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Oxford Take Off In French (Take Off In Series)



Synopsis

Take Off In French makes learning or brushing up on the language quick, easy, and fun. Follow an intergrating course including activities and dialogues with native speakers so you can feel confident in day-to-day conversation. The course offers expert help when you are travelling with a handy phrase book and mp3 audio download for practice while on the move. This complete language learning kit contains everything you need to speak, read, write and understand French, and gives you flexibility when learning. The pack includes a clear, easy-to-use coursebook, full mp3 audio available to download, 5 audio CDs, including an extra practice CD, a handy travel dictionary and phrasebook, and online activities and dialogues to support you as you pick up your new language.

Book Information

Series: Take Off In Series

Audio CD: 256 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 3 edition (May 5, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0199534330

ISBN-13: 978-0199534333

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 1.6 x 5.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #481,761 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #25 in [Books > Books on CD > Languages > Language Instruction > French](#) #436 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Foreign Languages > French](#) #3833 in [Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > Foreign Language Dictionaries & Thesauruses](#)

Customer Reviews

I have got through the first 2 of the 4 CDs (there's also an extra, 5th CD for more practice) and have really enjoyed the learning process. I find the dialogues really help me to learn how to pronounce French words and speak conversationally as real people do. They throw a lot of new words and grammar at you in the form of 2 or 3 person dialogues, rather than leading you through in a more traditional, words by word, sentence by sentence manner. I have enjoyed this, because it really does get one started speaking quickly. I have been practicing with a friend that studied French in college, and they are quite amazed at my progress. The proof was going to Paris last month for work. Even though I was still very much a beginner, I found that my learned pronunciation was quite

good - almost too good because people started speaking to me in French! I would love a follow-on course so that I could learn more advanced and longer material.

The Oxford Take Off in French book and CD's are a great way to introduce yourself to the French language, but not a good way to learn the details that are important for eventually living in a francophone country. The series is definitely a conversational language course which is great if you are going to travel in France. Some of the topics covered include eating at a restaurant, talking about a house, telling someone if you aren't feeling well and talking about your hobbies and work. What I really wanted, and maybe I shouldn't have expected from this series, was step by step grammar instruction and pronunciation techniques. There is a grammar review in the back of the workbook that I used more than the actual book. Overall I give this language course 4 stars because it does what it claims to do....give you a start in French and it does that very well.

Take Off In French is an intelligently packaged and produced -- and pretty serious -- language course from Oxford University Press. It is not one of those foreign language courses that is only useful for tourists planning an excursion; this one also provides for those of us who primarily encounter French in an academic setting (but also like to peruse *Le Monde* and *French Vogue*). If, however, what you seek is something to practice in the car, you may do better looking elsewhere. While many of the lessons require repeating French words and phrases -- and admittedly, those can be done while you are driving -- the course is more intensively interactive, with a substantial amount of reliance on the text-based exercises (which are excellent, by the way). It is a course for readers and writers, not just would-be speakers, of the language. My only quibbles are minor and two. First is a somewhat ambivalent one: The speakers on the CD -- some native, some obviously not -- exhibit a number of different accents. While this is undoubtedly beneficial insofar as it replicates the variety one is apt to encounter in real life situations, it is occasionally confusing. For example, while the stated point of one exercise is to demonstrate the similar vowel sound in the words "cafe" and "papa," there is a marked difference in how that vowel is pronounced by the speaker. To my ear, anyway. Second, I also wish the paperstock in the books were a little heavier and that the printing did not consequently bleed through so much.

I liked this language learning kit that includes the following: (1) 5 CDs, (2) a Companion Workbook to be used with the CDs, and (3) a Travel Dictionary & Phrasebook. I thought the whole kit was well organized, easy to follow, and contained great material for someone wanting to learn French. Only

the first 4 CDs relate to the workbook. The 5th CD is merely for you to use to practice what you have learned. There really is no way to easily and quickly learn a foreign language. And this little language learning kit is not a breakthrough product that is going to change that fact. But I'm sure this "product" will go a long way in helping someone learn French if they put their mind to studying and practicing. During my childhood I started taking French classes in Third Grade and continued through to my freshman year in college. And what I was exposed to back then is what I was exposed to while listening to the CDs in this product. While the CDs in this product will go a long way to help you hear the language. You still need to purchase yourself a deck of flashcards to help you visualize the vocabulary. And you need some paper and a pencil or pens to write, write and write some more the vocabulary you are interested in learning. There's something about actually writing the letters to words and forcing yourself to piece letters together into words that forces one to learn vocabulary. And this product doesn't do that for you. But if you have the vocabulary in your head from flipping flashcards and writing the words over and over, then the CDs and the companion workbook will quickly get you up to speed in the language so you can tackle France on your own without an interpreter. 4 stars! PS. Take a look at the Search Inside feature for this book that offers so you can see the Table of Contents for the workbook.

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