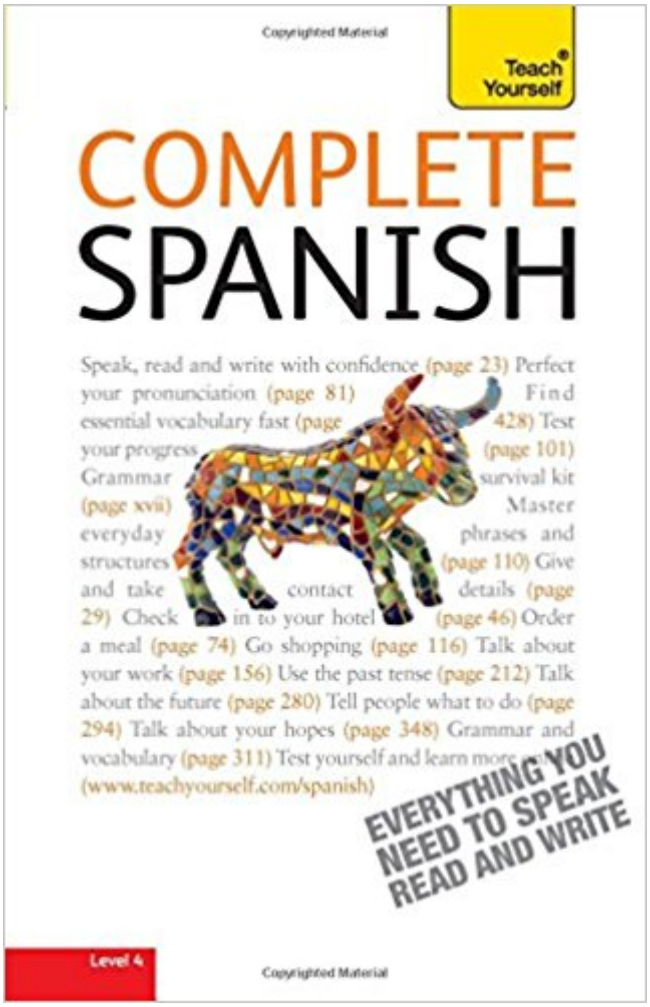
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Complete Spanish With Two Audio CDs: A Teach Yourself Guide (Teach Yourself Language)



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Synopsis

It’s easy to teach yourself Spanish! Complete Spanish provides you with a clear and comprehensive approach to Spanish, so you can progress quickly from the basics to understanding, speaking, and writing Spanish with confidence. Within each of the 25 thematic chapters, important language structures are introduced through life-like dialogues. You’ll learn grammar in a gradual manner so you won’t be overwhelmed by this tricky subject. Exercises accompany the texts and reinforce learning in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. This program also features current cultural information boxes that reflect recent changes in society. The accompanying audio CDs include audio exercises--performed by native speakers--that reinforce communicative skills. You can also visit teachyourself.com for tests, extension articles and a vibrant community of like-minded learners. And if you don’t have much time, don’t worry--this book gives you one-, five-, and 10-minute bites of learning to get you started.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Juan Kattan-Ibarra was born in Chile and lived in Spain for a number of years. He has degrees in foreign language teaching from the University of Chile, Michigan State University, Manchester University and the Institute of Education, London University. He taught Spanish at Ealing College and Shell International, and was an examiner in Spanish for the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the University of London School Examinations Board. He is now a full-time author.

This is a review of Complete Spanish with Two Audio CDs: A Teach Yourself Guide (Teach Yourself Language) by Juan KattÃƒÂ¡n-Ibarra.Complete Spanish is a revised edition of Teach Yourself Spanish Complete Course (2008), which was itself a lightly revised version of earlier editions dating back more than a decade. The revisions in the new Complete Spanish edition make this a far more attractive product, with color photos and graphics, improved paper quality, better layouts, and additional bits and pieces of cultural and linguistic information. It's also 100 pages longer. However, the audio recordings and the dialogue material remain unchanged. On the whole, I'd say that if you own one of the earlier editions there is no reason to purchase this new one; the core language content has not changed.I believe Complete Spanish is the easiest to use - and, thus, the most successful - language course in the Teach Yourself series. Grammar is introduced in short, easy-to-memorize dialogues involving realistic situations (self-introductions, shopping, asking for directions, ordering in a restaurant, making travel arrangements, talking about simple past and future activities). The dialogues and other oral/aural practice material are professionally recorded at reasonable speed on the accompanying 75-minute CDs; the Castilian Spanish accent on the recordings should be understood by any of the 400 million Spanish speakers in the world. The vocabulary load is not at all excessive (approximately 1,200 items including cognates). The grammar would normally be covered in a moderate intensity, first-year university course in the U.S., including the introduction and practice of a realistic number of high-frequency irregular and stem-changing verbs; the present, future, preterite, perfect, imperfect, pluperfect, and conditional tenses; and the present subjunctive. Succinct and clear grammatical explanations with examples and charts and a variety of short exercises (with answer key) reinforce and expand on the points introduced in the dialogues.As this is "the Spanish of Spain" rather than Latin America, the vosotros/as form (informal, plural) and related grammar are introduced early and practiced throughout. I don't see this as a downside for North American students, who, of course, will be encountering the form in their readings, if nothing else.I do have one complaint: The personal "a" is not adequately introduced or explained. In brief, the personal "a" is used before a direct object noun that refers to a specific person or persons ("Yo amo a Lucy" - "I love Lucy"); when the direct object is quien(es) or an indefinite expression (alguien, nadie, etc.); or, less commonly, when an animal or inanimate object is "personified" ("Yo amo mucho a mi pais" - "I love my country.") The personal "a" is an essential feature of the language and appears, without being properly introduced, throughout the material in the course. It has no equivalent in English and I can guarantee that the English-speaking student won't be able to figure it out on his own. I don't know why it isn't dealt with in this otherwise complete introductory course. Maybe in the next edition!The text plus CDs

