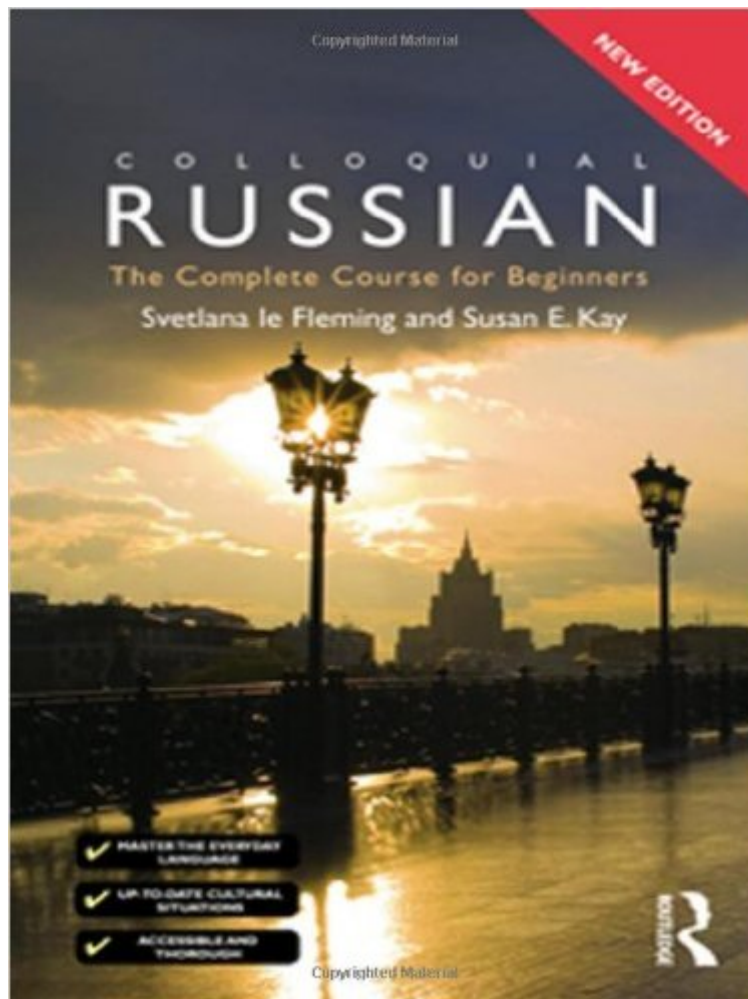


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Colloquial Russian: The Complete Course For Beginners (Colloquial Series)



Synopsis

COLLOQUIAL RUSSIAN is easy to use and completely up to date! Specially written by experienced teachers for self-study or class use, the course offers a step-by-step approach to written and spoken Russian. No prior knowledge of the language is required. What makes COLLOQUIAL RUSSIAN your best choice in personal language learning? Interactive – lots of exercises for regular practice Clear – concise grammar notes Practical – useful vocabulary and pronunciation guide Complete – including answer key and reference section Whether you're a business traveller, or about to take up a daring challenge in adventure tourism, you may be studying to teach or even looking forward to a holiday - if you'd like to get up and running with Russian this rewarding course will take you from complete beginner to confidently putting your language skills to use in a wide range of everyday situations. 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: 978-0-415-46995-1 (please note this does not include the audio) CDs: 978-0-415-48629-3 EBook: 978-0-203-87386-1 (please note this does not include the audio, available from <http://www.ebookstore.tandf.co.uk>) MP3s: 978-0-415-55068-0 (available from <http://www.ebookstore.tandf.co.uk/html/>) Pack: 978-0-415-48628-6 (paperback and CDs).

