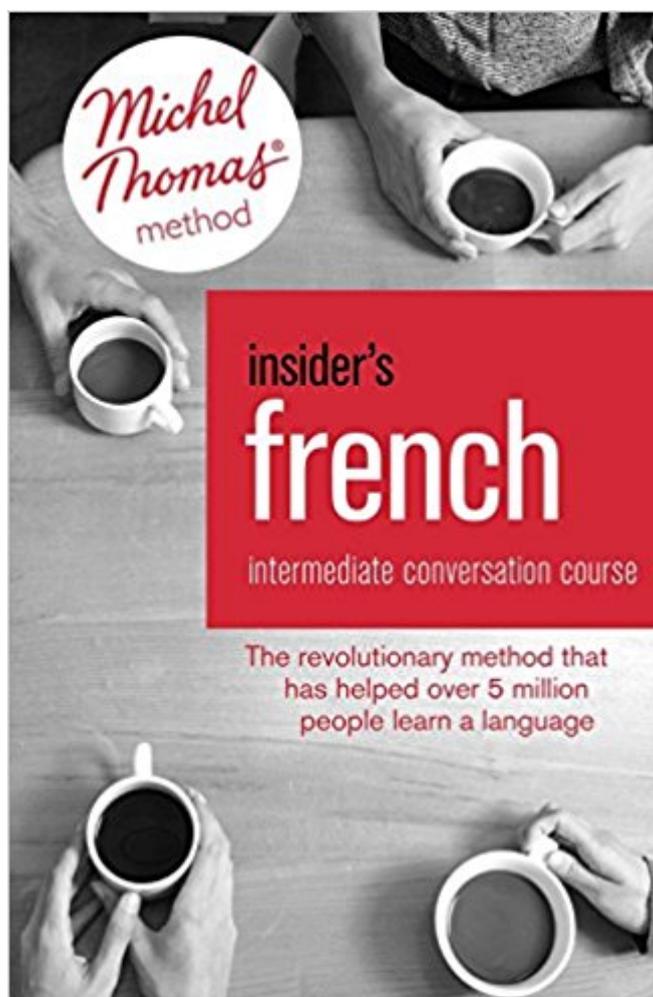


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# Insider's French: Intermediate Conversation Course Learn French With The Michel Thomas Method



## Synopsis

Do you want to be able to express yourself in French with confidence and fluency? The Insider's French course includes a 100+ page book, MP3 audio CD-ROM, and interactive review and practice on CD-ROM; and offers a local perspective on Francophone culture, opinions and language use so that you can speak confidently on today's most important and relevant topics. This intermediate French conversation course, devised for all intermediate-level learners or those following on from Total or Perfect French, will advance your overall fluency, listening comprehension and conversation skills, expand your vocabulary and improve your grammar. Through authentic, lively conversations around engaging topics, and the unique Michel Thomas Method for learning, this course focuses on the colloquial language and conversation strategies used by native French speakers so that you can fit in and communicate more naturally. Michel Thomas, the preeminent language teacher, always said that learners start by mastering basic linguist structures (as in his Total and Perfect courses), which provide the bare walls of the house, but that that it was up to us, the learner, to decorate it in our own personal way. Insider's German reflects Michel Thomas's 'Phase 2' courses that he and his team offered at his New York language school, allowing increased vocabulary, improved speaking, comprehension and reading and writing skills - the tools with which to decorate their houses. Insider's French includes:- Twenty authentic conversations around a comprehensive range of subjects that reflect contemporary French culture- Language plus: conversation strategies, pronunciation and intonation to help learners express themselves naturally- Listening and speaking practice to help learners progress to the next level- Cultural insights into the unspoken rules of the language

Why is the Michel Thomas Method so successful? The Michel Thomas Method draws on the principles of instructional psychology. Knowledge is structured and organised for the student so that you assimilate the language easily and don't forget it. The method deconstructs the language into building blocks that are introduced sequentially in such a way that the learner creates his/her response and moves on to ever-more-complex sentences. Michel said: I will dissect everything into small parts and reassemble it in such a way that one will understand everything step by step. He was also very clear about his ground rules: no memorisation, no drills, no homework; relax and leave off the anxiety normally associated with language learning.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Akshay Bakaya has lived in Paris since 1984 and has taught languages - Hindi, English, and French - at the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales, Sciences Po, Paris, the French foreign office and the International School of Paris. He is also the author of Michel Thomas Start Hindi (2014), Michel Thomas Total Hindi (2017) and Assimil, Le hindi sans peine (1994).

Excellent product Mr. Bakaya. The material is laid out very well, I feel greater understanding working through this. After using the previous Michel Thomas products building up to this one, this really makes the language come alive and become functional for the learner. Really wish I had this system when I was learning French when I was younger! Highly recommended.

Once you reach a certain level in French, it's hard to find books or courses that can help you improve your skills. I have a degree in French, have taught French and have worked as a French translator for almost 25 years. Almost everything on the market is aimed at the beginner or early intermediate level and therefore of no use to me. Finally, however, there is a product that has taught me all sorts of things I didn't know: the new Michel Thomas course called Insider's French. The first step in each lesson is a list of key vocabulary. These are often words that either didn't exist back when I was learning French (such as *écran tactile*, meaning touchscreen) or can't be found in the Collins-Robert French Dictionary (such as *boboïsation*, meaning gentrification) or are highly colloquial but also highly frequent (such as *grave kiffer quelque chose*, meaning to really dig something). Then you listen to a conversation among a group of native speakers discussing up-to-date topics such as Islam, the environment and drug use. The speaker on the recording then asks you questions about the conversation to see whether you understood. The next part is the

traditional Michel Thomas situation in which a teacher asks questions of two students based on the conversation they just heard. The focus is on conversation strategies, such as how to express indignation or irony or humor. This is exactly the type of thing you need to learn how to say spontaneously. Next there's a section on difficult sounds in French and focusing on fluency by imitating native speakers speaking naturally. Each lesson ends with another conversation among native speakers, followed by questions. The real strength of the course lies in its explanations of fine distinctions that I have never seen explained anywhere else. The recording explains the difference that a native French speaker sees between "commencer *À*" and "commencer de" and the occasions when it's right to say "C'est bon" but not "C'est bien" (and vice versa). It teaches you an idiomatic use of the verb *faire* that is missing from other courses: *Cette galerie d'art, *À* fait branché!* (This art gallery is so hip!). And it corrects misimpressions that you may have gotten from an out-of-date grammar book, such as the notion that the way to say worse is "pire" when in fact you should say "moins bien." I've had a look at most of the supposedly "advanced" products on the market and can say without any reservation that this course will be useful to any people, even French teachers, who want to improve their spoken French and bring it up to date.

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