and frankly, many Spanish speaking natives sometime take offense that you cannot converse with them if they know you are Mexican or Hispanic.I had tried the more well known and expensive language courses and looked at many others and most of those were very "grammer" oriented instead of teaching you how to quickly speak and I found most complicated and not very intuitive. I wanted to learn to speak basics and then learn more detailed sentence structure later, at my own pace.These courses are easy to listen to and are formatted in such a way as to teach you the basics quickly and to also UNDERSTAND WHY you are saying what you are in regards to grammar. I am two discs in and I would suggest listening over and over to the lessons until you can speak the answers for each lesson. The author makes you feel at ease as he guides you through each exercise asking " Luis" to properly say the word or phrase. He then asks you to repeat in Spanish. In a very short amount of time, I was easily recalling and answering and after about a month, i found myself saying the words and phrase to myself throughout the day. My goal is to listen to this course everyday for the next several months and possibly longer so that if needed I will be able to speak some "fundamental" Spanish when needed or the next time I go to Cancun or other places.

I agree with most positive and negative comments that I read on this product, but I think the ratings differences are more of a question of your expectations and historical familiarity with Spanish.I took 4 semesters of Spanish in college, but that was over 16 yeas ago and I had forgotten all of it. I bought these to prepare for upcoming travel and love the way that it naturally builds on vocabulary and grammar. In a matter of hours, I found that the vocabulary and grammar were coming back to me, and my ears were trained to hear words and patterns from sentences and formulate responses in my head. I could have never got that from going back to my textbooks and studying grammar (nor do I have the patience for that at this age).This book does not focus on grammar or conjugation of verbs, but rather mixes in verb tenses naturally. There is a supporting book that goes through the grammar and has supporting exercises. I actually would highly recommend reading the textbook

either before or after you listen to the CDs (depending on your personal learning style). The textbook has a little extra vocabulary and forces you to structure sentences on your own.That being said, if you are coming into this having not had some familiarity with Spanish in the past (college Spanish 101-102 or equivalent), don't expect to retain all of this content in 8 hours. It will take a lot more work and you will probably have to listen to the lessons several times, but that should be expected because learning a language is not supposed to be easy and quick.Also, one technical criticism. I had a hard time converting the CDs to MP3 to listen to them on an MP3 player. I found that some of the CDs had different master data information like artist, or the titles were formatted or spelled different, and some even had the exact same master data information as another CD in the set, causing it to over-write a prior CD when you were copying. It took me near forever to format this thing such that I could easily sort it on an MP3 player. Granted, I was using Windows Media Player and a cheap MP3 player, so perhaps this wouldn't create a problem with iTunes and an iPod, and it is irrelevant if you plan to listen to the CDs directly.

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