Book Information

Series: Colloquial Series

Paperback: 424 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 3 edition (November 30, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0415469953

ISBN-13: 978-0415469951

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 5.6 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars – See all reviews (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,207,383 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Foreign Language Learning > Russian #3228 in Books > Reference > Foreign Language Study & Reference > Instruction #9009 in Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > Foreign Language Dictionaries & Thesauruses

Customer Reviews

As a foreign language teacher, I am always picky when choosing materials to teach myself a new foreign language. I was pleasantly surprised with this book. Many books just spend a lot of time repeating random words or tediously try to explain the very complicated Russian grammar BEFORE you even get to start speaking the language. What I liked about this book is that it teaches you these things but through a realistic, written dialogue. They use many cognants (words that sound the same in both languages) to start you off and have a handy vocab key next to the dialogue in case you cannot figure something out. The grammar and reading comprehension activities following the dialogue are thorough. I also like how the chapters of the book are divided up by theme or topic rather than grammatical concepts. You will, however, get much more out of the book if you have the accompanying cds.

I am currently using this set (book and CD set) for a class, and it has been pretty good, so far. It's set in a way where one is not jumping from place to place in the learning of Russian grammar, like textbooks I have used in the past. The book gives a little bit of help in learning Russian, step-by-step, showing grammar, dialogues one may encounter, and exercises that aid in learning. The only (and minor) gripes I have with the book are merely aesthetic. It is written for an English (UK) reader. In other words, the English translations are more British than American. It's not a terrible problem, but translations for an American (like myself) do sometimes sound odd. There are many examples. The other is that it is Moscow-centric. I know many people will probably be going to Moscow or through Moscow on trips, and Moscow is a major tourist destination, but my personal urge is to go to St Petersburg, a place I have learned about immensely. I wish the English-to-Russian dictionary was larger. These are only based on opinion, which doesn't detract from how much Russian I have learned by using it. Get the DVD/Book set, which comes in a plastic case. Listening to a foreign language is important to the learning of a foreign language. A good teaching set, too. 4 1/2 of 5 for the book, and, with the CD, 5 stars.

This book does a very good job of condensing the Russian Language into practical, usable dialogue. It includes enough grammar to aid in accurate speech, but not so much as to be imposing, which is one of the greater challenges of the Russian language.

Reasonable starter for a difficult language, although there are a few things which I wonder about. For one thing, when teaching phonetics of each letter via an example word, they do not follow alphabetical order. However, it seems to be a thorough beginner course and the subject matter is

relevant and reasonably topical as to day to day life in Moscow.

I've had to modify my original review for this book, from good to not-so-good-after-all. I bought the book because one of my children expressed an interest in learning Russian and the texts I'd used when I began to learn all seemed rather musty to me. I've had several colloquial French language books and they were all excellent, so I bought this colloquial Russian book for my offspring. I glanced through it and it seemed fine. But... when we actually began to work through it, this is what we found: the basic grammar is OK. Some of the vocabulary isn't really colloquial at all and is in some places a little odd (for example, using the verb "to know" instead of the verb "to like"). In other places the book becomes utterly unusable. In Unit 3 there's a section of text that's actually early-intermediate level and there's no translation and no glossary. So if you don't already speak Russian you have no way to know what the text is saying. And this is in a book supposedly for beginners with no previous knowledge of the language. This type of problem reoccurs throughout the textbook and is, in my opinion, a fatal error. So I can't recommend this book to anyone who doesn't already speak Russian to a reasonable degree.

This is an excellent book for those learning Russian, ideally to be followed by the Colloquial Russian - 2. I rate on about the same par as the Penguin Russian Course. However, with the audio, this book does provide an additional learning enhancement.

This is an excellent course and even better than the previous edition (which I really liked) It does have some typos which are glaringly obvious, but have confused some of my students (like in chapter one when the example for exercise six uses a instead of ') In any case, it's one of the best choices considering price as compared to quality. It's a great deal!

The course is good, at least in the paper books, but the formatting on the Kindle versions is awful. There are spaces in the middle of words â “ Russian words, so it's hard to tell what is what without a dictionary. Even with the translation right there.

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