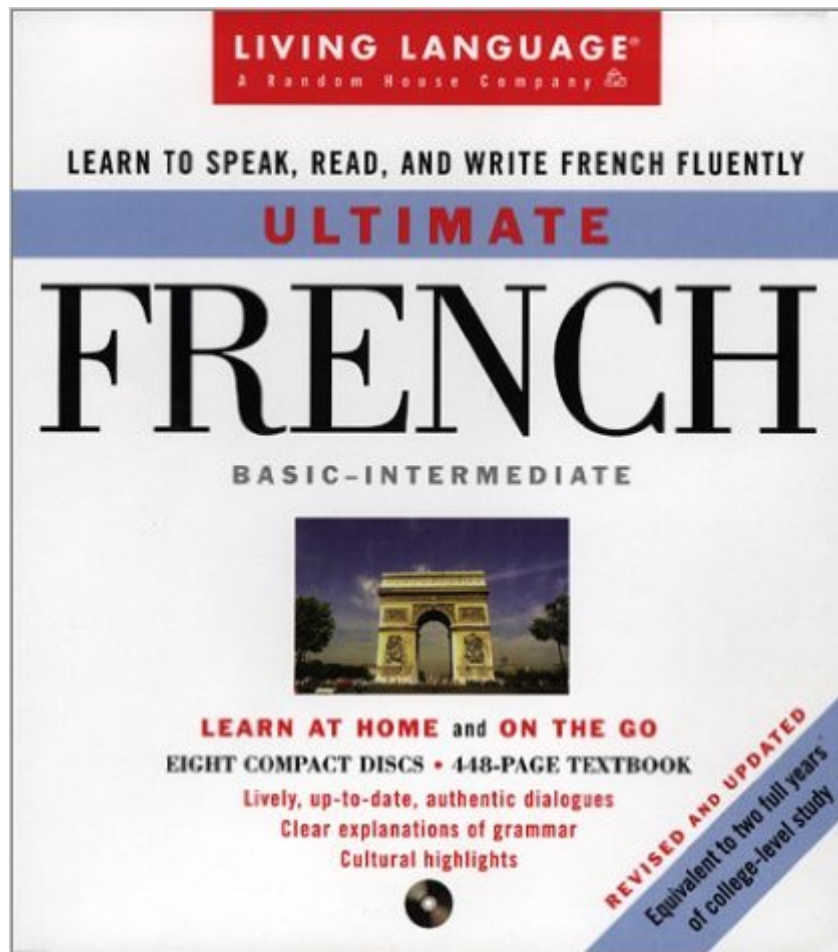


The book was found

# Ultimate French: Basic-Intermediate On CD (LL(R) Ultimate Basic-Intermed)



## Synopsis

Learn French at home or on the go with the most complete, up-to-date program available!

Developed by the experts at Living Language, this deluxe course has everything you need to speak, understand, read, and write French. Ultimate French combines conversation with grammar and culture in an easy-to-follow, enjoyable, and effective format. **COMPREHENSIVE LESSON MANUAL** with **REFERENCE SECTIONS** 40 lessons: lively, authentic dialogues vocabulary, grammar, and usage cultural highlights revised and updated with additional exercises, the latest in computers, the Internet, euros, and more  
Reference sections: complete grammar summary with verb conjugations business and social letter writing French-English English-French glossary **EIGHT COMPACT DISCS** First learn at home: immerse yourself in French -- listen and repeat with the all-French recordings follow along with the manual, which includes English translations learn conversation, grammar, and culture Then practice on the go: review and expand upon what you've learned an English-speaking instructor guides you through each lesson no reading required with these French English recordings learn in the car, at the gym, anywhere **INCLUDES:** Eight Compact discs 448-page textbook

## Book Information

Series: LL(R) Ultimate Basic-Intermed

Audio CD

Publisher: Living Language (October 3, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0609607340

ISBN-13: 978-0609607343

Product Dimensions: 9.6 x 2.3 x 10.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars See all reviews (17 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #369,846 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > Books on CD >

Languages > Language Instruction > French #347 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Foreign

