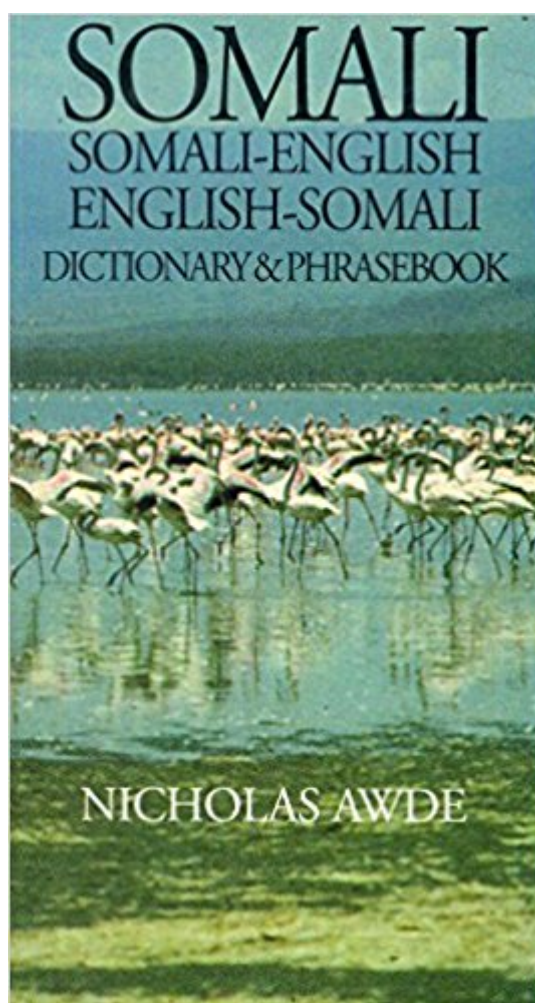




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Somali-English/English-Somali Dictionary & Phrasebook (Hippocrene Dictionary & Phrasebook)



Synopsis

This book is very helpful for travelers to Somalia. Included in the book are vocabulary sections, a phrasebook, pronunciation, and a brief outline of the language's grammar rules and information on local culture.

Book Information

Series: Hippocrene Dictionary & Phrasebook

Paperback: 180 pages

Publisher: Hippocrene Books (May 1, 1999)

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 24 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Text: English

Nicholas Awde is an author and linguist specializing in the Caucasus, the Middle East, Central Asia and Africa. He has authored more than 25 titles.

This is a great book, nicely divided into sections like Introductions, Shopping, and Food and Drink that make it seem like it would be a good book for tourism or a pocket guide when communicating with Somali speakers. However in order to use it, an English speaker would have to first spend considerable time developing a basic understanding for the letters and sounds of the Somali alphabet. There are a few pages dedicated to teaching this pronunciation in the beginning, as well as sections that go over the word order of sentences and questions and other grammar points. It was a little more work than I had anticipated. Occasionally I have the opportunity to have a Somali speaker help me, but things are slow going when I am on my own.

Well, let's see, where should I begin? My first statement (above) is my first attempt at writing Soomaali. It means, "I love it." and indeed I do. I currently do not own any Soomaali-ingriisi grammar material save for what is in this Soomaal-English/English-Soomaali dictionary. However, I do have a sound understanding of the Arabic grammar and find that the two languages are a little close. So based on that assumption I know the above verb (jacayl) needs a pronoun (wuu). Over all I think this dictionary is easy to understand in helping one learn the Soomaali language. Look at me! I've only had the book for less than an hour and am extremely happy with it and its' condition.

This is a great starting point for us working with a Somalian refugee family. I really liked the explanation of how to pronounce words as well as the grammar associated with Somalian. Very useful.

I needed this for a student with no English and it was somewhat helpful although I needed more everyday phrases like "Are you o.k.?" "What would you like for lunch?", "There is no school tomorrow." etc.. This book is more for aid workers. It did help, there is nothing online in Somali that worked.

Bought this as a gift for a student who just arrived from Somalia. She loved it and carries it with her wherever she goes. I wish I'd had a nice little book like this when I was in Japan years ago.

It was a good dictionary but the text is a hard to see because the text is really small. However, it could fit in my back pocket to carry easily.

I work with children from all over the world, and I've encountered many speakers of Somali. They love that I'm attempting to speak their language, and I've been told this is the very same book that some parents are using to improve their English. It's extremely useful, but the pronunciation guide is a little cryptic, and it lacks the international phonetic spelling. That would be a 5-star improvement, but I'm giving it 4 stars because it's a great introduction to the Somali language, and I'm learning. Thanks for reading.

I got this thinking I could use it to translate Somali writing. It really does not work for that. Maybe if one were traveling to Somalia (not very appealing prospect at this time) you could use it to point to

words. You could not use it to translate a passage written in Somali.

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