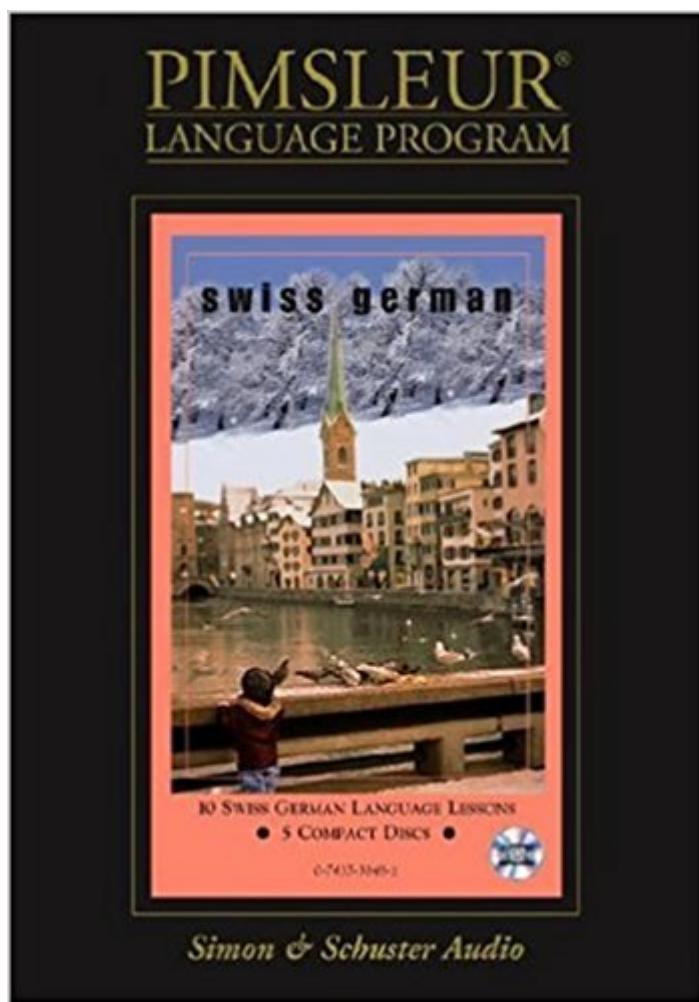


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Swiss German: Learn To Speak And Understand Swiss German With Pimsleur Language Programs



Synopsis

Compact Swiss German, a stand-alone 10-lesson (5 hours) program, teaches beginning language strategies for essential communication and traveling needs, plus culture Notes.

Book Information

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Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Pimsleur devoted his life to language teaching and was one of the world's leading experts in applied linguistics. After obtaining his Ph.D. in French from Columbia University, he taught French Phonetics and Phonemics, and supervised the language laboratory at UCLA. He went on to become Professor of Romance Languages and Language Education, and Director of The Listening Center at Ohio State University; Professor of Education and Romance Languages at the State University of New York at Albany; and a Fulbright lecturer at the University of Heidelberg. Dr. Pimsleur was a member of the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF), American Educational Research Association (AERA), Modern Language Association (MLA), and a founding member of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). His many books and articles revolutionized theories of language learning and teaching. After years of experience and research, Dr. Pimsleur developed a new method that is based on two key principles: the Principle of Anticipation and a scientific principle of memory that he called Graduated Interval Recall. This program incorporates both of these principles to provide you with the most simple and effective learning method possible.

The set of CD's gives a good start in the learning of the language. The product came on time and in good condition. I am satisfied with my purchase.

I am Swiss, my wife is US-American. We've been to Switzerland several times. This time my wife really wanted to try to learn something so that she can communicate with my family. The Pimsleur tool is a CD set that teaches you simple phrases such as (in Swiss German of course) "My name is Mrs. Taylor" or "Where is Mr. Taylor" or "Where is the Marktgasse" and then it teaches you a few responses you might get from a Swiss such as "Mr. Taylor is not here". It seems practical since you can simply put it in your car CD-player and learn as you drive. I had the privilege of listening to just about the entire set while commuting with my wife. She would learn it in the morning and repeat it in the evening. I tried to explain which words sound differently from town to town. After listening and learning the entire set, I was baffled how few phrases there were actually in there. There is a lot of repetition so that whoever wants to learn it can repeat etc., while driving a car for instance. The few phrases that this tool offers are so basic that just about every Swiss has more English than you will have in Swiss German. Specially if you go to a hotel, Airport, Trainstation etc. The Swiss are well educated and with you trying to learn these few phrases would only be for entertainment value. Please know that there is no official Swiss German language. There are numerous dialects from town to town. The Pimsleur tool mix matches some of them. As a foreigner you will have no idea that "nid" is "noed" in another town. It did not come with any written text or booklet. Pimsleur does have something printed as I understand it. Thus I can only say that it absolutely did not help my wife to become a communicator. As mentioned above, there is some entertainment value because it made the Swiss who would hear her few words break out in laughter and giggles. Here is my first advice: Forget Swiss German. Use your English. Most Swiss under the age of 45 speak plenty of English. In a hotel, trainstation or other well frequent areas, English is no problem. Many restaurant menus are in English. Here is my second advice: If you are serious about speaking in "their language" buy yourself a German phrase book. This won't be Swiss German, but you will be understood. For about \$8 you will get a small booklet with tons of phrases, I mean 100x more than this tool. Plus you will get a vocabulary anywhere from 2000-5000 per phrase book. I bought a couple and I was surprised how much is in there. That is something I really recommend. I could give you more advice on the topic of Swiss German, but that's for another time. Uf wiederluege.

I bought this set of CDs prior to my temporary move to Zurich from the U.S. hoping just to learn some phrases so that I wouldn't come off as a "typical American" who expects everyone to speak

English. I liked the Pimsleur method a lot, actually, and the things I learned from the CDs I did learn well. The emphasis on hearing and speaking the pronunciation were helpful, as was the repetition. However, Swiss-German is a bit tricky. As other people have noted, there are regional dialects within Switzerland, so how does one choose which is the best to learn? Upon my arrival in Zurich, I started taking a German class, and my instructor advised us to pretty much focus on high German and not worry too much about learning the Swiss dialect - this is hard enough for native German speakers, and exponentially more so for non-native. So, for learning phrases that might be helpful in something like a restaurant setting, these CDs are not bad. But, if one really plans to settle in the German-speaking part of Switzerland, learning high German is perhaps more helpful in the long run, and there is certainly more learning material out there. It is a very international place, especially in Zurich and Geneva, so getting by with English and a little bit of German is possible.

My boyfriend is Swiss, born in the capital Bern. I've been wanting to learn his language to make visiting family more fun so I bought Pimsleur's Swiss German. After listening and practicing, my boyfriend informed me that a lot of the terms and phrases are only used in Zurich, and others are out of date. If you study with this, people will most likely understand you... but when they start giggling, it's because you're talking like their grandmother/father might. I understand it's hard to make a course on Swiss German because there are around 13 different dialects all over the country, each having its own expressions and twists on words. But I would love it if someone could make one using the current Bern dialect. Overall, this is a good product to learn, even if what you're learning is out of date.

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