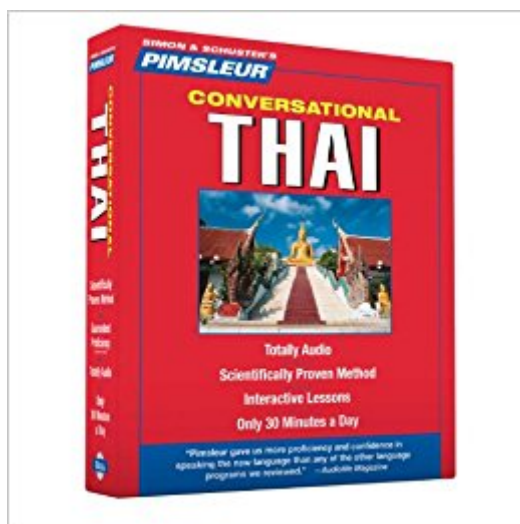


The book was found

Pimsleur Thai Conversational Course - Level 1 Lessons 1-16 CD: Learn To Speak And Understand Thai With Pimsleur Language Programs



Synopsis

Pimsleur® equals success. Just one 30-minute lesson a day gets you speaking and understanding like no other program. This course includes Lessons 1-16 from the Thai Level 1 Program. 8 hours of audio-only effective language learning with real-life spoken practice sessions. Each lesson provides 30 minutes of spoken language practice, with an introductory conversation, and new vocabulary and structures. Detailed instructions enable you to understand and participate in the conversation. Practice for vocabulary introduced in previous lessons is included in each lesson. Topics include: greetings, numbers, meals, shopping, telling time, scheduling activities, and asking and giving directions. The emphasis is on pronunciation and comprehension, and on learning to speak Thai. The Thai Language Standard Thai, the dialect taught in the Pimsleur course, is also known as Central Thai or Siamese, and it is the official language of Thailand. Sometimes called the Bangkok Dialect, it is spoken by about 25 million people. Tech Talk - CDs are formatted for playing in all CD players, including car players, and users can copy files for use in iTunes or Windows Media Player.

Book Information

Series: Conversational (Book 1)

Audio CD

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Language: English

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Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 42 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #344,947 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #77 in Books > Books on CD > Reference #382 in Books > Books on CD > General #878 in Books > Reference > Foreign Language Study & Reference > Instruction

Customer Reviews

"Pimsleur programs provide plenty of positive reinforcement that will keep learners on track, and we found that Pimsleur gave us more proficiency and confidence in speaking the new language than any of the other language programs we reviewed." -- AudioFile Magazine"EXTREMELY ACCESSIBLE...each section within the lessons is short enough to hold our attention, and there is

enough repetition to teach even those who consider themselves slow learners...Pimsleur [programs] are extremely thorough and easy to use -- quite lively!" -- Boston Herald"Learn French while commuting, German while jogging, Spanish (or Russian, Italian, and Japanese) while cooking all with NO WRITTEN MATERIALS!" -- New York Daily News"Designed for the ear and not the eye...the lessons provide PERFECT 30-minute bites of work." -- St Louis Post-Dispatch"Learn to habla espaÃ ol or parlez franÃ§ais before your next trip aboard. The interactive LESSONS CHALLENGE STUDENTS to use new words in conversation instead of memorize them." -- American Way (American Airlines inflight magazine)"I tried other language programs with little success...This is the best by far!" -- Pamela A. Mitchell, Pilot, International Society of Women Airline Pilots

Dr. Paul Pimsleur devoted his life to language teaching and testing and was one of the world's leading experts in applied linguistics. After years of experience and research, Dr. Pimsleur developed The Pimsleur Method based on two key principles: the Principle of Anticipation and a scientific principle of memory training that he called "Graduated Interval Recall." This Method has been applied to the many levels and languages of the Pimsleur Programs.

This is the first time I have used the Pimsleur method. When first starting out with it, I was intimidated by the speed, as several reviewers have commented negatively on. However, this is actually part of the method, which I found out when I looked up Pimsleur's method online. About the time I was able to put together some of the words in the phrase, the phrase would be repeated and I would be repeating along with the speaker. Then there is another gap to say the phrase again. When I understood the rhythm it started to make a lot of sense. It does work, for me at least, and though I had learned some Thai language in the past, the relentless repetition, especially of the numbers, has embedded them in my long term memory more effectively. I play these non-stop in the car and have made it through all 8 discs a few times. I just keep reviewing them, going back to disc 3 or so, and after a few months I know everything that is in all 8 discs. Some have complained that the man and the woman pronounce the words differently. Anyone who has learned a language via discs (or if really old like me, tapes, and I guess discs are also old school now), knows that once you land in that country whose language you have studied diligently from afar, all of that perfect language you learned does not help a whole lot when trying to understand what native speakers are saying. Even after 20 years of extensive travel in Mexico and possessing reasonable Spanish language skills, I still encounter people that I cannot understand very well. When I lamented this to