represent quite a value: Introductory Spanish textbooks widely used in U.S. universities (such as Ã Â¡Arriba!: ComunicaciÃƒÂ n y cultura; Puntos de partida: An Invitation to Spanish ; and others) now cost over $200 with the workbooks and lab manuals. I know a lot of work goes into producing these programs, but KattÃƒÂ¡n-Ibarra and Hodder Education put a lot of effort into producing Complete Spanish, too, and offer it at a fraction of the cost. Somebody please explain.I can't think of any reason why a student couldn't learn Spanish "from scratch" using Complete Spanish, but true beginners - and especially those who have not previously studied any foreign language - and those with less demanding goals (such as adding a learning element to a two-week vacation) might consider using Get Started in Spanish: A Teach Yourself Guide (earlier published as Teach Yourself Beginner's Spanish) instead.At the end of the course, I believe most students will be able to read uncomplicated articles on the web at elpais.es, elmundo.es, bbc.co.uk/mundo, and elsewhere with moderate reliance on a dictionary.Students wishing to further develop their speaking and listening ability may wish to proceed to Teach Yourself Improve Your Spanish (first published as Spanish Extra!), which is being reissued shortly as Perfect Your Spanish, also by Juan KattÃƒÂ¡n-Ibarra, who has written many excellent textbooks over the past 35 plus years.Those willing to spend more will find an embarrassment of riches at the intermediate level among the offerings of the publishers of over-priced college textbooks. These might include the series Conversacion y repaso, Civilizacion y cultura, and Literatura y arte; the series En contacto: GramÃƒÂ¡tica en acciÃƒÂ n and En Contacto: Lecturas intermedias; and the more advanced Perspectivas - all available through .com. Ã Â¡Buena suerte!

Awesome guide and very well written . Great cultural usage as it explains the changes of the language in each Latin American country. I consider myself with intermediate fluency , so this series was not very challenging but was a great refresher. Definitely a mainstay on my bookshelf

I bought this because I had previous experience with the ones from German and French. The series are excelent if you want to pratice para don't have time to atend regular classes. But I'm not gonna lie, of course, you have to be organized. Teach yourself requires determination.

Full color and very nice.

The DVD is no good. It is not interesting to use for learning. I am taking this only a supplement to my other f2f class.

I am now on Lesson 7 in my preparation for a trip to Peru. It is very user friendly, easy, and fun. I am doing two lessons a week and retaining much of it. I will say that the British woman was irritating at first, but now I am used to her. The four (2 male, 2 female) Spanish speakers are great, nice to have the variety. At first I thought that I was missing pieces of useful information, but as the lessons have progressed, I find that they have laid out a nice course. For example, in one lesson you learn numbers 1-20. I wanted more. Well, all I had to do is wait until the next or subsequent lesson and then got 20-100. A few more lessons after that up to 1,000,000. It was laid out user friendly based on topic. Ex. 1-20 for phone number use, 20-100 for hotel rooms, how much things cost, and the higher numbers for things like train ticket purchase, etc.Because I enjoy languages, I understand conjugation. I have made flash cards with each new verb fully conjugated as they are introduced (the full conjugation is not introduced - only what is necessary for you to converse with what is presented). I recommend doing this on your own. However, as I see how it's laid out, you end up getting it anyway. I have yet to use the website for quizzes, but will go there next.A previous reviewer thought this won't help them with their Spanish in South America - from reading many other products/reviews, I have learned that there is not a great difference with this. In this program they do make mention of if something is used more in one location or another. If this is a concern for you, I'd do a quick google search about if it's truly an issue. But I don't believe it is.All in all, I am very happy with this program! 5 stars! * * * * * :)

In response to Jesse's post:"I live in USA and Latin American Spanish is the only kind useful here. And I certainly don't want to hear a British speaker teaching the Spanish of Spain. No one here could understand her!"I myself am born and bred in the USA, spent a good part of my childhood/teen years in Miami/Homestead/FL Keys. I regret not having completed a working knowledge of Latin American Spanish, or any Spanish. Now in my later years I am attempting to be self taught as best I can, for reasons of time constraint. I have purchased several `self- teaching' books, guides, CD/guide combos, etc. I plan to round out my Spanish learning with both the Latin Amer as well as the Spanish of Spain. I thoroughly enjoy this format, commented on here, just as I enjoy the other courses that I go back and forth with. I have no problem understanding the British speakers on this course, and frankly don't understand the aversion posted by Jesse. In fact, I see this type of course to more acquaint myself with the British dialect while I learn more Spanish. What could be wrong with that? I choose to `broaden my horizon' to borrow a metaphor, instead of leaning toward a narrow minded viewpoint. This was/is the whole theme of the 80s/90s era learning

course of "Destinos" - [...] - to be acquainted with other dialects of Spanish, not just one.Never say never. that you might or might not meet someone of another Spanish dialect. I always hope to have this privilege. I must broaden my Spanish language capabilities.

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