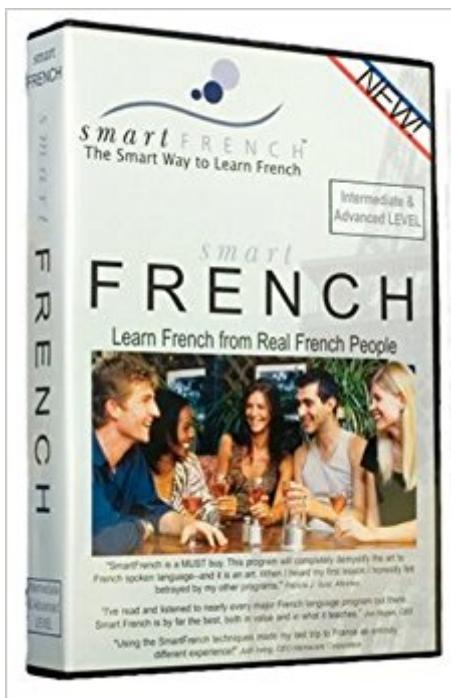


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# SmartFrench Audio CDs Intermediate/Advanced



## Synopsis

'Our son is using the product (as complement for GCSE prep.) and making leaps of progress already after years of frustration and struggling. Probably the best seller we have ever dealt with. Recommend unreservedly. 20 February 2010.' D. CRASS 'J Linn' Gt BritainCheck the demo on the smartfrench site. Most people learn to speak french but not how to speak it. At the intermediate level, they still have difficulties to understand the language and they cannot be understood. These Audio CDs will develop your listening skills at the same time as you progress in your learning. If these CDs are too difficult for you, you need the Beginner level. Maybe you are an intermediate at speaking french but still a beginner at listening to it. If you still need basic tips, you might want to try our SmartFrench, Introduction to French course. And if you just want to say travel sentences, you can use our SmartFrench for Travelers book and downloads. With this program you will understand French and you will be understood. It's the best choice you can make to achieve fluency fast.Check the demo on our website

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: SmartFrench (February 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0972947426

ISBN-13: 978-0972947428

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 5.4 x 1.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 85 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,277,644 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #34 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Automotive > Foreign #68 in Books > Books on CD > Languages > Language Instruction > French #347 in Books > Books on CD > Reference

## Customer Reviews

We recently received an email questioning our 5 star reviews. We felt compelled to respond to our customer. This is our response: Dear X, To try to be seen by customers me and my team have to work extremely hard. We don't have the budget to appear on top of pages like others do. I am not a teacher at university either who could have his students write comments. It has another advantage though. We are necessarily closer to our customers and we like to help them as much as we can. What happens with the reviews is the result of a close contact with them. When customers write a

favorable comment for delivery adding that the product is good, we ask them for a review. We offer free advice. They can call us to chat in French. We replace lost booklets for free. We give lists of vocabulary for free to all our buyers if they need. Naturally if they like our products, we ask them for a review and we ask them to paste it on all our products (as they are related). I am happy when our customers write good reviews and even so if it's written with spirit. If they copy from other reviewers, it's their choice. We love our customers and they love us. Everything can happen. We have once received an unfavorable review, which, we could prove, had been written by a competitor... and he pasted it to several of our products, just like 'another opinion' below! At Smart Language we would never think of writing a bad review, for any reason except if we'd returned a product and would be denied a refund. By the way, we have always refunded when asked and if you want to return yours, it's absolutely fine. Our method is unconventional and certain people will not like it. It's their right. We have been very fortunate over the years to communicate by email or on the phone with so many wonderful people. We received the generous free help of writers, lawyers, journalists, and professors, who had bought our products and wanted to help us (for the description, corrections or else). Our technique was born from the difficulties we experienced ourselves in communicating in English. It was absolutely necessary for us to help people avoid the same difficulties. That method really came from the heart and I am convinced that there is no better product on the market that develops the faculty of listening to the language and speak it like ours does. When a mother emailed us and told us that she wanted to make sure the product was suited for her son as the money was limited, I honestly told her that it was not designed for young people. She decided to try it anyway and afterwards, she emailed me again and told me: '... our son is using the product and making leaps of progress already after years of frustration and struggling'. Of course, once again I asked her to paste her comment everywhere possible. I am very and personally sorry if that offends some. With the budget we have, I don't know what else to do for our products to be discovered. The words of mouth have been good so far. On the descriptions we always mention to either start with the SmartFrench volumes of introduction or work with them simultaneously. With all the reviews, emails and calls, I have realized that the cdrom is most appreciated by people who have already struggled with French or who have been disappointed when travelling to France. When I was recording the lessons, our French sound engineer told me the method was right because he never took any English class. I asked him how long it took him to feel comfortable speaking English, he told me one year. For me, after 5 years of English classes, I could not have a regular comfortable conversation in English when I arrived in the US. It took me three years to feel comfortable. It seems that fixing the problem was harder than listening first to something you can't understand and

