

A Smattering of Our Reviews

Some of our most popular courses ...

Spanish

I listen to the lessons in the car on the way to work. I spend an hour and a half in the car each day so the audio lessons work very well for me. I also like the fact that you hear the language so you can speak it like a native speaker. The repetition seems to work well for me. On the negative side the lessons are expensive. The MP3 version helps. Julie, Louisville, KY

I use these CDs in my car to and from work; can get in whole lesson each day. No fuss in having to sit in front of computer. Concentrates totally on conversation which is a big plus! JJ, Kansas City, MO

I moved to South Florida where a lot of people speak Spanish and felt left out of conversation many times. After a couple of months of simply listening in the car during my commute to work, I now understand a lot of spoken Spanish. For those who spend a lot of time driving, listening in the car is a fantastic way to learn a foreign language. I have several new friends as a result of my efforts. Jeff, Florida

This program works. I have learned more useful Spanish in one month than a friend who took a three month course. While you will want to look up and learn some more nouns to go with the lessons, you can accomplish basic communication on a variety of topics very quickly with this program. I purchased the program to be able to communicate with Latino workers on our job site. They are impressed! Julie, Clarksville, VA

Quick and relevant. The best language software I've used if the goal is to thrust oneself immediately into conversation when visiting a foreign country or living among non-English speaking neighbors. The lessons are all a repeat (so you can hear what good pronunciation sounds like) and back and forth (to put one into a dialogue) in the foreign language, and the content is relevant to what one will need for everyday. Settebrini, New York, NY

French

Having retired and feeling the need to keep my brain active I decided to learn French. As someone with a background in teaching designing training programs I am most impressed with the Pimsleur program. Easy to use and very clear, my learning has been very quick and enjoyable. Every day I listen to at least one lesson. DS, Herndon, VA

Think Pimsleur is by far the best program for learning a second language. We live on a French island several months each year and Pimsleur has really helped me polish my high school/college French. Nance, Asheville, NC

I've used Pimsleur for other languages as well. Well-structured lessons lead quickly to mastery and comfort with the language. The convenience of incremental downloads is really nice. P.S. "Only 1/2 hour per day" actually means working pretty hard. What great things have you achieved lately WITHOUT hard work? Right then. Go for it. MW, Austin, TX

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I was skeptical about being able to learn another language but I love this product. I download lessons to my ipod and I am able to do the lesson during my commute to work. I am able to learn quickly and retain what I've learned so far. I think Pimsleur's method is very effective because they make you repeat and sometimes go back a few lessons for you to remember. I'd recommend Pimsleur to anyone.

Hana, Los Angeles, CA

I believe the best thing I can say about your product is that I spent 6 mos. in France after the wall was built around Berlin. I wanted to learn the language, made friends with locals in small village. I figured out fairly quickly that there are very helpful verbs, and regular verbs all have the same endings. Within three months Italians thought I was French.

Voyager, Greenville, TX

Italian

I am using the Italian lessons to prepare me to lead a study abroad with my university in Florence next year. I am buying the units incrementally. I leave the cds in my car and am amazed at even with just driving around town how much I am learning. I have tried and looked at other programs and Pimsleur is by far the best for my situation and learning style.

L. Burlington, NC

I have taken other sources, even spent 4 weeks in a school in Italy but they all teach grammar and rely on memory. This course is fun and I do it in 30 minute bites which is enough for the brain to handle. In the car is great. Learning is more natural and they don't get into all the rules about conjugating verbs and such which turns on the analytical part of my brain which gets in the way of remembering.

MO, Denver, CO

I use Pimsleur in the morning before breakfast most days, and have found it to be the easiest way I've used to learn a language. I've mastered English quite well, of course, and read 1st century Greek fluently, as well as some Hebrew and Latin. I've also been learning Spanish using another online course. I've been speaking German for over 40 years. Nothing has matched the Pimsleur method.

