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Behind The Wheel - Spanish 3



Synopsis

Behind the Wheel Spanish 3 incorporates vocabulary, grammar, and sentence building from earlier levels as it refines and perfects your understanding of the Spanish language, focusing on listening comprehension and conversational interaction to take you to the next level of fluency.

Book Information

Series: Behind the Wheel

Audio CD

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Customer Reviews

• The audio-only lessons build upon one another, using a native speaker to help you learn useful words and actually construct sentences from the get-go. • Minneapolis Star-Tribune • Unlike other audio language programs, this series encourages students to create their own sentences, making it more fun and conversational than other more expensive programs. • The Cleveland Plain Dealer • Focuses on real-world conversation...Great value. • Men's Health magazine • These programs help listeners re-familiarize themselves with foods and cultures they may already know, or introduce new ones with its quick learning techniques. • The Nibble.com

MARK FROBOSE is the founder of the Behind the Wheel series. A foreign language instructor for more than thirty years, he has built a career on "taking the foreign out of language." He is a nationally recognized foreign language speaker, teacher, and author.

My General Impressions: I give this course a strong four-and-a-half stars and an enthusiastic two-thumbs-up. To speak the Spanish language properly - and truly fluently - the non-native speaker

must understand and be able to employ that language's complex verb constructions; especially the moods and meanings that the Castilian subjunctive tense so precisely and poetically expresses. The Macmillan's audio course entitled "Behind the Wheel Spanish - Level 3" was created with language fluency in mind. I really liked the way the native speakers model the practice phrases and sentences. The phrases or sentences are said at moderate speed the first time, then at a considerably faster pace the second time. This enables the learner to accurately emulate not only the pronunciation but also the real-time pace at which the language is spoken. If fluency is the goal, Macmillan's Behind the Wheel Spanish 3 audio method will measurably improve the serious student's understanding of and comfort in using the subjunctive and other moods and tenses as they manifest themselves in the Spanish language. For lots of intensive practice with advanced verb tenses, this course is worth a listen.

My Detailed and Specific Comments: Starting with the subjunctive tense, the eight CDs include practice with the present and pluperfect tenses, the conditional tense and side-by-side comparisons of the preterit and imperfect past tenses in both their indicative and subjunctive forms. Reflexive forms of verbs are reviewed. There are also periodic reminders about choosing the proper verb 'person' when the subject pronoun is not specified. Loads of vocabulary words as well as dozens of common phrases, figures of speech, and expressions are sprinkled throughout the lessons. This course is not Spanish 101. The listener is expected to be at a high intermediate or advanced level. Mastery of infinitives and verb conjugations in the indicative tenses is necessary to be able to understand the orthographic changes required by the subjunctive or pluperfect ones. This course was designed for those who are well-grounded in verb conjugation basics and wish to take their knowledge - and fluency - to a higher level. I think that a brief - very brief, maybe eight or ten-page - written explanation of each of the subjunctive and other tenses and their proper uses would be helpful. Sometimes it is helpful to read an explanation at one's own pace, as many times as necessary, and then take a few minutes to reflect on it, to let it sink in, instead of having to think fast in order to keep up with the narrative or to rerun the tract a dozen times, an inconvenience if listening while driving. I also wish that the print of the twenty-four page transcript booklet would have been considerably larger. I would have gladly paid an extra buck for a booklet with forty-four, instead of only twenty-four, pages.

I have all through of these courses. I thought the first two were outstanding. This one was still good, but the 8 CDs seemed to repeat themselves a lot and therefore didn't cover as much content as it could have.

The first two disks spend an inordinante amount time on the subjunctive tense without explaining until midway through why we are spending the time on it. We don't use the subjunctive in English so it had little value to me until it started to explain its use in Spanish. I feel that I would be better served to have this lesson later in the lesson process since it appears to be a nuance in speaking rather than practical communication.

I bought this for my daughter who is "fluent" in the sense that she can converse with native Spanish speakers at their normal rate and understand and be understood perfectly. She wanted to understand and use the subjunctive better, and this series of CD's is great for getting the grammar. I've been using it for that purpose as well. I am "conversational" in Spanish, can work in Global Health without an interpreter, but need work on the subjunctive and on other grammar fine points. I keep these in my car and listen when I drive. Explanations are in English, followed by phrases, etc in Spanish by a native speaker which you repeat.

I know basic Spanish and I used this to refresh and practice (if you do not practice, you forget). I found this course very well done indeed. Highly recommended, from novice and to practice.

Struggling a bit as I am still a level 2 student, but this series is very good while driving. I did Spanish 2 from the same company before. well organized and minimally intimidating.

I purchased Behind the Wheel Spanish 2 and Spanish 3. I am currently working with Spanish 2 and I am very pleased. I grew up in El Paso, Texas and began learning Spanish before I started school, and then took classes through grade school, high school, and two years of college. However, after spending the past 25 years not using it much, my career has now taken a turn South, I'm traveling routinely to Latin American countries for my job, and I'm needing to call upon and improve my Spanish language skills. I've been taking a weekly class over the past year, and already completed the set of cds provided with the book used in my class. These Behind the Wheel cds are a great addition to my studies and have helped me increase my vocabulary and improve verb conjugations. They give me the verbal practice during my transit to work and home, that I need in order to build up my confidence speaking the language. The pace of the cds is good, the speakers are sufficiently clear, and the lessons are interesting. I think Spanish 3 will be more challengin for me, but Spanish 2 is proving to be a good review and is helping me to learn, as well as remember some Spanish I once knew. I highly recommend.

More in depth and better organized for listening like in a car than Living Language.

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