mimicking when someone speaks... --Repeating dialogs seemed more efficient --Music Critic, Belmont, MA USAThe dilemma we had was to call the level of the cdrom 'beginner level'. How to explain that learning grammar is one thing and listening is another, that you can be intermediate or advanced in French and still a beginner at listening? We chose to take a risk to disappoint a few but to give the opportunity to all. At least, they would see with the lists of vocabulary that 65% of any conversation, casual or not, regardless of the person or the theme, are just basic words. We developed SmartFrench not as a quick fix but for the serious learner. If you are lost after two lessons, it's normal to me. I was lost after 5 years. But if you stick with SmartFrench, you will have a chance to have a lasting result. If people want to learn only a few casual sentences, the SmartFrench for travellers product is the one to get. I would suggest that you get more than one method, like you had more than one teacher for any subject you have learned in your life so far. All methods will teach you something and are good in that sense. We are always welcoming our competition and I am not concerned if they are better or not as good. They are very different. Some will fit you more than others. SmartFrench was conceived to be a long time companion to refer to along the road, a method to learn French from and also one to use and check periodically the progress made. Cordially, Christian Aubert Smart Language.This CD Rom is a must for learning how the French REALLY talk! I have spent hundreds on books, audios and video in trying to learn French. All have helped. But this one is a MUST. I recommend the Smart French CD Rom without reservation. --William Martin, Former Political Editor, The Oakland Tribune 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 This method works. Period. I have a bookshelf full of French language learning tools (books, CD's, flashcards), and they seem useless now that I am using SmartFrench... It's unbelievable that this simple, easy approach has never been done before. I'm glad someone finally did it! Some of the most successful, useful inventions become obvious to the rest of us after someone comes up with the idea, and we smack our foreheads with the palm of our hands thinking: Why didn't I think of that? It's so obvious! SmartFrench is like that. --Music Critic, Belmont, MA USA --Music Critic, Belmont, MA USAThis CD Rom is a must for learning how the French REALLY talk! I have spent hundreds on books, audios and video in trying to learn French. All have helped. But this one is a MUST. I recommend the Smart French CD Rom without reservation. --William Martin, Former Political Editor, The Oakland TribuneWhen 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, attorneyThis method works. Period. I have a bookshelf full of French language learning tools

(books, CD's, flashcards), and they seem useless now that I am using SmartFrench... It's unbelievable that this simple, easy approach has never been done before. I'm glad someone finally did it! Some of the most successful, useful inventions become obvious to the rest of us after someone comes up with the idea, and we smack our foreheads with the palm of our hands thinking: Why didn't I think of that? It's so obvious! SmartFrench is like that. --Music Critic, Belmont, MA USA

I am an intermediate student of French. My biggest struggle is with listening skills. I find it very helpful to have a method where I can listen to real conversation spoken at a normal conversational pace. I watch French TV, but you can't rewind for repeated listening. And you also don't have the transcript. I find it very helpful with the audio cds to just keep rewinding over and over until it starts making sense. I do have other cds and audio formats that I use that are also helpful. But sometimes these recordings have too many pauses within the conversation, which is distracting, unlike the dialogue on Smart French which is just spoken straight thru without pauses. I also like how the teacher will give you slowed down version of the same dialogue and also give you some explanations for the shortening of words and phrases. Some negative points: The text in the book is way too small. Would be much better if the booklet was bigger with much bigger text. You would be able to read it much more easily and also could make notes next to the text. Also, the red markings in the book, for the sounds that are not pronounced, sometimes doesn't make a lot of sense. And also, some of the teacher's audio explanations are redundant and not necessary. But practically speaking, you can just easily avoid those audio tracks, and just skip to the ones you want to hear.

