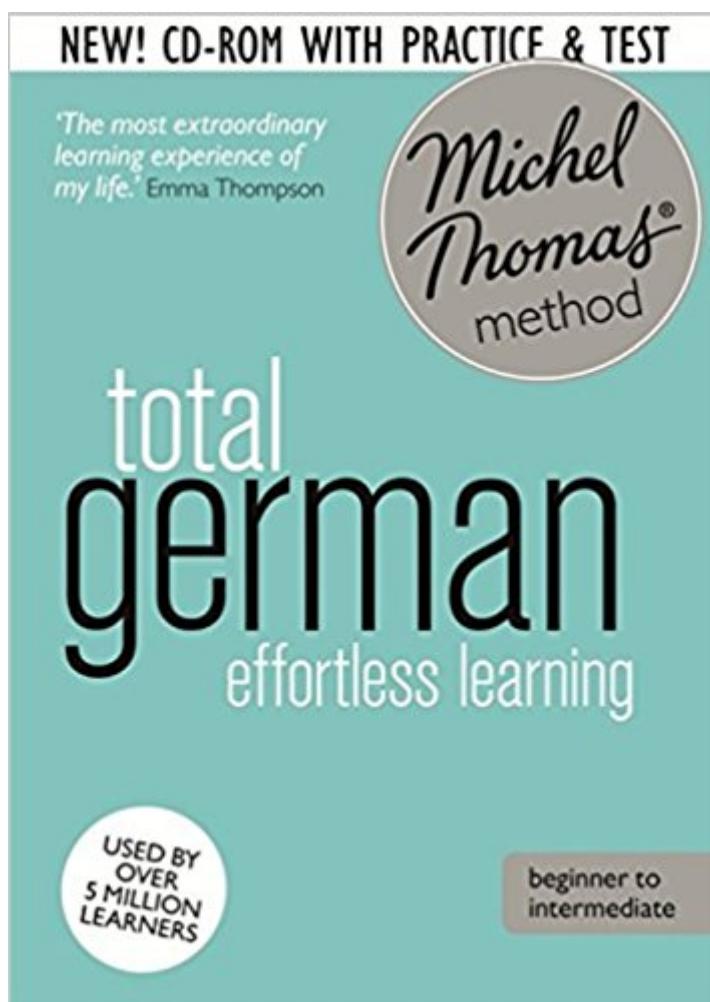


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# Total German Foundation Course: Learn German With The Michel Thomas Method



## **Synopsis**

Looking for a convenient language course that fits your lifestyle and gets you speaking a new language in a matter of hours? The acclaimed audio-led Michel Thomas Method Total German course, endorsed by celebrities, executives and learners worldwide, will deliver the results you want. How does it work? During the course, you will join Michel and two students in a live lesson, learning from both their successes and their mistakes to keep you motivated and involved throughout the course. You, as the learner, become the third student and participate actively in the class. Within the very first hour you will be able to construct simple phrases by listening and thinking out answers for yourself without the pressure of writing or memorizing. You learn through your own language, so there's no stress, and no anxiety. You'll stick with it because you'll love it. Why is the method so successful? The Michel Thomas Method was perfected over 50 years by celebrated psychologist and linguist Michel Thomas. This unique method works with your brain and draws on the principles of instructional psychology. Knowledge is structured and organised so that you assimilate the language easily and don't forget it. The method breaks down the language into building blocks that are introduced sequentially in such a way that you create your response and move on to ever-more-complex sentences. There is no need to stop for homework, additional exercises or vocabulary memorization, so you progress rapidly. What's in the Course? Total German with the Michel Thomas Method includes up to 8 hours of audio on CD and a practice CD-ROM with interactive activities and assessment which should be done after the course and as a means of review. \*Note that the content is the same as the previously entitled Foundation course, but with the addition of a CD-ROM. Learn anywhere Don't be tied to chunky books or your computer, Michel Thomas Method audio courses let you learn whenever you want: at home, in your car, or on the move with your MP3 player. Where do I go next? Perfect German follows on from the Total course with 11 hours of audio and a practice CD-ROM.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

A unique and perfectly brilliant way of learning languages Stephen Fry Works like a dream Daily Telegraph Thomas makes it simple Sunday Times The nearest thing to painless learning The Times The most extraordinary learning experience of my life Emma Thompson Michel Thomas is a precious find indeed The Guardian Five minutes in and you already feel like you're winning Time Out

Michel Thomas (1914-2005) had an amazing life. Born in Poland, he spent his early years in Germany and then in France, where he studied psychology at the Sorbonne in Paris. When war broke out, he fought with the Resistance and suffered imprisonment in labour camps. At the end of the war he joined the US liberation army and later settled in the US where he established his world-famous language school. For more than 50 years he taught languages to the rich and famous and was the world's most sought-after language teacher. After creating several courses of his own, he passed on his method so that other teachers might use it too.