JJ, Jenison, MI

Pimsleur is the first time that I have used a language-learning system for a language about which I had no prior knowledge. I was very curious to see how well Pimsleur could do. It is as effective as it could be at the task that it is supposed to do: Take a person from a point where a language is just noise to an ability to communicate at a basic level -- quickly. I bought this for an upcoming trip. I therefore had a deadline and did not have the luxury of deep study. I needed results, and I needed them now. It works: I am especially impressed at the pacing. Whenever I tried to go faster than recommended, my progress slowed. Whenever I took time off, my progress slowed. Pimsleur has done its homework about how to teach. What I say to those who ask me is this: If you have to have a language and you must have it in 90 days, this is head and shoulders above the others. This is not the course to take to help learn the structure or grammar of a language -- It won't raise your letter grade, or help you on the GREs. I won't boost your vocabulary. It will teach you to HEAR, UNDERSTAND, AND ANSWER BACK (with a decent accent.)

ME, Palestine, TX

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Complimented by a native speaker. I've traveled a lot to Italy and could handle basic phrases. What eluded me was remembering correct tenses -- which word for "us", "them" etc... Pimsleur II was absolutely perfect because for the first time I seamlessly could remember and use the right word at the right time and I learned some past tense too! The proof was when I carried on a conversation with a native speaker and got compliments. Rosa, New York, NY

German

With a big trip to Germany coming up I wanted to learn enough to really immerse into the culture. Having tried two competing products and not making much progress a friend at work recommend Pimsleur. I started with a couple of audio lessons and took to it immediately. I have struggled all my life to learn a new language but your approach really opened a whole new world to me. CB, Allen, TX

I love this product - I use it on my iphone - my computer and my ipad - can practice anywhere! The way it gets you immersed in conversation is great. Teresa, Seattle, WA

Some of the hardest languages in the world ... made easy with Pimsleur!

Foreign Service Institute Category V Languages (Languages which are exceptionally difficult for native English speakers – taking an estimated 88 weeks, or 2,200 hours to reach a level 3 or mid-intermediate level of proficiency):

Arabic	Japanese
Chinese	Korean

Eastern Arabic

This product works, plain and simple. With a desire to learn Arabic, I purchased Level 1 a few months ago. I took each lesson several times and really worked on perfecting my accent and memorizing the words (so that it would become second nature). The Arabic speakers break down the words and pronunciations for you at a digestible pace, and each lesson you find yourself building upon your new-found skills. NS, Washington DC

The Pimsleur Program is incredibly effective in teaching all the necessities of mastering a language from the repetition, to the intonations and proper pronunciations, to the important words needed for basic conversation; it is exceptional. I have highly recommended it to many people and also will continue to do so with confidence and sincerity.

Anonymous, Hammamet, Tunisia

An excellent product and perfect for adding to your language building repertoire, irrespective of whatever language you might be learning. Many language packages and courses focus mostly on reading, listening and understand but oftentimes neglect the spoken aspect, a gap which the Pimsleur Method goes really far in closing and cultivates a natural ability to articulate what's on your mind. LM, UK

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Mandarin Chinese

I have learned Brazilian Portuguese and Japanese with Pimsleur. Brazilian and Japanese speakers congratulated me on my command of their languages. It's all thanks to Pimsleur. I am an ESL teacher working in Morocco and I recently purchased Phase 1 of Arabic MSA. I have just been congratulated today on my level of spoken Arabic. As a linguist and as a user of the method, Pimsleur is simply the best. GMC, Los Angeles, CA

Pimsleur came highly recommended to us by Mandarin language teachers, so I knew it had to be good. The product support staff was very helpful with the product installation on my computer. After just 3 lessons, I was dreaming in Chinese! It is a fast way to learn!

Anonymous, Houston, TX

I took an entire year of Chinese in college, little of which I remembered. I have learned much more in 90 days with the Pimsleur program. I'm not yet fluent by any means, but I can recognize most of the words, phrases and sentence structures in a standard phrasebook. I also have a convincing accent. KM, Manchester, NH

This is perfect for people who want to be able to speak comfortably in Mandarin. It allows you to pick up language as someone who already speaks your native language fluently - Rosetta Stone's overly simplistic picture-based model has never worked for me. This is a wonderful stepping-stone for those who have had basic Mandarin, or for those who studied a while ago and need a refresher. TGR, Seattle, WA

