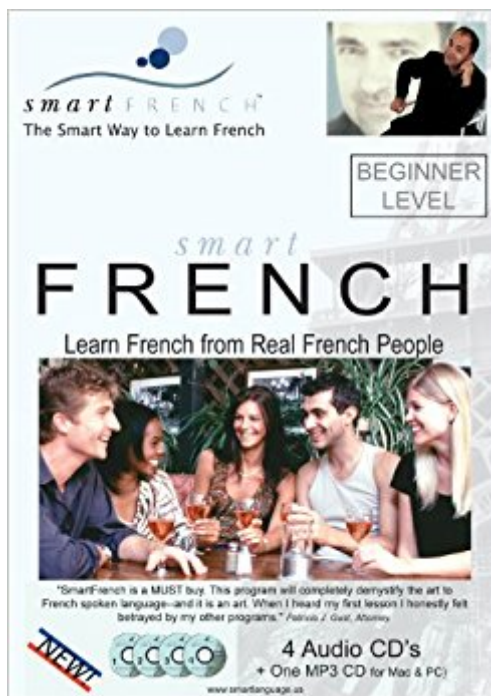


The book was found

# SmartFrench: Beginner Level - Learn French From Real French People



## Synopsis

Attention: The novice in French should start with our SmartFrench - Introduction to French, Vol.1 and Vol.2 first, to study the basic grammar, conjugation and vocabulary that we observed you need in order to get a perfect foundation. The horse - in French, is - Le cheval -. Would you like to be taught to say: - luh shuhvahl -, as taught by most products listed (which is correct only when you read), or: - luhsh fahl -, the way it will sound in a regular conversation and the way SmartFrench teaches? This difference is true for most words. Learning French requests that you learn to speak French and that you learn to understand it. Vol.1 and Vol.2 will teach you to speak and these SmartFrench Audio CDs Beginner will teach you to understand and be understood. If you enter a conversation in French with no training to listen to it, you will not be able to get what is coming back to you. Then your French studies will be worth nothing. On the other hand, even if you feel hesitant to speak French, you can have a conversation saying just "yes" or "no", as long as you understand the other person. That's why to develop listening skills is so important. With SmartFrench you will develop two-way conversation skills. The audio CDs can be played anywhere. The CDROM - also available on .com, is for the computer. It contains all three levels and some extras, as well as the videos of the interviews on which the lessons are based (to see people when they speak always helps.) Also available: SmartSpanish, SmartItalian, SmartFrench for Travelers.

## Book Information

Audio CD

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## Customer Reviews

"When I heard my first lesson I honestly felt betrayed by my other programs--why didn't they

simply tell the truth about French pronunciation like Smart French does? --Patricia Jones, attorney  
"I saw online that many native French teachers recommend this product."  
--Erika Huang  
"This is a MUST for learning how the French REALLY talk!"  
--William Martin, Former Political Editor, The Oakland Tribune.

Finally, a program that is helping me to UNDERSTAND the spoken language. I have always been able to mimic my teachers, I've worked hard and learned vocabulary and verb conjugations. But I couldn't figure out why I had no idea what native french speakers were saying, or why I couldn't watch french films without subtitles. It was so frustrating, that I would just give up. This program unravels the mystery. For example, native french speakers don't say, "Je suis," they say "shwee." Who would have thought? Like the instructor says, it's traditionally not taught this way because few natives realize the extent to which they employ liaisons in their everyday speech. This program provides lots of opportunity to listen to real french people having real conversations, and to practice sans accent. It's been a real breakthrough for me.

Okay I'm going to just dish out the straight facts about this product without the fluff or the lies:1. The cds come with a booklet. Download the cd to your ipod if you want to take it everywhere you go.2. This doesn't teach vocab, doesn't help you magically have conversations on the streets of Paris. This is not Pimsleur/Micheal Thomas etc.3. When the guy starts doing numbers, be prepared to just stop repeating because as soon as he gets to thirty or forty, he speeds up and you're left biting the dust. I'm not kidding. I skip it.4. This course is EXTREMELY GOOD for pronouncing and differentiating certain sounds, such as the "u" in "tu" and "ou" in "fou". This has helped me tremendously and my tutor has definitely noticed a difference.5. Not only is this course good for pronunciation, but for understanding speech. For example, why some words aren't said in daily speech or are clipped short...something you do NOT learn in a classroom setting. It helps with liaisons as well. It makes you see and understand why french in the real world sounds a hell of a lot different/confusing/faster than french in the classroom.6. There are different conversations to follow and listen to, different voices, so you're not listening to one person and getting accustomed to their voice.7. There's repetition that'll annoy you but repetition helps loads. He does a good job at pronouncing everything slowly and exaggerated so you can wrap your mouth around it.8. Repetition is key, no matter how boring the topics on this cd are. Overall, I rate this a four because I found that "The Sounds" section is extremely beneficial. It's the phonetics portion of this course and that's what a lot of intermediate and advanced students like to work on to sound more french. If you

want vocab, try Vocabulearn or read a book in french (easy reader, Harry Potter), watch movies and check out TV5. If you want to converse or work on it, hire a tutor or find one on Skype.

I took three years of French in high school over twenty years ago, and I recently decided to take up the language once again. I have tried various programs, such as Rosetta Stone, Michel Thomas, and Pimsleur. However, when I tried to have a conversation with native French speakers, I was always disappointed because a) When they spoke at a natural pace, other than picking out a word here and there, I could not understand what they were saying and b) While I could make myself understood, I was told that my sentences were too rigid or unnaturally formal. As far as I know, Smart French is the only program available that teaches the student to speak in a natural and fluent manner. The program begins with an excellent review of French sounds. Then, a series of vignettes are presented in which an interviewer discusses a topic with everyday French speakers such as a model, a chef, an art curator, a metal worker, an actor, etc. The conversations are presented in stages. The first stage, breaks down the sentences into bite sized segments in slow motion. The ensuing stages move progressively faster, until the sixth stage, when we hear the actual interview at normal speed. At first the conversations seemed impossibly fast, but after listening to them a few times, I began to understand more and more of what the speakers were saying. The Smart French course has helped me tremendously in developing an ear for French as it is spoken by real people and in improving my accent. In my opinion, it is by far the best program available, and the best value for the money.

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