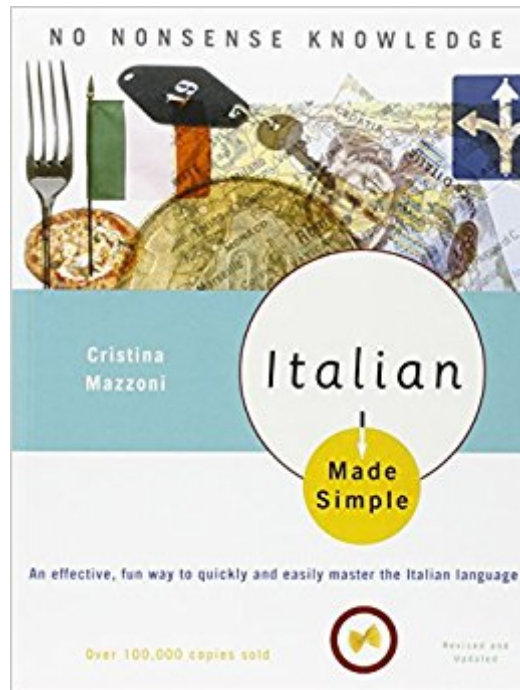




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Italian Made Simple: Revised And Updated



Synopsis

Whether you are planning a romantic Italian getaway, packing a knapsack for your junior year abroad, or just want to engage your Italian business associate in everyday conversation, Italian Made Simple is the perfect book for any self-learner. Void of all the non-essentials and refreshingly easy to understand, Italian Made Simple includes: * basics of grammar * vocabulary building exercises * pronunciation aids * common expressions * word puzzles and language games * contemporary reading selections * Italian culture and history * economic information * Italian-English and English-Italian dictionaries Complete with drills, exercises, and answer keys for ample practice opportunities, Italian Made Simple will soon have you speaking Italian like a native.

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Customer Reviews

Whether you are planning a romantic Italian getaway, packing a knapsack for your junior year abroad, or just want to engage your Italian business associate in everyday conversation, "Italian Made Simple is the perfect book for any self-learner. Void of all the non-essentials and refreshingly easy to understand, "Italian Made Simple includes: * basics of grammar * vocabulary building exercises * pronunciation aids * common expressions * word puzzles and language games * contemporary reading selections * Italian culture and history * economic information * Italian-English and English-Italian dictionaries Complete with drills, exercises, and answer keys for ample practice opportunities, "Italian Made Simple will soon have you speaking Italian like a native.

Cristina Mazzoni is a professor of romance languages at the University of Vermont, where she has been teaching Italian language, literature, and culture since 1993.

I found some errors in it that can confuse beginner students. For example on page 31 under "New Vocabulary", "chair" is translated as "a sedia" (should be "la sedia"). In general, all the Italian vocabulary words in the section "New Vocabulary", are preceded by the definite article but the English equivalent is missing the definite article. For example, "il cestino" is translated "basket" instead of "the basket".

Studying Italian as an adult is challenging, to say the least. I've studied on my own, been to an immersion course in Italy for two weeks, and listened to CDs. Though all of those things help, I think this book has been the greatest benefit, so far. There is a mix of approaches and no rote memorization - other than what a person has to do to learn vocabulary. I do think that having the basics of present tense in essere, avere, and fare is HELPFUL (just make a little cheat sheet on a 3x5 card) but it is not necessary (non bisogna). The answers are in the back of the book and it is good, I think, to work through a section at a time in each chapter to feel I am on the right track. Again, this book is not the typical ... My name is, How are you, etc. Though these phrases are in the book, they are incorporated in a much more natural way. Buona fortuna. (P.S. if you have a smartphone or iPad, I have found it helpful to use a translation app **just to check** a certain word here or there. No cheating!)

This is the BEST basic Italian book I have seen in my 6 years of study. I am thinking of using it to teach others. I love it because it teaches you the way you learned English, in context. By that I mean it does not start with verb conjugation though it does cover it well in the book. Pronouns are used early and made a natural part of things. For adult learners the text is REAL not about the typical young adult subjects. On top of all this the price is reasonable.

The book tends to throw a lot of grammatical detail early on and only much later actual practice writing. The students need more vocabulary and conversational phrase work earlier on. Also, there are no pictures, which means that the student focuses upon translation, not direct acquisition. People remember with pictures and in contextual situations. There are inconsistencies in explanations and several typos. However, the ongoing Lettura saga is fun and the progression

eventually leads to learning the language.

This was the textbook used in my Italian Language class. It was simple, easy to learn from, and very logical. After using this, I purchased Spanish and German of the same series. Wish I would have had them for classroom learning - superior to what the class used.

I have another Italian textbook, from a college class. It's excellent. This one, however, is better. I'm very impressed. The progression of the chapters makes so much sense to me. I'm retaining a lot more than the last class/text.

I really like the way the book is laid out. Lessons, exercises and then answers in the back. It has been very helpful to me during this review (for some of the lessons) and learning for the others.

Excellent Explanations and Exercises.

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