I have studied Mandarin on my own for several years, but what I really needed was a way to practice listening and speaking that was both engaging and corrective. This course serves both those needs and more. I get the repetition I need to practice speaking, correct pronunciation, improve recognition of the four tones used in Mandarin, and to improve listening comprehension. BB, Bellingham, WA

Japanese

It REALLY WORKS! (No REALLY!!!) We bought this to prepare for our upcoming trip to visit our son who lives in Japan. He dates a Japanese young lady who speaks no English. We were a bit skeptical of the program but bought it anyway. Thirty minutes a day works. If you keep your commitment, the program will do the rest. Excellent review each unit with just enough new material to keep it interesting and keep you moving forward. Phillies Phan, Philadelphia PA

Before going to any new country, I listen to the Pimsleur lessons in my car. When I get off the plane in that country, I am able to start speaking to people in their language. The response of people is always enthusiastic; they immediately become more open and helpful. I have learned many languages through Pimsleur and am a big fan. Now I use it when I drive for entertainment and relaxation. RT, New York, NY

I just wanted to drop a note and say how much I appreciate Pimsleur's method. I worked with Rosetta, Berlitz, and a few on-line sites to learn some basic Japanese. Nothing compared with

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the progress and utility of the information I learned through Pimsleur. I recently visited Japan for the first time and while I certainly wouldn't say I knew the language, I was able to make myself understood, function minimally in shops, use public transportation with help and communicate with the hotel staff. A very satisfying experience. BF, Seattle, WA

Amazingly Effective: "Surprise, in six months we are moving to Japan!" That's what my wife told me one day when she got a temporary assignment in Tokyo from our large international company. I spoke not a word of Japanese, but I wanted to be prepared so I immediately started taking out Japanese language tapes from the local library. I would also buy them from B&N. They would always go back after just one lesson. I despaired until I came across the Pimsleur tapes (yes I am dating myself, cassette tapes). A huge difference, I could actually make progress! I went all the way through lesson 30 of phase 1 before we left for Japan. While I started "Japanese for foreigners" upon arriving in Tokyo I was amazed at how well I could converse on day 1. I gave directions to the local hospital to a Japanese lady in the street without even thinking about it. I can truly say I "tried them all" or darn close to it. Pimsleur remains my favorite. Ted B., New Hampshire

Korean

So much better than taking a class! I've been married to a Korean woman for many years, but I never tried to learn the language because I had failed so miserably at Spanish and French classes in high school and college. But the Pimsleur tapes are so relaxing and fun, and I'm learning much faster than I ever did from those language classes. Via the Pimsleur method Korean actually seems far easier than Spanish. And, because of the focus on pronouncing the words correctly, my wife has been amazed at how clearly I speak Korean. She says it makes me sound so intelligent. And, let me tell you, anything that can get my wife telling me I'm very intelligent is an amazing product! Jimbo, New York

The Method works with languages that are difficult to master ...

FSI Category 4 (Using traditional methods, it takes an estimated 44 weeks, or 1,100 hours to gain a mid-intermediate proficiency):

Albanian	Greek	Pashto	Turkish
Croatian	Hebrew	Polish	Ukrainian
Dari	Hindi	Russian	Urdu
Farsi Persian	Hungarian	Tagalog	Vietnamese
Finnish	Lithuanian	Thai	

Albanian

I really enjoyed the way that the material was presented during these lessons. It actually made my commute to work enjoyable. Thank you for providing this product. SMD, Pottstown, PA

Croatian

I am loving the Pimsleur program! I have tried other language learning software in the past and

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haven't liked it nearly as much. I practice Croatian at home on my computer, in my car, and anywhere on my phone. The convenience is perfect for my lifestyle. The conversational techniques help me to learn the language so much faster than word memorization.

HC, Anchorage, AK

This is the second Pimsleur product I have used. I did french and was perfectly comfortable in France. Now I am trying Croatian and it is great; going even faster than the French. It is a great way to get restaurant fluent, be able to ask for directions and have some confidence in a foreign country. I never thought I could learn languages, but I am. I tried Rosetta Stone first; this is much better.

JL, Fairfax, VA

Dari

I used PIMSLEUR Dari in preparation for deployment as advisor to Afghanistan government - powerful language learning tool... great as stand-alone or as complement to other language study resources.

