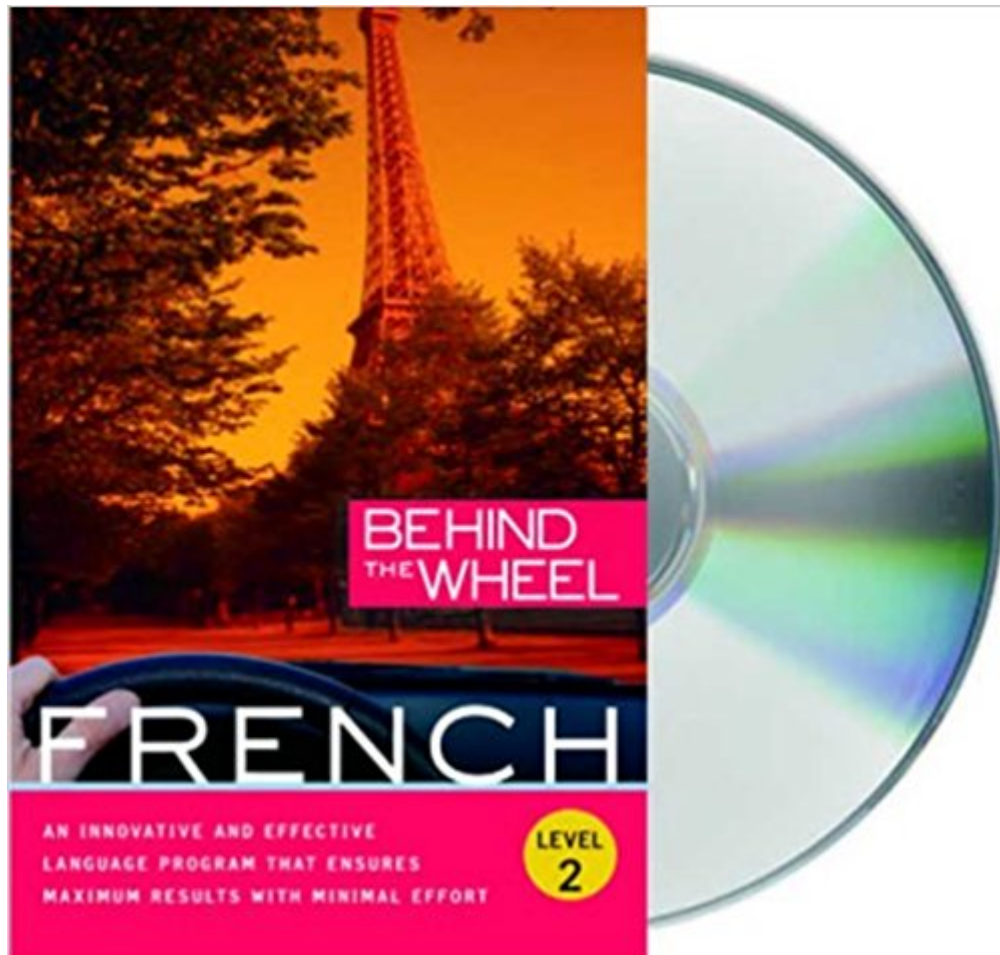




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Behind The Wheel - French 2



Synopsis

Vivez bien, aimez beaucoup, riez souvent. (Live well, love much, laugh often.) As a French language learner, you know that there is something magical about being able to express yourself in this beautiful language. Now Behind the Wheel French 2 invites you to practice your foundational French with lessons and stories based around real life scenarios, like eating out, shopping, and getting around town. This course first reviews basic concepts from French Level 1, then expands on these areas, focusing on medium-length sentence combinations, versatile vocabulary, and extensive sentence building instruction to improve conversation skills and listening comprehension. French Level 2 features both English and native French speaking instructors. This program includes a companion book and audio transcript to enhance the learning experience.

Book Information

Series: Behind the Wheel

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

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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

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.

