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Travel Talk: Polish (Travel Talk) (Polish Edition)



Synopsis

TravelTalk presents a simplified language survival system for travelers. Includes a 60 minute audio CD in both English & target language and a fold out audio guide transcript of the 300 essential words and phrases most frequently needed while traveling, developed by Penton's foreign language specialists. Also included is Lonely Planet's comprehensive phrasebook & 2-way dictionary with thousands of additional words and phrases; this combination will help ensure that travelers will arrive and survive ...and enjoy communicating with native speakers.

Book Information

Series: Travel Talk

Audio CD

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Language: Polish

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Customer Reviews

One has few options for learning the rudiments of Polish for the purpose of traveling there (which I did for 2.5 weeks; just got home). This kit includes the Lonely Planet phrasebook (2001 edition) and a CD with 18 tracks of "listen & repeat" audio. The phrasebook is fine, but I actually found the Berlitz phrasebook (which I purchased separately #9812463518) to be better organized and more consistent in pronunciation. The real problem with this kit is the audio CD. Here are the problems: (1) there are no real phrases, just individual words; that's fine, but you need to have a few phrases to get at least some grasp of the grammar, in case you need to (and you will!) modify a phrase for a particular circumstance. (2) the booklet that shows the content of each track does not always match what is actually spoken on the CD. Sometimes, what is spoken is more or less than the printed text in the booklet, but on a few words, it was completely different. Needless to say, that's a problem. (3) the tracks are layed out thematically, which is perfectly logical, but the thematic grouping could be

much better. (4) If you're purchasing a language kit for travel, which this is, your core words/phrases should be for greetings, accommodations, transport, eating out, & shopping. While one can debate which words are most likely to be used, and therefore most needed to learn, on a CD that is trying to compress this information into approx. 60 minutes, I find little need to know "husband", "wife", "cruise ship", etc. A related problem was that several words appeared multiple times on different tracks! Space is already limited, how do certain words find their way onto 2 or 3 tracks? That's simply poor execution on the part of Penton Overseas. Shortly after I started on the CD, I bought the Berlitz phrase book, and then spent a lot of time over several weeks making my own flash cards with real, comprehensive phrases for a array of situations and questions. Tedious to do, but much better for ensuring you're able to speak coherently and spontaneously. When the audio CD doesn't even have a phrase for "What time is the next train to Krakow?" you know you have a problem. Granted, the CD had "what", "time", and "train", but we should all seek to speak as a local would, perhaps not with as diverse a vocabulary, but at least using basic grammar correctly to form real sentences. Don't apply this review to all Penton Overseas products. Their "Learn in Your Car" series is fantastic (I've used the French and Spanish), exactly what you need, with tons of relevant words and a steady progression into meaningful, complex statements. Travel Talk was a real disappointment, and I hope they can make some improvements here.

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