This is Michel Thomas's famous method of teaching languages and it does not disappoint. These CDs will have you speaking beginning German VERY quickly and easily. Also - you learn quite a lot with each CD and if you finish the entire set, you will have quite a bit of German to impress your friends, colleagues or fellow travelers. I wish I had these CDs when I was in junior high school because I surely would have been top of the class!

I've been using these CDs to brush up on some German studies from a while back, and I've gleaned some important knowledge from them. However, the two students who were learning real-time with Michel Thomas on the recordings stumbled so much over the various lessons that they actually impeded my own learning. If those students were representative of language learners who signed on for lessons with Thomas, then I question the efficacy of his method. That being said,

I'd like to try out subsequent German CDs from Thomas's proteges who, if I understand correctly, have used native German speakers to illustrate the concepts brought forth, to see if my evaluation of Thomas's method would change.

This is the third language I have been learning through Michel Thomas Method. The Learn German is good and easy to follow. I recommended it at a start on learning German. More than any other language learning effort, he explains the structure of the language, and the knowing the logic of the language helps the learning a great deal.

Michel is no longer living, but his language learning method is still very much alive. It is unique in that he teaches the structure of the language without requiring paper work or memorization. It just makes sense. Instead of learning vocabulary, you find you are creating long sentences in the new language in the very lesson. It results in a much more flexible grasp of the language than other methods I have tried. I am not one to sit in front of my computer for hours learning a new language. I simply put the CDs in my car and listen and repeat every time every time I go somewhere. What I am able to learn works very well when I travel. I have used his course for other languages as well as German.

Michel Thomas' method is very good and revolutionary. I'm a teacher and it's surprising to me how much it is organized and not-academic approach at the same time. It's seems to be a not-teacher approach at all but later you realize that he is fully grammatical prepared. I can't give 5 stars just for an annoying thing, his terrible pronunciation in English. I can understand him better in German (despite being still a learner) rather than in English!! That's a pity

This just gets better and better..a must-have for learning German, in my opinion.

A very useful and easy tool for learning a language. For me it's easy to remember if someone can explain why is like that and this is what makes this method unique; he can teach you the language and give reasons for why is like that.

I would just like to remind people that this is my opinion of this course. I wrote a similar review for another product and people seemed to take offence although I was attempting to provide a small warning of what the course entailed. I can see quite a few great reviews here for this product and,

honestly, I am scratching my head wondering why...As well as being a native speaker, I also teach German, among other languages, and provide coaching for pronunciation and several dialects. A student of mine purchased this course a while ago and, as I also have a few Michel Thomas courses of my own in other languages where there is a native speaker present, I was recommending this to people without even having listened to its contents. The courses I have are, for the most part, quite good, so I honestly didn't think there would be such a major difference between those courses and this. I have just gone through the discs of this course with my student after correcting her pronunciation that she picked up from the tutor on the recordings and I must say, it's pretty terrible. Admittedly, this method does have a great deal of potential and even includes a lot of good vocabulary but, if you're going to pay this amount of money for a language course, go with something that has at least been recorded by a native speaker or someone who can imitate the sound of German well. The amount of times Michel instructs on pronunciation in his heavy Polish accent and then, in the next breath, completely mispronounces his examples to his students (who are a whole different level of annoying in this course, by the way) is quite staggering. I have also listened to some of the lessons of the Spanish and French courses and the pronunciation on these are just as dreadful. Some people may be able to get past the bad accent and even think I'm taking it a bit too seriously, but I know that, when I am learning a new language, it is my aim and intention to sound as natural as and close to a native-speaker as possible. Fair enough, if you're just learning a little bit for travel or business purposes and don't mind speaking like an 'Ausländer', then, by all means. However, if you're wanting to study seriously, I cannot seriously recommend this course at all. I have given this 3 stars but my eyes started twitching frantically every time Michel started saying things like, "the word 'geht' sounds like 'gate' " (umm, NO, IT DOESN'T!) He even seems to get quite short with the students when they mispronounce words and then he corrects them with an equally horrible rendition of his own. At the beginning of the very first CD, the female student pronounces her first German words, which are very basic but they also sound very German. Michel rudely cuts her off and, quite 'anally', proceeds to give her a few tips. He instructs her to 'hiss her s'es' and 'spit and tut her t's', which make her accent sound much too exaggerated. She now speaks with less of a German accent than he does. If you're going to spend this much money on a language course, try Pimsleur or Assimil, which are much better for German, French, Spanish and Italian.

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