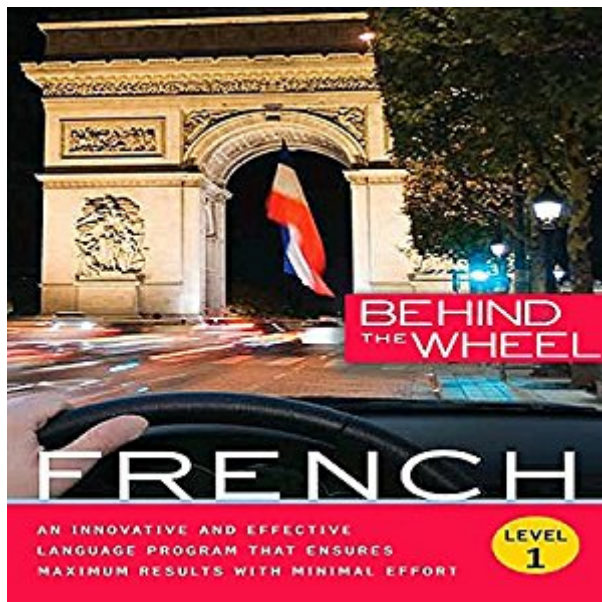


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# Behind The Wheel: French 1



## Synopsis

Behind the Wheel: French Level 1 covers beginner to intermediate level French, providing a flexible, solid and universal foundation in speaking, understanding, and creatively expressing yourself in French. The program features an English speaking instructor to guide you through the lessons and a native French speaker to aid with your pronunciation. Includes a companion book to reinforce and enhance the audio experience.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 8 hours 36 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Macmillan Audio

Audible.com Release Date: October 28, 2008

Language: English

ASIN: B001JK64N2

Best Sellers Rank: #24 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Language Instruction > French

## Customer Reviews

I must admit I have only listened to the first disc (over and over!), because I like to have a firm grasp of what I have learned, before I go on. But I would rate the advantages of this program as this: 1) It is well-constructed and all ties together; 2) Celine, a Frenchwoman, speaks the French words and phrases (so there are no affected French accents, and she does NOT go too fast!); 3) the narrator, Mark Frobose, explains exactly what is happening, and its implications; and 4) the guidebook follows the audio very closely, with audio transcripts (for each disc) in the back of the book--very helpful for visual people like myself. I recommend this product very highly, and intend to buy the soon-coming part 2 after I have thoroughly learned part 1. Would that all teachers, of all subjects, were as adroit as Frobose! Postscript, July 17, 2012: I have indeed finished this program and gone on to, and finished, part 2. Highly recommended (both part 1 and part 2!)

I have been self-studying to learn French for about a year. This turned out to be an excellent addition to the many books and CDs I have used or sampled. It is the best program I have found for use in the car. What is different from most other audio programs is the high level of repetition. In most other programs, you only hear phrases once or twice. Here, you return to them many times. I

find this very helpful, both for locking the phrases into memory and for hearing nuances in the pronunciation by Celine, the native speaker. For learning grammar and vocabulary using a book with accompanying CD, I have used both the Living Language Ultimate French program and the Assimil New French with Ease. Those are both excellent, but more for the written material than the accompanying CDs, which are useful but move quickly and do not have enough repetition. to be optimal. Even after completing those, I find the Behind the Wheel excellent for locking in phrases and and learning better pronunciation. Highly recommended. The repetition-based audio program seems GENERALLY similar to the Pimsleur method, which I have previously used for Russian. An advantage of Behind the Wheel VS Pimsleur is that there is a transcript of everything that is said, something I think the Pimsleur method does not have.

Have only listened to the first two CDs so far but very pleased with this product. The examples are clear and easy to follow and repeated just enough to help them stick without getting annoying. Examples will be repeated again a few chapters later rather than all at once too. The CDs come with a small booklet that you don't need to use constantly but does help to browse from time to time - helps to see the words written down that you have been listening to. I took some French in high school many years ago and that was enough for me to be able to use these CDs effectively. They might go a little too fast / start too far in for someone who has never done any french at all, that's probably the only case I would not recommend these for.

I listen to this tape in the car, and it is easy to follow. I have had some French, so I may have an easier time catching on to what they are saying. Like most people, I am busy, so it's helpful to me to be able to listen while I drive or while I'm at home doing other things. They enunciate clearly, so I didn't have any trouble being able to repeat phrases. This series makes it fun to learn a language, but then I love learning languages. Both the native language speaker and the narrator are easy to follow. The book has an audio transcript, so you can refer to how the words and phrases are written. I like the French Behind the Wheel series better than any other audio version that I have listened to, and I have listened to at least 6 others.

Bottom Line Up Front: Excellent French Language Lessons  
Experience Level: Learned French as a kid but haven't spoken it in 12 years  
Purpose: Preparation for a job in a French speaking country  
Pros: Learn or refresh French while you are driving. Kills time and is productive. There is no useless fluff in the CDs. It goes straight into French lessons. It starts off with the basics and

progresses. Interactive despite driving. Cons: None Example: 1) "English word/phrase" 2) "French word/phrase" 3) you repeat in French 4) "French word/phrase" 5) you repeat in French

I have tried French tutorials in the past and have not had much luck with them. I decided to try this one because I currently have a long commute. So far, I'm very impressed with the format of the lessons and the results. The bulk of the content consists of an English speaker saying words, phrases, and sentences, with a French speaker repeating them (and with pauses in the CD so that the listener may repeat them also). A smaller part consists of the French speaker speaking, then giving the listener time to figure out what was said - my only complaint with the product is that there was not more of this comprehension section. I think that another reviewer stated that some prior knowledge of French is helpful. This may be true because, as I am driving and listening, I sometimes don't fully understand what the speaker is saying until I remember from past experience how the word was spelled - it's then easier to relate to the pronunciation. There is a printed book that is supplied with the CDs which I haven't spent much time with yet that also helps if you want to see the word as well as hear it. With a product title like "Behind the Wheel French, however, I doubt that the user is expected to use the book frequently. It's obvious that repetition is important in learning and I have so far only listened to each CD one or two times, so final results won't be known for a while. At this point, though, I would definitely recommend the product.

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