my Mexico City friend Carlos, who is 65 and lived in el D.F. all his life, he said, "well, when you go to other parts of the US can you easily understand everyone? I can't understand some peoples' Spanish either". One needs to keep a realistic perspective. But I digress... I believe that Pimsleur has used different pronunciations (L vs R for example, and slight differences in cadence between the man and woman speakers) to give the student a bit of real life experience ahead of their visit to Thailand. When one is standing at the counter of a store in Thailand, they are not going to be criticizing the person behind the counter for not speaking like the man or woman on the Pimsleur CD. My only complaint, and others have mentioned this as well, is that the conversation is oriented very much toward informal meetings of business clients with a heavy bias towards eating and drinking out. I would have preferred more bias to general social interaction as part of the basic course. I also felt that the explanation of time was a bit strange, by not telling the listener right away that 7 is actually a different name than 1, along with several other numbers when explaining afternoon vs evening time. For those who did not study numbers elsewhere, there might be some confusion about what is going on there. They do remedy it later on, but I think it could have been handled a bit better, along with the general descriptions of the times of day. I went to a different resource for more clarity with time. Realistically, one cannot expect to use just one method if one is truly serious about learning a language. This is just one tool. I also have a stack of books to help me learn the written language, along with other essential words and phrases. To this end I searched online and purchased an absolutely amazing dictionary and phrasebook from Paiboon publishing for iPhone/iPad. I would consider this dictionary to be essential and a real bargain for \$24.95. There are also many excellent tutorial videos on youtube, including one where they go out onto the street and talk to a tuk tuk driver, and then analyze what he was saying. It's great and Pimsleur basic Thai is not going to help much in understanding that guy. It demonstrates very well the difference between academic and real world language. One needs to immerse in every way possible before visiting the country, and then be prepared to be bewildered for a while after one gets there. For me that's part of what makes travel exciting, invigorating, and ultimately rewarding. I have only been to Thailand once, in 1987, which was my first international trip as a young lad, and I practiced extensively with cassette tapes in the car beforehand, along with a phrasebook using the phonetic pronunciations. When I got there I found that my work really helped. Though I could not read the language, Thai people could understand my very basic greetings. This is also where I learned that being polite goes a very long way, and since then I have always made a point of learning what is polite behavior in the countries I visit. Most basic would be to never walk into a place and just start speaking English, expecting someone to understand, which is something my country people are rampantly guilty

of. What I figured out right away on that trip is that when I bought something, I would count the money out loud. Since there was no conversation involved I could do that without getting confused. In small towns the young children that inevitably would crowd around the tall falang were always amazed to hear me speaking Thai, even though that was pretty much all the Thai I knew. The next time I will be going for an extended stay, and even with all my preparation (I will probably also buy the extended Pimsleur course), when I get there, I know I will still have lots of work to do.

It is never easy learning a new language (at least not for me) so I was hesitant to learn by listening to CD's in this method. When I first began I was like wow this is completely impossible....sounded like complete mumbo jumbo! But I kept listening over and over and over again and little by little things started making sense and actually sinking in. I am now making progress little by little and starting to really appreciate learning in this manner. I find it so much easier than studying a language from a book. I listen to the tapes on my way to and from work. You just need to be disciplined enough to listen to the CD's.

So far I really like this program. If you are doing this for a trip and want to be proficient, keep in mind you have to plan ahead. The basic conversational program has 16 lessons on 8 CDs. Maybe I'm just too old for this, but I need to listen to the lessons at least 3 times before I remember the contents enough to include it in and build on top of it for the following lesson. I like that the instructor goes back and reviews how both the female and male would say the same sentence. It's pretty easy to figure out though, as a female, what you are supposed to say instead, even when the male content is being reviewed in the lesson. I'm pretty early in the lesson so far so can't comment well on the contents on the remainder of the program, but I hope there is some instruction on how to construct your own sentences.

just started this

These audio CD's were awesome for learning Thai. Keep in mind, they teach you how to speak Thai in a very polite, proper manner. Ending each question with 'Ka' Or 'Krap'. In Thailand, not everyone ends sentences in that - since it's more like slang/everyday. But it is very proper to end everything in 'Ka'. The methods they use is very efficient and easy to pick up. These CD's teach you useful phrases, and also helps you understand conversations and speak fluently. I would recommend to anyone trying to pick up this language to use these CDs. :)

I have used other programs such as Rosetta Stone for other languages, and although it is a good program as well, I found that in learning a language that I know nothing about; Pimsleur's Thai Conversational was much easier to understand and helped set a foundation to better understand. Phrases are given to you, and then they are broken down by the words, and after a few lessons, you start to get a good grasp of the flow of sentence structure, and find yourself taking words that you've learned and you can reform them to create your own phrases that you may want to say. Throughout the lessons, each new lesson touches on phrases in past lessons, so as to help keep the overall course fresh in your head. It is only 16 lessons at a half an hour each, which the course instructs you to learn one a day. Although it is not a full course, it gives quite a bit of the language to get you started, and for the price, it is more than worth it.

good product and seller

This introduction provides a very sound introduction to a complex tonal language. The key with Thai, at least in the initial phases of language study, is to avoid getting bogged down to heavily in the writing. This was my first experience with Pimsleur and I must say that I was pleasantly surprised. It was far more interactive and far less tedious than I had imagined. The natural disadvantage is that it covers less ground than for example Poomsman Becker's Thai for Beginners (also highly recommended, incidentally). But it compensates for its lack of breadth for its fine depth. A user of this product does not skim over material but masters the basics of Thai pronunciation so that he/she can move on to more advanced study.

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