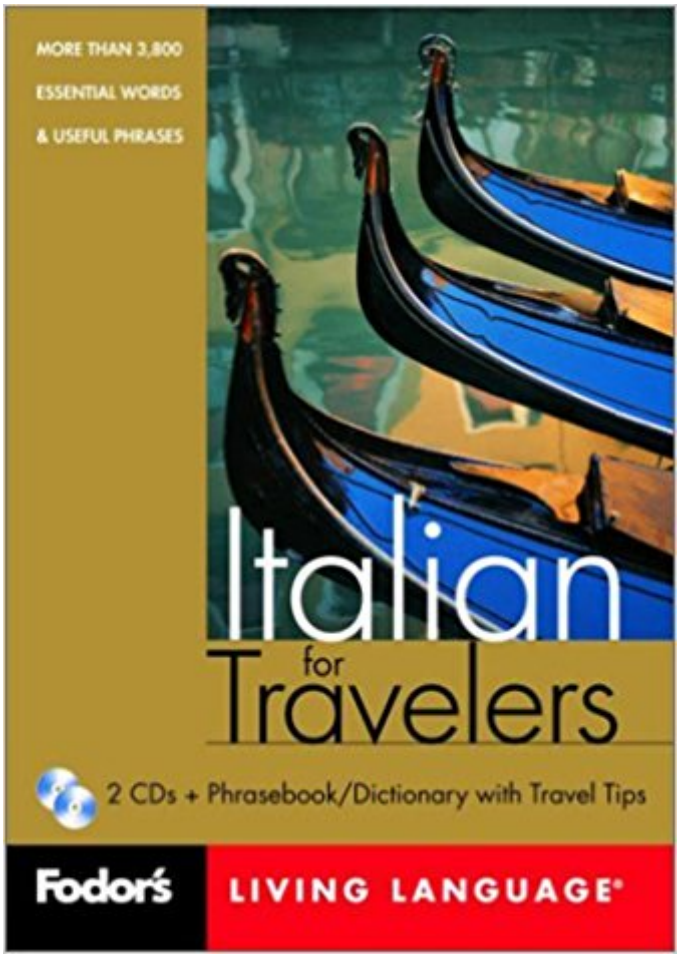
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Fodor's Italian For Travelers, 1st Edition (CD Package): More Than 3,800 Essential Words And Useful Phrases (Fodor's Languages/Travelers)



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Synopsis

From the Most Respected Names in Travel AND Language Instruction In every travel situation, from arrival to departure, Fodor’s Italian for Travelers makes it easy to speak and understand Italian, even if you’ve never studied it before. And it’s backed by Fodor’s, the most trusted name in travel, and by Living Language, publisher of best-selling language courses for more than a half century. Included are two audio CDs with more than 900 essential phrases that enable you to listen to native speakers and repeat what they say. English translations let you learn on the go, and brief sample dialogues help you get used to hearing Italian spoken naturally. A 272-page phrasebook with a two-way dictionary and 3,800 words and phrases is also included. To make yourself understood, just read straight from the book. Easy-to-use phonetics show you how to speak like a native. Plus you’ll find grammar basics, travel tips, maps, and more.

Book Information

Series: Fodor’s Languages/Travelers

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Customer Reviews

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two-way dictionary and 3,800 words and phrases is also included. To make yourself understood, just read straight from the book. Easy-to-use phonetics show you how to speak like a native. Plus you'll find grammar basics, travel tips, maps, and more.

Not a fan. Better to use google translate for free.

Good

I paid full price for this set because I'm planning a trip to Italy. The book isn't bad but the CDs are pretty terrible. They have boring drills on numbers and vocabulary. Not at all interactive. The phrases are read in Italian and then English, but sometimes in English and then Italian without warning. Since I know no Italian, I had a hard time knowing which English word went with which Italian word (and since I was listening in my car, I couldn't check the book while driving to find out). All in all this is a pretty poor set of language tapes, and it's way overpriced. I'm sure one can do better.

I strongly agreed with the reviewers who described the Fodor's CD as poorly organized, too quickly spoken, and not terribly useful. In some instances they stated the English term and then followed it with the Italian; in others they stated the Italian term first. Because there was no warning about the switch, if you're not on your toes you may find yourself repeating the wrong Italian term for the English word you believe you are translating.The dialogues, while spoken at natural speed) are often not translated into English on the CD. You can go to the book to read the translation, but if you're using the CDs in traffic as I did, that's impossible. The CD ended so abruptly I thought perhaps my player had failed. All in all, it seemed as though the DC was designed and produced rapidly and without much thought.The book and CD are a great combination when your goal is to learn specific vocabulary and then hear the pronunciation of those specific key words. What I learned on the first CD - particularly numbers, dates, and times - was extremely helpful during my trip to Italy. (Although I have to admit that I listened to these sections of the CD repeatedly because I knew they would be essential.) But the CD would be a much stronger tool if it were consistently organized and included translations of the dialogues.When I had time to work on the language before my trip to Florence, I often put the Fodors CDs aside in lieu of the Michel Thomas "Speak Italian" CDs, which were also a two-CD set, but taught me the basics language rather than memorized phrases. Using Michel Thomas, I was able to construct my own, fairly complex

sentences in Italy by simply looking up one or two additional vocabulary words.In terms of a phrase book, I preferred Rick Steve's. Steve's contained more practical phrases and information - some downright amusing - and it fit better in my pocket during the trip.

This book is not for someone who just wants to pick up enough Italian to get them through a trip unless they have a good ear and memory. I found "Italian in 10 Minutes a Day" much better as you must write what you learn in a workbook.

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