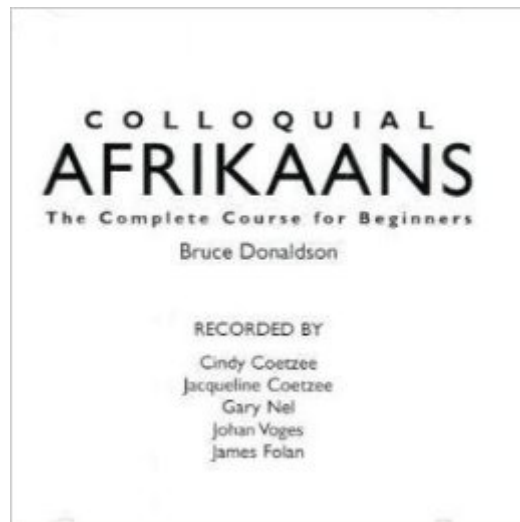


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Colloquial Afrikaans: The Complete Course For Beginners (Colloquial Series)



Synopsis

These two 60-minute CDs, recorded by native speakers of Afrikaans, are an invaluable component of the Colloquial Afrikaans course. While reinforcing material from the book, the CDs also contain a variety of additional exercises, including role-playing, and a useful guide to pronunciation. Course components: The complete course comprises the book and audio materials. These are available to purchase separately in paperback, ebook, CD and MP3 format. The paperback and CDs can also be purchased together in the great-value Colloquials pack. Paperback: 978-0-415-20672-3 (please note this does not include the audio) CDs : 978-0-415-30072-8 Ebook: 978-0-203-82682-9 (please note this does not include the audio) MP3s: 978-0-415-47112-1 (available from <http://www.ebookstore.tandf.co.uk/html/>) Pack : 978-0-415-44173-5 (paperback and CDs)

Book Information

Series: Colloquial Series (Book 4)

Audio CD: 1 pages

Publisher: Routledge (November 15, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 041530072X

ISBN-13: 978-0415300728

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.4 x 6.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,061,523 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #51 in [Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > Language](#) #2033 in [Books > Books on CD > General](#) #2939 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Foreign Language Learning](#)

Customer Reviews

It's not easy finding in-print textbooks for learning Afrikaans, especially in the United States, and the fact that this course has audio cassettes is by itself a major advantage compared to the few other offerings. Although I already speak German and Dutch (and am interested in learning to read, not speak Afrikaans), I found the tapes invaluable, especially in identifying the relatively few (in my opinion) places that Afrikaans pronunciation differs substantially from Dutch. Overall the textbook is very good and similar to the author's Colloquial Dutch course (including some of the same dialogs at that). The grammar descriptions, etc. are brief and to the point, the dialogs are also manageable, and there is sufficient review/exercise material as well. The reason I didn't give it 5 stars is that there

are a few words in each lesson that are neither defined in the lesson nor included with the glossary in the back of the book. If you're really interested in learning Afrikaans, I would recommend getting a decent dictionary like the Hippocrene A-E/E-A by Kromhaut or the very extensive (and very big) Reader's Digest dictionary, which you would have to order from South Africa. A final point is that the dialogs stop being translated after the first few lessons, and several times I would have liked to see an English translation of the later dialogs as a comprehension check. Still, this is definitely the best book/course out there for learning Afrikaans, especially with the tapes and I would highly recommend it.

Professor Donaldson's COLLOQUIAL AFRIKAANS was a pleasure to study. His book includes many interesting dialogues using ordinary Afrikaans. The grammar sections are surprisingly easy to read. Donaldson also includes many short exercises which cover the material very nicely. For added interest, the book is sprinkled with cultural information. Finally, Donaldson includes generous glossaries, a key to the exercises, and an index.

This is, hands down, THE course to have if you're aiming to learn Afrikaans through self-study. The textbook provides a comprehensive amount of material for beginners in the language, and it also works well as a refresher course if you're looking to brush up on your skills. The dialogues fall more easily into the "everyday life" category than in the "exclusively for tourists" section (one of the major drawbacks of other Afrikaans courses available), and the rate of speech used by the native speakers throughout most of the course is the closest to everyday rhythm that a learner could ask for. The accompanying audio is clear and easy to follow (there are a few points where the speakers switch up a word or two, but it's very easy to identify these points and understand what was said : one example, "ek is bekommerd oor jou" is said as "ek bekommer my oor jou". Easy to notice, and both are grammatically correct -- it won't throw you when it comes). A huge advantage to the language itself is that it's very similar to English, so many of the words will be easy to recognize. The word order might be a little difficult to pick up, but don't let this put you off -- this course will put a strong foundation under your ability to speak and write the language, and becoming more proficient in Afrikaans can be a breeze once you thoroughly complete this course. Mimicking the native speakers is sound advice; once you can speak confidently and sound authentic, it's so much easier to progress and take on more vocabulary and to get a better feel for the flow of the language. I can't rave enough about this course. As an experienced self-study learner of several languages, I can say that this is one of the best courses out there for beginners and intermediate

learners alike.

Unlike most of the other titles in this series, Colloquial Afrikaans provides the new learner with a solid knowledge of the basic grammar, essential for a further study. The plural of nouns and the flexion of adjectives should be covered more thoroughly however, but this course with its lively dialogues and everyday vocabulary is one of the best one could choose to start that interesting language.

I made the mistake of diving into this text before any others and soon felt overwhelmed, despite the fact that I have a fairly strong language background. I've always used the Teach Yourself series, so the Colloquial approach was new to me. First, let me point out the strong points here. The grammar is comprehensive; you definitely won't feel cheated in academic quality. Of all the Afrikaans texts readily available, this is the strongest in grammar. The text is also surprisingly free of the PC nonsense that plagues the modern TY book; you will not be asked to analyze the hidden sentiments of Kaapse Kleurling folk songs. The audio is also very high in quality and absolutely essential to an Afrikaans course. On the down side, the dialogues do not progress at a steady pace and quickly become more colloquial than is good for an introductory course. The difficulties will be masked for a while, since, unlike the TY approach, you will be given English translations of the dialogues. But after lesson 5, those translations disappear, and you will be in deep water. Some of the words are not in the glossary, either, so you will need to get a dictionary, like the Hippocrene one. I ended up ordering the TY series, then halfway through that book, I went back to this one and used both in tandem. I recommend using both courses, as they tend to make up for each other's weaknesses.

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