

[Free download] Teach Yourself Icelandic Complete Course

Teach Yourself Icelandic Complete Course

Hildur Jonsdottir

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#2977358 in Books McGraw Hill 2004-01-31 Ingredients: Example Ingredients Original language: English PDF # 1 7.80 x .59 x 5.10l, .45 #File Name: 0071420258216 pages | File size: 23.Mb

Hildur Jonsdottir : Teach Yourself Icelandic Complete Course before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Teach Yourself Icelandic Complete Course:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. the Glendening Book By E. A. Kinzel I think this book has been updated since the edition from P.J.T. Glendening; I am unfamiliar with the later edition(s), so will restrict my comments to the Glendening book, lest someone make the same mistake I did, and become tempted by a great price. I assumed, admittedly with some arrogance, that the negative comments for this book were simply due to the fact that some readers had attempted to tackle a complex, archaic, and highly inflected language, and came away with their fingers burned. Since I have studied similarly complex languages like Gothic and Russian, I reasoned, I will find this book easy going. I have also studied languages (Danish and Attic Greek) using old textbooks and pedagogical methods, and so was comfortable with that as well. The Glendening book, however, is simply sadistic. I'm not much on conspiracy theories, but I can almost believe that his (her?) purpose was to intimidate and frighten away students of Icelandic. Chapter One introduces strong masculine nouns of Type 1a; six irregular masculine nouns which must be memorized in all forms; three Types of strong feminine nouns; and two Types of strong neuter nouns. These are presented in singular and plural in all cases (nominative, genitive, dative, and accusative) - so, eight distinct forms per noun. Since Icelandic words can have extensive vowel modifications based on a number of factors, these are quite a few forms to digest in a single lesson. To give a final twist of the knife, Glendening includes an exercise in categorizing nouns by gender and Type. In one's first lesson in Icelandic, how could someone possibly know, for

example, that "foss" is masculine Type 1 and "hross" is neuter Type 1? Chapter Two gives the student the weak nouns, as well as the definite article, in all three genders and all four cases. Chapter Three gives about 47 prepositions, some governed by (followed by in a specific case) Genitive, others by Dative, some by Accusative, and some by either Dative or Accusative, depending upon usage. In all languages I have studied, 3-4 prepositions are introduced per lesson, but Glendening, it seems, has given them all in this lesson. Jumping ahead, Chapter Five gives 17 irregular verbs in all persons (1st, 2nd, and 3rd), numbers (singular and plural), four tenses (present past indicative, present past subjunctive), as well as the infinitive, supine (whatever that is - not explained until much later), and present participle - 27 separate forms, per verb. The exercises seem designed for failure rather than success and building confidence and experience with the forms encountered in the lessons. Vocabulary and expressions are encountered from future lessons or no lesson at all; some words are not even in the glossary, as an extra guarantee of failure. Since I don't like to move on to the next lesson until I have mastered the current lesson, much frustration ensued when I tried to use this book. I could go on, but I think my point has been made. If you want to study written Icelandic, although admittedly in an old-fashioned form, try Stefan Einarsson's book. I have used it with great success, and pleasure. If you want to study modern, colloquial Icelandic, look beyond this book - there seem to be several highly rated options on .6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A Brief And Challenging Introduction To Icelandic By Robert I. Hedges Having been to Iceland and wanting to return, I decided to explore the Icelandic language. I wanted to learn basic conversational and written Icelandic, and that is exactly the subject of this book. It should be obvious, but let me say it clearly: this is not an easy exercise. This book is also available with practice recordings to listen to, and while more expensive, I highly recommend spending the extra money. Trying to flip back and forth between the pronunciation keys and the exercises was often laborious. The book itself is very fast paced, and my biggest issue with it is that it presupposes a strong grasp of grammar and parts of speech, and quickly rushes into things like nominative, dative, accusative, and genitive forms, obscure rules about irregular forms varying by gender (Icelandic has masculine, feminine, and neuter), and some extremely unwieldy tenses and verb conjugations, which combined with the Icelandic alphabet and unusual pronunciations, make this a very challenging book. As an example, on page 121 she discusses plurals of feminine nouns with this passage: "It should be pointed out that the genitive plural form of some weak feminine nouns is very seldom used and many native speakers of Icelandic have problems deciding whether to use the ending -na or -a." If native speakers don't find this useful, perhaps it could be edited from a book for beginning students of Icelandic. My point here is not that the book is bad; it just is a bit advanced for absolute beginners. On the positive side, the book is current and topical with discussions of modern technology, web pages, and e-mail addresses ("netfang"), which given the predisposition of Icelanders to be early adopters of technology, is a very useful feature. Jonsdottir picked an extremely difficult and complex subject to tackle in a 216 page book, but attempts to cover the myriad of complicated rules and grammar issues completely. Her explanations of things like the u-umlaut vowel change rule, and pronunciation and grammar tips are good overall, although there are a couple of places where editing could have helped (for instance there is an exercise asking the reader to tell time on page 64, while the lesson teaching how to tell time starts on page 69.) The book claims to move at "an energetic pace," and that is a vast understatement. Despite my toils with this book, I recommend it overall with the understanding that is not the equivalent of "Icelandic for Dummies" (which I wish existed), but is a challenging introduction to Icelandic which will definitely make you think. I recommend augmenting this with Icelandic language CDs or tapes. As for me, I eventually hope to attend the one month Icelandic summer program at the University of Iceland for native English speakers. Good luck! 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. I wish it weren't so bad that I couldn't get past the first chapter. By Matthew Martin This book has defects galore. 1) Walls of tables of various forms. Intimidating, not useful. (see pp21-24) 2) The chapters often lack dialogs or readings. That which exists, often consists of disjointed example sentences and difficult idioms. 3) All the Icelandic is in italics, a strain on the eyes. 4) This sure isn't for beginners and I'm not sure an advanced student would benefit much from it either. Don't buy this helvitis andskotin book. You won't get past chapter one before you fling it out a window. You may learn how to curse in Icelandic in the process though.

Learning Icelandic as easy as 1-2-3 With this book, Icelandic is attainable for any beginning student. You can use Teach Yourself Icelandic Complete Course at your own pace or as a supplement to formal courses. This complete course is based on the very latest learning methods and designed to be enjoyable and user-friendly. Prepared by experts in the language, Teach Yourself Icelandic begins with the basics and gradually promotes you to a level of smooth and confident communication, including: Up-to-date, graded interactive dialogues Graded units of culture notes, grammar, and exercises Step-by-step guide to pronunciation Practical vocabulary Regular and irregular verb tables Plenty of practice exercises and answers Bilingual glossary

Language Notes Text: English, Icelandic About the Author Hildur Jonsdottir has taught beginners' courses in Icelandic for two years at the University of Cambridge.