JTS, Kabul, Afghanistan

I am a big fan of Pimsleur. I work for the U.S. government and I'm scheduled to head out to Afghanistan in a few short months. I get more out of the 30 min Pimsleur lessons that I do from my language training at work.

GM, Washington, DC

Farsi Persian

Pimsleur courses are the best language learning products I have used and I've used quite a few. My favorite way to work with the audio recordings is to listen each time I'm in my car. It's an easy and incredibly effective way to learn. I love that I have been able to supplement my original set of lessons by purchasing 5 extra lessons at a time online. A great way to stay within a budget and continue to learn a language.

GB, Memphis, TN

This is the first non-Latin based language that I'm learning. I was pleasantly surprised that I was able to understand and respond from the first lesson. Even though a few sounds are difficult, I am also picking up a very good accent.

SS, New York, NY

Finnish

I am moving to Finland for work, so I am using Pimsleur as a springboard to learning Finnish. It is fantastic, and I haven't found anything else like it. I can do the speaking and listening exercises during my commute. I do each lesson twice, and the method is such that I've retained everything. I have recommended Pimsleur to many friends and family members. I wish they had more phases available.

CT, Boston, MA

Exposure to Finnish relatives and friends has attracted me to this language. I like its music and cadences; as a native English speaker familiar mainly with Romance languages, I'm fascinated by its utter unfamiliarity. I'm studying Finnish mostly for the pleasure and challenge. Pimsleur is the only method I've encountered that fits my learning process beautifully.

SB, Santa Cruz, CA

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Greek

Pimsleur WORKS. I love learning this way, it's so natural for me (instead of repeating individual words/phrases endlessly, or looking at vague pictures and trying to figure out what they are supposed to be referring to). I come from a Greek family that never taught us Greek, they kept it as the secret language that they used when they didn't want us to know what they were talking about.

EJ, Wisconsin

The villagers on the island of Tinos were very impressed with my Greek! Some of them even thought I was Greek when they met me in Kardiani. This product is fantastic. I'm told I am learning more of the Athenian Greek than the island lingo, but there is nothing wrong with that. Please, please, make a Greek 3. I want to keep learning more. The product really works.

Michael, Orlando, FL

Hindi

The course is a little bit of genius. I have used this and Mandarin Chinese and I have gone from zero to hero in an extremely short time. My only wish is for these guys to make level 2 and 3 for Hindi. Keep it up Simon and Schuster. Really great course.

Andy, Xi'an, China

Lithuanian

The Pimsleur language program for Lithuanian really works and has given me quick, basic speaking ability. It has also given me the ability to develop good pronunciation skills. I have even impressed one of my Lithuanian friends and I am only 50% complete with the Phase 1 program. I am very impressed with the program.

WRN, Spring City, TN

Polish

A Big Help! I needed to prepare for several months working in Poland, so my family gave me Polish One to prepare. I listened to every lesson several times, though by the end I had time for only once through the final lesson. It was a huge help. I was able to negotiate some basic important parts of life, and I got a sense of how to say things, which helped when I read signs or used the dictionary. I am a teacher myself, so I appreciated the choices and combinations of material. And I enjoyed it. I will be going back to Poland next spring and intend to review the program I have and hope to move on to buy the next higher level.

Anonymous, New York, NY

Russian

I have followed Pimsleur I, II and now I am finishing Russian III. Thanks to these courses I can communicate in Russian, which I believe is one of the most difficult languages in the world, and I learnt while driving to work. I only wish they also had Russian IV.

Anonymous, Spain

I have been struggling to learn Russian bit by bit over three years. I finally tried Pimsleur and for the first time I feel like I am making meaningful progress. I am now confident I will learn the language and be able to speak it well enough to travel there. It really works. I do have to sometimes look up words to understand pronunciation and context.

