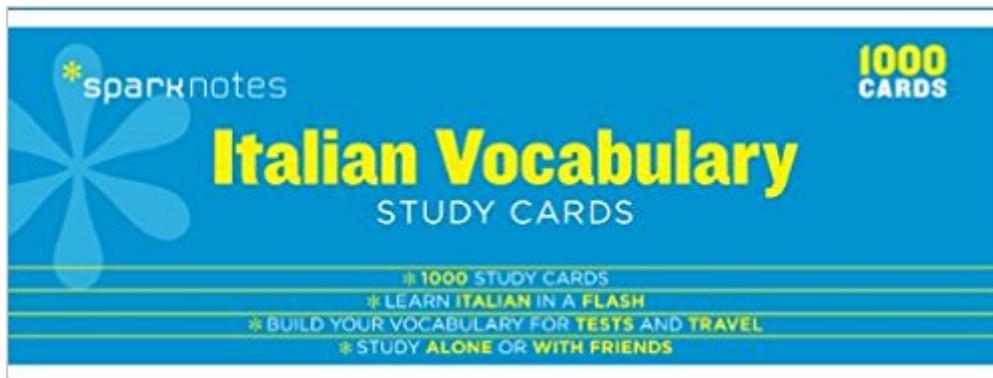


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Italian Vocabulary SparkNotes Study Cards



Synopsis

Ditch the scribbled-on index cards, these are better, smarter, and more helpful! SparkNotes Study Cards boil down subjects into easily digestible tidbits that make studying faster and easier. The cards pose questions, provide fill-in-the-blank problems to test your skills, and present diagrams and pictures that make everything clear. And on the back of each flashcard, you'll find answers and quick explanations.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 29 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

I've purchased two different Italian flashcard boxes to help me with my Italian language study so far, and this SparkNotes version is far more useful and user-friendly than the QuickStudy brand. For several reasons, I'd recommend the SparksNotes to anyone trying to start learning Italian. First, the SparkNotes word selection is much more mainstream and general, and at that beginning of studying a new language, that is exactly what I want. The box contains a large but not overwhelming sampling of verbs, and the nouns are words that I might actually use in conversation or encounter in a newspaper article or book. I really feel like after mastering this box, I can hold my own in a normal conversation, be well-prepared for an Italian class, and read the newspaper, understanding most of what I hear and read. I won't know every word, but because this box was carefully curated, I'll recognize most of what I encounter. And I will have the right words to express most of what I want to say. The QuickStudy box was filled with words like "cranberry sauce," "to windsurf" and "videocassette." Not helpful! The SparksNotes editors, on the other hand, did a great job sifting

through words to choose ones that are broadly applicable, useful for everyday life and communication, and up-to-date. The second reason that I preferred the SparksNotes box is that the cards are much, much easier to read. These cards are about the same size as a normal business card, and the vocabulary words are printed in what appears to me to be around a 24 point font, and they are boldface. The Italian words are black print on a white background, and the English words are white print on a dark blue background, and neither side is shiny. Totally easy to read, even in low light! The Quickstudy cards are about the same size, but the print is quite a bit smaller and much more difficult to read--they're maybe 14-16 point font, not in bold type, and one side of the card is shiny, which makes it even harder to read. Zipping through cards quickly is easier when the print is clearly legible. Another reason why I prefer the look of the SparkNotes cards is that they aren't cluttered with information that isn't helpful. The other brand lists both singular and plural articles and attaches the plural ending to each noun after a backslash--even when the noun is regular. SparkNotes cards will print plurals when they're irregular, but otherwise, they keep the plurals off the cards. Streamlined cards are easier to process and remember. Look at the difference: QuickStudy spring : la/le primavera/eSparkNotes spring: la primavera (

This is an excellent set of Latin vocabulary cards. I wouldn't say that the cards are any thinner than I expected -- they're fine and will hold up well. Also, it seems unfair to expect that the all words in any particular Latin text will necessarily be present although I can't imagine that many in Wheelock's or other texts will be missing. For the beginning to intermediate student and even the advanced student, you will get the chance to either learn or solidify a vocabulary of 1000 common Latin words. That is a decent initial vocabulary, I think. I've been reading at the third year high school Latin level and I am still learning new words with this set. I also like the extra usage notes that some of the cards have and the short list of English cognates on some of the cards is very nice. For the price, this is a bargain, or shall I say BARGAIN. I'm 62 years old and learning Latin over the past year for the fun of it and I don't have trouble reading the print. Of course, I use reading glassing whenever I read anything, so maybe other oldsters would need to do the same. For younger students of the Latin language, hopefully this won't be necessary. I find this set to be a good auxiliary to many hours a day I spend with Ankidroid and Memrise, and with these SparkNotes cards, I have more control over when cards will be represented and I can remove cards that I know completely a lot easier than I can remove cards from the electronic flashcard programs.

a must have for latin! I love this company for everything!

Thanks!

I agree with all of the points made by reviewers so far, but not necessarily with the rating. I'll award 4 stars to the study cards because I can think of ways to improve them. They are not perfect, but they are the best set of flash cards I've come across. I'd quibble with word selection, for instance - are these really the 1000 most common words in Italian - but that's certainly a huge area of disagreement. Pronunciation guides would be useful, too, as others have noted, but Italian pronunciation is not difficult to learn separately. On the other hand, it would be unreasonable to expect an entire language course from a simple set of cards. I don't fault SparkNotes for not including grammar, word conjugation, and phrases, for example. 1000 flash cards are not going to fill that need. All in all, these cards fulfill their promise. They could be improved, but so far they have helped me build a vocabulary that allows me to read quite a bit of Italian, and I've found them to be a very good supplement to a language course.

If you're learning Latin, I cannot recommend this highly enough.

Very good! Thank you!

I learned Italian before English and now I don't want to lose any of them, study cards are helping me a lot, the cards are small and you can take them with you anywhere, the material looks like construction paper a little bit more resistant I think is fine.

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