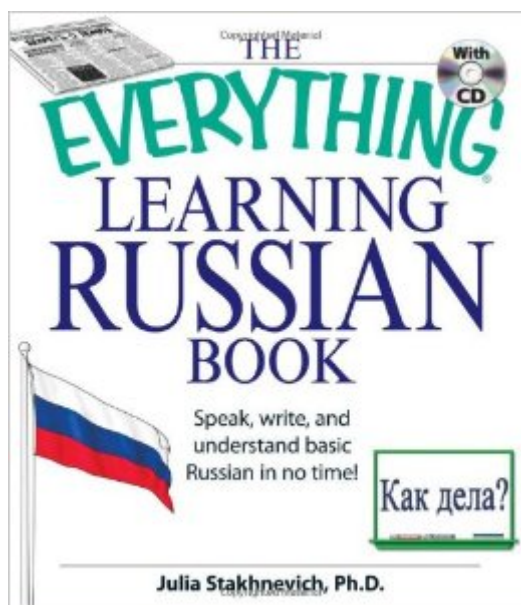


The book was found

The Everything Learning Russian Book With CD: Speak, Write, And Understand Russian In No Time!



Synopsis

Learning Russian is an exciting challenge--even saying "hello" and "goodbye" seems daunting! Whether you're planning a trip to Russia or adding a valuable second language to your resume, this book is just what you need. Julia Stakhnevich, a native Russian speaker, will help you to: Recognize and read Cyrillic letters. Pronounce Russian words like a native. Ask for directions, order dinner, and conduct business. Hold your own in a conversation. Inside, you'll find step-by-step lessons in vocabulary, grammar, and conversation--and the companion CD provides beneficial practice to perfect your accent. With The Everything Learning Russian Book with CD, you'll see how much fun learning Russian can be!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've been learning Russian for the past 6 months. It's been a difficult language to learn. I've basically been trying every resource I could find. I've found most Russian grammar books too BORING and poorly written to read. Normally I utilize audio courses more on this topic because in most audio courses, they do a better job of keeping it interesting and describing Russian grammar in a way that I can understand. My experience with books about Russian is that they're very wordy and tremendously BORING. Not with this book, however. This book is clear, concise and very interesting. Full of sensible charts and interesting facts about Russia, this book combines learning the Russian language with learning about Russian culture. Each chapter takes you further into the

Russian language, while keeping you engaged with relevant scenarios in Russian culture (one chapter teaches you about Russian cuisine and how to order in Russian whilst teaching you how to keep your adjectives in forms that agree with the words they modify). Unlike some introductory books, this book actually teaches you (simply) how to READ Russian characters. I had already learned how to read Russian before I bought this book, but this book pointed out certain spelling rules I hadn't learned yet that have really been improving my reading. I think this book is great for beginners and will be a great reference book as well. There are quizzes at the end of each chapter (and an answer key) which help you practice the language (even giving you opportunities to practice your grammar). Most basic books on Russian have quizzes at the end, but this is the first book I've actually been inclined to answer the quizzes. The book is written in such a way that I was actually interested enough to retain the knowledge I had read and I was able to answer the quizzes. I would definitely recommend this book.

The opinions on how to learn a language are vast. And, I tend to think that each individual must read widely on how to acquire a second language, and come to your own conclusions. With that said, let's be frank, though, over 90% of learners will quit without even obtaining the first level of learning (A1 Elementary Level). So, develop any reasonable plan you choose, but remember, 2 words a day, not learning Cyrillic, learning to talk, but not to read, etc...are all unreasonable plans that mark you as doomed to failure. Now about this book...it puts you on the right track. Recent books have been of the kind I call 'pandering', they tell you it's OK not to learn, in order to sell you the book, but they are so bad, you will never be fluent. This book really impressed me, because it is just a fun, simple, clearly written book, that presents the subject matter in a concise, clear way. It doesn't pander. It's not complete either, you won't learn advanced topics here, but it is a great introduction! I've been learning Russian for 6 years. In those six years, I have been kind of meandering about. I have learned Cyrillic, I do know quite a bit of vocabulary...but with this book, I finally said to myself, I will work through every single exercise. I will buy the practice book, and practice at each task. It was far easier for me, for having six years of 'pre-study' study, but, having bought just about every book out there, I can definitely say that this book, along with the Penguin books, are good. I definitely feel I have solidified my understanding of very basic, A1 to A2 level Russian by using this book. Now onward!

The book is fine but the CD could have been much better with a slight change. Every couple of pages you have a cd #1, 2, 3, and so forth throughout the book. However, the CD has #1 only as a

point to start from but contains 1-92. I use a laptop to play the CD, so each time I have to start back with #1 and play through to 69 or where ever I last started. If you have a CD player this would not be a problem as you can fast forward but still would have to spend time searching through the short plays which are about 20 seconds each, however you might want to review something at some point.

I adopted a Russian family and had to buy quite a few books to teach myself the language. This was by far the best available. Especially notable is Julia's clarity in explaining the case system, which is the most difficult aspect of the Russian language to grasp. Most other books should be judged based on how they articulate the case system. If there is only one book to buy to study the Russian language, this is the one.

I have done several Russian courses including Pimsleur, Michel Thomas and Rosetta Stone, which were all excellent. I got this book as an afterthought, to get the free shipping. What a surprise. Usually with the Russian courses the books immediately get into some incomprehensible discussion about the case system which is pretty much unusable. And you end up not learning anything else. In my opinion, most courses that are for beginners in Russian are not for true beginners as the case system is just too hard to learn. You can memorize the rules, maybe, but how will you use them when speaking? This book did not do this. It is probably the most usable intro book I have seen. It has tons of recordings (92), and all are very clear. The grammar is covered but there is so much more in this book that was useful. Someone really knew what they were doing when they selected the content. I should mention that it is not really a full course but provides some excellent references that are grouped together conveniently. It was an excellent supplement to my Russian studies. Here is an example of how useful and well thought out the recordings are. There is a table of words with and without palatalization (the soft sign). One column would be a word with the soft sign, the second column, the same spelling without the soft sign. This is obviously needed yet amazingly this is the only place I have seen it.

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