Languages > French #655 in Books > Books on CD > General

## Customer Reviews

Okay, so there doesn't seem to be a "perfect" course out there, but there's a good reason for that. You simply cannot become "fluent" in a foreign language without regular interaction in that language with another person. That said, this course has many positives one should consider. It's lessons are

designed nicely to teach some vocabulary, verb conjugation, grammar, common phrases, etc. The audio tapes & CD's are very helpful with pronunciation & getting your brain used to hearing the language. I must point out, however that it seems a bit advanced for the "beginner", so beginners may get frustrated & quit very quickly. My recommendation!: This program nicely complements the Pimsleur program. Pimsleur is unbelievably user friendly and gives you an incredible comfort level with the language very quickly. There is no frustration for the beginner. Living Language helps to explain grammatical structures & verb usage in a way that Pimsleur doesn't. First do Pimsleur (as many levels as you can afford!), then round out your learning with Living Language. Finally, go find a native speaker & practice, practice, practice!

I like this book very much. It contains a complete French course for beginner. Native speaker-spoken dialogues, pronunciation guide, vocabulary, grammar usages, and exercises + key. You can rely on this book for studying French. Unfortunately there is not enough exercise. There's only 5 questions each section. That's why I put 4 stars for it. Otherwise, I would have put 5. To the author: if you want to publish a new edition of this book in the future, add some more exercise, 15-20 questions each section will do.

I had a sudden desire to brush up on my French after taking three years in high school over a decade ago, so I picked up this book help me review. I found this book to be effective at teaching basic concepts while keeping my interest. The format is easy to read and organized well, the dialogues are never boring. I have other introductory French books which are less organized, difficult to read or follow, and have boring unrealistic dialogue. I tend to begin those only to stop part way through. However, Ultimate French is different. It helped motivate me to completion. I plan on starting the next book in the series, the Advanced Ultimate French book. BTW, I agree with the reader from Indonesia about the number of questions in each exercise. I feel I could get a better grasp of the concepts if there were more of them.

I've used different language sets to learn, or start to learn, a few languages and now have a clear idea of what works & what doesn't. Most sets are designed for the non-serious student who wants something "easy" or flashy. The problem with these is that you don't end up learning the language. Ultimate French is very high quality and even fun, but its method is not for the serious student. The drills are very weak. A series with audio tapes/CDs that works is the Foreign Service Institute lessons. These are also marketed by Barron's and the National Audio-Visual Center. I haven't tried

Pimsleur, though.

"Ultimate French" is not an easy course book and I can understand some people's reservations. However, I have found it to be the most comprehensive and enjoyable book for adults who want to embark on a serious pathway to French language success. I began studying with the "Living Language" series (which I also recommend for drill practice) but eventually I wanted something that contained more than phrases. After exploring numerous options, "Ultimate French" was the only one which appealed to me and after purchasing the coursebook and audio cd's, I am more than pleased with my purchase. I echo other reviewer's dissatisfaction with the exercises after each chapter though. In fact, I emailed the publisher and suggested they provide a supplementary book just for exercises. Despite this shortfall, I recommend "Ultimate French" as a thorough introduction to the French language. I am looking forward to starting the Advanced course.

This book and CD set provides an elementary foundation in French. The complaints others have made about the brevity of the exercises and dialogues are accurate; however, before people dismiss the Living Language series they should recall its purpose. If you want to get a basic understanding of a language without mortgaging your house, Living Language is for you. The Pimsleur programs that everyone speaks so highly of come in two versions--one with no written material for roughly the same price and another with a \$300 price tag. Living Language set can easily be supplemented with de Sales' French Verb Drills and The Rosetta Stone Language CDs for additional exercises and hours of additional audio material.

How do you fit "two years of college French" into such a small book? Only touch upon topics briefly. The CDs are even worse. Basically select parts of each lesson are read once on the CD with pauses for you to repeat. Each CD lesson corresponds to a lesson in the book and is less than ten minutes long. Since even a dedicated student would have trouble doing more than one lesson per day, you're looking at 10 minutes of audio per day max. That just doesn't cut it for someone who wants to really learn a language. The book would make a decent supplement to a good audio course and the audio portion of this course would make a less than ideal companion to some good books. Combined you get a course that is severely lacking. For a great audio course I recommend the Pimsleur series.

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