These are a series of interviews (really monologues) held in French, which are then repeated by a narrator 5 times in short phrases with some commentary and "helpful hints". The concept is good, but the execution has problems. First, the "helpful hints" are repeated essentially verbatim in each lesson. You will grow very tired of hearing "spoken French is very different from written French", "the French link their words when they speak", and similar phrases. Second, the audio quality of the original interviews ranges from tolerable to barely audible over the background noise - good luck trying to listen to some of these in your car (as I do). The audio quality of the narrator who repeats the text is fine, but they really needed to clean up the original audio. Third, and perhaps worst - as the narrator reads the text, the phrasing is wildly unpredictable. Imagine taking a series of paragraphs of text, running them together into a single long series, then arbitrarily breaking the series of words at random places between words. I.e., you will hear a 3-word sequence that ends one sentence followed immediately (no spoken break or indication of any change) by another 2-3

word sequence that is the start of the next sentence. Using the first line of this paragraph as an example, imagine someone reading "... wildly unpredictable imagine taking ..." and try to make sense of that while listening to the CD. Related to this is that the narrator reads the text in nearly a monotone, and there is no indication which of the persons from the interview is supposed to be speaking, or if the text is a question, statement, interjection, etc. Unless you are reading along in the booklet (hard to do in a car), this is very confusing. The interviews are interesting, but I would also have preferred some less esoteric jobs. The best ones are with a Berlitz manager and an art gallery owner who knew Picasso - both of these mostly use terminology one might actually use in common discourse.

My CDs came with two #1 CDs, with one mislabeled as being CD#2. Obviously this is an inconvenience to have to return something. But also, a person might not listen to the second CD right away and not realize they had a faulty product. The lessons are good, but I have a note for those interested in substance. CD#1 is full of repeating the alphabet and numbers which takes up a great deal of valuable lesson space that I would have preferred to focus on listening to actual dialogue. Also, 3 CDs for the price of this is excessive. I looked at the description and do not see the number of CD's indicated anywhere on the page. This is important information to give to prospective purchasers. I bought another product that had about 8 CDs and I was expecting more for the price of this product. But I'm eager to perfect my French, so I paid for it readily. The lessons themselves are very good and useful and focus on listening not reading and I can give them 5 stars; I wish there were more CDs for the price.

SmartFrench is an ok program. I think that by using it you will be able to understand a little more when some french people speak. I liked that they placed the letters that you do not pronounce in red. Some of the prononciations are a little different to what I learnt in school though. What I don't like about this program is that when they ask you to repeat after the speaker in the advanced section of the program, you are not given sufficient time to repeat what is been said before they move on to the next sentence. Overall, not a bad program, but a bit expensive (c'est tres cher).

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Includes Comprehensive Coursebook and 8 Audio CDs (Ultimate Advanced) NKJV Complete Audio Bible Martin on CD-Complete New King James Version Audio Holy Bible on 60 CDs-The Word of God-Audio ... and New Testament Home School Easter Kid's Audio Bible-Free Easter DVD a 2nd Free Audio Bible on MP3-Bible Stories for Kid's-Bible Stories for Children with 103 Kid's ... Home School Curriculum 15 Audio CDs-1MP3-1DVD Workouts in Intermediate Microeconomics: for Intermediate Microeconomics and Intermediate Microeconomics with Calculus, Ninth Edition NorthStar Building Skills for the TOEFL iBT, Intermediate (Student Book with Audio CDs) NorthStar: Building Skills for the TOEFL iBT, High Intermediate Student Book with Audio CDs French: Short Stories for Intermediate Level + AUDIO: Improve your French listening comprehension skills with seven French stories for intermediate level (French Short Stories Book 2) Living Language French, Platinum Edition: A complete beginner through advanced course, including 3 coursebooks, 9 audio CDs, complete online course, apps, and live e-Tutoring Living Language German, Complete Edition: Beginner through advanced course, including 3 coursebooks, 9 audio CDs, and free online learning Living Language German, Platinum Edition: A complete beginner through advanced course, including 3 coursebooks, 9 audio CDs, complete online course, apps, and live e-Tutoring Living Language Italian, Complete Edition: Beginner through advanced course, including 3 coursebooks, 9 audio CDs, and free online learning Living Language Russian, Complete Edition: Beginner through advanced course, including 3 coursebooks, 9 audio CDs, and free online learning Living Language Spanish, Platinum Edition: A complete beginner through advanced course, including 3 coursebooks, 9 audio CDs, complete online course, apps, and live e-Tutoring Living Language Mandarin Chinese, Complete Edition: Beginner through advanced course, including 3 coursebooks, 9 audio CDs, Chinese character guide, and free online learning Living Language French, Complete Edition: Beginner through advanced course, including 3 coursebooks, 9 audio CDs, and free online learning Living Language Arabic, Complete Edition: Beginner through advanced course, including 3 coursebooks, 9 audio CDs, Arabic script guide, and free online learning Living Language Japanese, Complete Edition: Beginner through advanced course, including 3 coursebooks, 9 audio CDs, Japanese reading & writing guide, and free online learning

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