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Colloquial Korean (Colloquial Series)



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Synopsis

Colloquial Korean is easy to use and completely up-to-date! Specially written by an experience teacher for self-study or class use, the course offers you a step-by-step approach to written and spoken Korean. No prior knowledge of the language is required. What makes Colloquial Korean your best choice in personal language learning? Interactive Ã¢â ¬â œ lots of exercises for regular practice Clear Ã¢â ¬â œ Concise grammar notes Practical Ã¢â ¬â œ useful vocabulary and pronunciation guide Complete Ã¢â ¬â œ including answer key and reference section By the end of this rewarding course you will be able to communicate confidently and effectively in Korean in a broad range of everyday situations. Two 60-minute CDs are available to complement the book. Recorded by native speakers, this material will help develop your listening and pronunciation skills.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The reason that I didn't give it 5 stars is cause it teaches extremely formal Korean which in most settings outside of business would sound really weird and out of place to a native speaker but the high vocabulary and the advanced grammar that it teaches is awesome! The grammar it teaches is invaluable. You will learn a lot from this book! I recommend it for beginners and even intermediate learners

Although these Colloquial ___ books are usually pretty good, this one has a major fault in that there

is no Latin phonetic spelling even at the beginning to facilitate reading. Without the tapes or CDs its practically impossible to get anything out of the lessons.

Please don’t waste your money on this product when there are so many better products available. There are a few reviewers who have given this product high marks, seemingly as a way to make themselves feel smugly superior to those who have struggled with it.Daniel Maxwell and Marie Frennette offer accurate reviews of this product.The one saving grace this product might have had is its large audio component. However it is poorly organized and generally useless. The listener is frequently told to re-listen to a conversation in order to better understand it. A fantastic idea if the conversations weren’t in the middle of the track surrounded by vocabulary and review.I’ve completed my second year of college level training in Korean and have studied several other languages in professional and hobby settings.An example----------Dialog 2A (my own translation):Narrator: In the second dialog in this unit Mr. Kim and Mrs. Lee exchange the following short greetings when they pass each other in the street. They may or may not have met once during the day....vocab...Narrator: Now listen to the dialog a couple of times if you need to and figure out if Mr. Kim is busy and where he is going. Also, can you tell whether they have met before.Mr Kim: Mrs. Lee are you busy?Mrs. Lee: Yes, a little busy. And how about you, Mr. Kim?Mr. Kim: I’m not very busy.Mrs. Lee: Where are you going now?Mr. Kim: I’m going to the post office. Where are you going Mrs. Lee?Mrs. Lee: I’m going to a restaurant.Mr. Kim: Well, goodbye (go in peace).Mrs. Lee: Yes, goodbye (go in peace).Narrator: So, Mr. Kim is not busy and is going to the post office. They have also met before that day.----I no longer have the book with me, maybe it offers a reason why we might be able to infer that Mr. Kim and Ms. Lee have met earlier in the day. Is it because they do not formally greet each other with "are you at peace?" and instead dive right into conversation? The point is that there is no way a listener would be able to infer whether they had met earlier in the day.That the narrator sounds snide and arrogant only adds to my frustration.Borrow it from the library if you can but don’t waste your money.

I speak numerous Asian languages but still have found Mr. Kim’s product to be incredibly difficult to follow. The beginning section on learning Korean script is decent enough, but the book falls apart after that. I just finished exercises from a certain lesson which tested me on grammatical structures that are not introduced until three lessons later--rediculous!! You are constantly introduced to new material (not just nouns, which can be easily looked up in the glossary, but also more complex grammatical structures) in lessons, only to find that this material is not actually introduced (and,

thus, defined) until later chapters. If you spend enough time searching through the glossary or subsequent lessons, you can eventually find the answer you seek, however, I have found this quite cumbersome and a serious impediment to learning Korean as quickly as I had hoped. Often, I have to give up searching for answers in the book and go to a Korean-speaking friend for an answer. I wouldn't say it has been a total loss though, as I have been picking it up incrementally by referring to these friends, other books, and dictionaries. I would say if this is your first experience learning a foreign language, then keep looking, but for those of you who have prior experience studying a foreign language (especially Japanese) then you may be able to survive through it as I am doing. While at first I intended this book and its tapes to be my primary source for learning Korean, it is increasingly becoming just one of many resources. Everyone learns languages differently though, so if disorganization and hair-pulling is your style, then by all means jump right in!

Let me start by saying... if you are going to buy this course, make sure you buy the TAPES. I noticed they sold the book by itself at the bookstore, without the tapes, but you are going to get nowhere like that. Nothing is spelled out phoenetically in the book, and the relationships they draw between korean sounds and english sounds don't sound even close to the actual pronunciations presented on the tapes. In short: IF YOU DON'T BUY THE TAPES YOU WILL BE WASTING YOUR MONEY IMO.Having said all that, I absolutely LOVE this book. Instead of dumbing down the language and spelling everything in "english" (a book I saw, "korean in plain english", comes to mind), you learn how to write and pronounce korean script right from the start... and it is a lot easier than most people think! To be honest, within the first hour or two of using this course, I could listen to the speaker on the tape and write the word he/she just said before I even looked at my book.Yes, this book requires some thinking and effort, and if you are looking for an easy, learn-Korean-in-15-minutes approach, then you will be happier with another language course. If, however, you are truly looking to learn Korean, beginning as you did with English by learning the "alphabet" and the sounds of the language, this is the right course for you.

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