BA, Anchorage, AK

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Languages are a hobby of mine and after trying pretty much everything from textbooks to YouTube videos, I've settled on Pimsleur as my starting point for any new language. For meticulous training in pronunciation there is simply nothing that compares. My friends who are native Russian speakers are amazed at the results I've gotten. DG, Virginia

I recently moved to Moscow for a busy job so can only squeeze in lessons a couple of times each week. The Pimsleur series makes it easy to fill in language instruction on a daily basis, around my schedule. I find the lessons to be easy. Just listen and repeat. Can't get it? Do that one over until I do. It has also helped me progress faster with my Russian tutor and helped my pronunciation. DP, Moscow, Russia

The Best way to Learn a Language! I've tried the others (yes, including the one seen most on the TV). Pimsleur is by FAR the most effective way I have used. My girlfriend, from Russia, is also more impressed with Pimsleur than any other method. It builds on itself step by step. I listen to it during my commute to and from work. Excellent way to use the time.

Gahler6, Charleston, WV

Tagalog

I really liked the product. I had tried other audio language courses before but they only had you repeating words and phrases, Pimsleur has you anticipate answers in a dialogue that reinforced the lesson. I have been able to speak a bit of Tagalog with my mom, and she is delighted! I only wish that I could go further in my learning with Pimsleur. FC, San Diego, CA

I have been working with the product the past month and it has been a delight to learn the language. I'm hoping they release Phase II really soon! Anonymous, San Jose, CA

Finally able to speak Tagalog! As a child, my parents only spoke to me in English but never in Tagalog, thinking that it would somehow put me at a disadvantage to be bi-lingual. I eventually grew to understand it, but would only answer family in English (it was difficult to make the right "sounds"). As an adult, I became more interested in learning my "native" language, and tried books and other programs, but nothing really worked. MT, New York, NY

Thai

Different languages are different. As Thai language uses tones it is hard to learn. Pimsleur language lessons become a very useful tool in trying to learn Thai. These language lessons allow the learner to practice hearing and speaking the correct tones and sounds. This would be the first distance type learning I would recommend for someone trying to learn Thai.

NH, Missoula, MT

If you follow the program exactly how they lay it out, you will pick up the language remarkably fast. At first it seems very redundant - don't stop and don't fast forward. It's being burned into your brain so you'll have it forever. Just be patient. Keep doing it. The course will not make you fluent, per se. But it will give you a very solid framework that will let you communicate effectively. TR, Los Angeles, CA

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Turkish

Best Download Ever! I purchased the lessons to prepare for a vacation experience of a lifetime in Turkey. My wife and I traveled to Istanbul (where many speak English at least a bit) and Cappadocia (where fewer do). I was pleased with the conversational approach to learning the language. It was much better at helping me to express myself than simply memorizing canned phrases as in language training by a competitor's lessons. When I retire, I may choose to do so in Turkey and if I do, I will be well prepared thanks to Pimsleur. MJ, Hartford, CT

The Pimsleur Method can work for you, too!

Brazilian Portuguese

Listened to a lesson daily, very interactive and easy to follow. The repetition and accent made it easy and quick to learn - definitely recommend it! Carioca, Los Angeles CA

Romanian

I would definitely recommend this. My boyfriend is from Romania and so I bought this to try and understand and speak more. It was so helpful and my boyfriend and his family say that my accent is great and that sometimes I even sound like a native Romanian! Afton, New York, NY

Swedish

This worked really well and FAST. The repetition helped and it was very much like having a one-on-one instructor there. I liked how it gave you full speed conversations and then broke it down. This worked wonders for me. Genie, New York

GREAT system! I have used PIMSLEUR to learn French, Italian, Arabic and most recently Swedish. The courses as always are FIRST rate. Sadly (for me, anyway) Swedish is very difficult, harder for me than Arabic (although I do also speak Hebrew). Anyway...I did the first TEN lessons during the month before my departure to Sweden and it is really WONDERFUL to know at least a few words and phrases in a foreign land. DH Hendin, NY

Swahili

Awesome program! After studying Swahili on my own for over 1 1/2 years using books and another language learning system, Pimsleur has finally given me some conversational abilities in Swahili in just the first few lessons! I am thrilled!!! With my mindset, though, I do occasionally refer to a dictionary and/or reference book for helpful clarification. This is in no way a negative, just a helpful suggestion for people like me and for those fearing that a basically totally audio system will be difficult for them. Pimsleur is fantastic! The Pimsleur lessons are awesome, practical, and interesting and retention of information with their system is amazing! Enjoy! New Jersey