You know that American expression "excuse my French". Well, in my case, that is literal. Been studying for about 6 years, so I can spit out stuff like "Mon aÃfÂ©roglisseur est plein d'anguilles" with the proper enunciation and pronunciation. You ain't gonna learn French from these discs. You are, however, going to reinforce your French with these discs. Wanna learn French? Take classes. These discs (and we also have part 1) are way too freakin' advanced for a beginner. Don't waste your money on Rosetta Stone (we tried Tell Me More, which has apparently been bought out by Rosetta Stone) or any of that stuff, you gotta have a tutor or take some sort of classes where you interact with others. Learning a language is cool, way cool. We've been to France twice and haven't been arrested yet for our abuse of the language.

The pace of Level 2 is faster than Level 1. The difference is that when the native speaker says it the first time she can be clearly understood and enunciates the words clearly, and the 2nd time, she is speaking in a more normal conversational speed with more normal conversational diction which is more difficult to understand. An example I thought of in English would be the difference in reading "Get out of here." vs. saying "Git outta here." It is much more likely what you would actually hear if you were in France. The pauses in between where we are supposed to repeat what was said are shorter also. It forces you to think faster so you reply faster as in normal conversation. There are short story exercises in the book, complete with translations to increase your comprehension, an extensive reference section, and the complete dialog of the CD's are in the back of the book which is great for when you are having difficulty understanding some of the dialog. Level 2 is not for the beginner (unless you have mastered Level 1), but it is great for the intermediate student and I highly recommend it as an easy way to increase your proficiency and to tune your ear to the language. If you listen to the discs enough, you will get to the point where you understand what is being said, without the needs to translate the words in your head.

Loved the Behind the Wheel 1 so much that I ordered the 2. I'm just finishing the first cd, but so far it's just what I was hoping for after French 1. The native French speaker first says the sentence at a reasonable speed (but faster than in French 1), then at a normal conversational speed. I can really hear how "little" sounds are slighted or even almost omitted just as they are in English. It's better for ear training too as that is close to what would be heard when someone is speaking to you. With a

decent vocabulary and grammatical base, it's seldom necessary to look at the book's transcription of the French. I have to admit tho that Behind the Wheel is only 1 program I'm using to learn French, but it's great for practicing speaking when driving (duh!), or on a treadmill, etc. Of course it wouldn't be an efficient way to learn to read and write, but there's lots of other programs for that. I gave it 4 stars because I love it so far, but can't vouch for the whole program.

According to the product description, Behind the Wheel contains "lessons and stories based around real life scenarios." Given this description, I expected to hear stories or typical cafe scenes with dialogue. Unfortunately, the audio portion consists solely of individual, discrete sentences that you are asked to repeat back. Having studied French for several years and looking to brush up on skills that have too long gone unused, this just wasn't what I was looking for. I also had trouble repeating some of the sentences back because they were too long/convoluted to hold in my head while driving.

While I'm still working on BTW' French 1 I have to say it's pretty easy to get a start on speaking French using these CD's. I literally only listen to them while driving to and from work, a twenty minute commute. After about two months I can speak enough French to actually get a co-worker who is French speaking to arch her eyebrows in surprise! Will definitely need a full year or so to be able to use French in conversation, but that's pretty impressive for the hour to hour and a half I listen to these CD's per week. By the way I'm 62 years old so I guess age isn't as big a deal for learning a new language as the "experts" would have us believe!

I ordered this set for the long drive from LA to Portland after wearing my French 1 CDs out. The lessons are enough like the level 1 lessons to keep the learning curve down but have some nice improvements. I especially love that each word and phrase from a particular section is repeated before the section ends and you move on. This gives learners an opportunity to have another shot at words/phrases they maybe didn't catch or say correctly when they first went through them. I miss the french speaker from the first set but I'm sure I'll get over that!

I bought this less than 2 months ago, and I have used it 5 days a week walking to and from work, about 40 minutes each day. I am totally amazed at how much I have learnt. I had 3 semesters of French in college years ago and have not used it much since. When I first listened to the CD, I could only understand about 25% of it. After listening to each CD for about a week, I find I can translate

and repeat the dialogues without too much difficulty. Each CD is divided into various segments. Each segment usually repeats a sentence or usage pattern. Before you know it, you understand the concept without cracking a book. These CDs are much more useful to me than the beginner's course I enrolled in at Alliance Francaise at nearly \$500. I highly recommend this series. If there is a Behind the Wheel French 3, I would definitely buy it.

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