

Michel  
Thomas<sup>®</sup>

***'Thomas makes it simple'***  
***Sunday Times***



## **Michel Thomas, 1914–2005**

Michel Thomas, the internationally renowned linguist and language teacher, who was awarded the Silver Star by the US Army for his bravery in the Second World War, died of heart failure at his home in New York on 8th January 2005. He was 90.

### **To find out more, please get in touch with us**

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# ***Anyone can learn a language with Michel Thomas!***

For the first time ever, the amazing teaching method of the world's greatest language teacher, Michel Thomas, is now available to everyone, not just the rich and famous. These all-audio courses, published by Hodder Arnold, provide an accelerated method for language learning that is truly revolutionary. And they promise a remarkable educational experience that will make your learning both exciting and pleasurable.

No books, no pens, no homework, no memorizing – just sit back and let the most sought-after language teacher in the world be your guide. In a matter of hours, you will find yourself speaking and thinking in your new language quite naturally and effortlessly.



*Photo by Robert Mlazzo*

## **What is the Michel Thomas method?**

Over a period of twenty-five years, Michel Thomas developed and perfected a unique method of teaching languages\*. His approach gives startling results within a remarkably short time, all without the need for books, memorizing, or homework. In essence, Michel Thomas breaks a language down to its component parts and enables learners to reconstruct the language themselves to form their own sentences, to say what they want, when they want. The experience of learning a language becomes so exciting and satisfying that it stimulates self-motivation and builds confidence.

Michel Thomas presents the language within simple, elegant structures that echo the way the language is spoken. He achieves this by guiding you through carefully planned sets of exercises that build up your understanding of the language almost without you realizing it. You are able to absorb the structures effortlessly and apply them naturally right from the start.

## **What does the course contain?**

In his specially developed course you hear the voice of Michel Thomas as he leads a class of two students. These students are novices who have little or no knowledge of the language they are being taught. Their responses to Michel Thomas are not scripted and they have received no additional instruction or preparation – just the guidance from Michel Thomas that you hear. You participate in this class actively and learn along with the students.

This radically different approach means that you will learn a language in 'real-time' conditions, that is in the same way that the students on the recording learn. There is no need to stop the recording to do homework, additional exercises, or vocabulary memorization. Therefore, unlike other learning methods you may have encountered, you will not be set unrealistic or unachievable goals. The success of the Michel Thomas method is proven by the very results that you hear from the students on the recording and, at the same time, from you as you make your own responses!

*\*U.S. patent 6,565,358*

## HOW ARE THE RECORDINGS BEST USED?

- **Relax!** Make yourself comfortable before playing the recording and try to let go of the tensions and anxieties traditionally associated with learning.
- **Do not write or take any notes.** Remove notebooks, pens, dictionaries and anything else associated with learning at school.
- **Do not try to remember.** While participating in the recording and afterwards, it is important that you do not try to memorize specific words or expressions. It is a basic principle of the Michel Thomas method that the responsibility for the student's learning lies with the teacher. With Michel Thomas as your teacher, your learning will be based on understanding, and what you understand you don't forget.
- **Interact fully with the recordings.** Use the pause button and respond out loud (or in a whisper, or in your head, if you are in a public place) before the students' responses. *This is essential.* You do not learn by repetition but by thinking out the answers to each question; it is by your own thought process that you truly learn.
- **Give yourself time to think.** The students on the recordings had all the time they needed to think out their responses. On the recordings their 'thinking time' has been cut in order to make full use of the recording time and to give you all the time you may need (by pushing your pause button). The pause button is the key to *your* learning!
- **Start at the beginning of the course.** Whatever your existing knowledge of the language you are learning, it is important that you follow the way that Michel builds up your knowledge of the language.
- **Do not get annoyed with yourself if you make a mistake.** Mistakes are part of the learning process; as long as you understand why you made the mistake and you have the 'ahaa' reaction – 'yes, of course, I understand now' – you are doing fine. If you made a mistake and you do not understand why, you may have been daydreaming for a few seconds. The course is structured so that you cannot go on unless you fully understand everything, so just go back a little and you will pick up where you left off.
- **Stop the recording whenever it suits you.** You will notice that this course is not divided into lessons\*; you will always be able to pick up from where you left off, without the need to review.

\*Tracking breaks in the CD recordings purely help you to locate where you left off.

## **What level of language will I achieve?**

This course is designed for complete beginners. It makes no assumption of a knowledge of any language other than English. It is also appropriate for anyone who has studied a language before, but has forgotten much of it or does not have confidence in speaking.

This Introductory course consists of the first two hours of the Foundation (8-hour) course. It provides a basic foundation to the language, enabling students to speak sentences from the outset, and to experience the excitement of learning a new language.

## **How quickly can I learn with this course?**

One of the most remarkable features of the Michel Thomas method is the speed with which results are achieved. A knowledge of the language that will take months of conventional study can be achieved in a matter of hours with this course. Michel masterfully guides the student through an instructional process at a very rapid rate – yet the process will appear informal, relaxed and unhurried. Michel moves quickly between numerous practice sessions, which all build the learners' confidence in their ability to communicate in complex ways.

Because the Michel Thomas method is based on understanding, not memorization, there is no set limit to the length of time that you should study the course. It offers immersion without strain or stress, and you will find that the recordings are not divided into lessons\*. The excitement of learning will motivate you to continue listening and learning for as long a time as is practical for you. This will enable you to make progress faster than you ever imagined possible.

## **Who is this course for?**

Anyone can learn a language with the Michel Thomas method – and the wide diversity of his students proves this. Not only does Michel instruct the rich and famous, but he has also taught many so-called 'hopeless cases'. For example, in 1997, Michel taught French to a group of sixteen-year-olds in north London who had been told they could never learn a language, and gave them the

*\*Tracking breaks in the CD recordings purely help you to locate where you left off.*

ability to use the new language far beyond their expectations – in just a week. Perhaps more important, he gave them the confidence to speak and a belief in, and the experience of, their own ability to learn. Whatever your motivation for learning a language, the Michel Thomas course quite simply offers the most effective method that is available.

## **What can I do next?**

Try to speak with native speakers whenever possible, as this is invaluable for improving your fluency. Magazines and newspapers (especially those which feature interviews) will give you practice in the most current and idiomatic language. Expose yourself to the language whenever you can – you will have firm foundations on which to build.

The Michel Thomas Foundation (8-hour) courses give the beginner a practical and functional command of the spoken language. Michel Thomas teaches the everyday conversational language that will allow you to communicate in a wide variety of situations, empowered by the ability to create your own sentences and use the language naturally. You will absorb the vocabulary and grammatical structures and, in addition, will be introduced to elements of reading and writing.

The Michel Thomas Advanced courses are the follow-on to the Foundation (8-hour) courses. In five hours, and following the same live classroom style as the Foundation courses, Michel Thomas gives you a comprehensive knowledge of the entire structure of the verb system.

The Michel Thomas Language Builders will consolidate the structures and extend the vocabulary you have learned in the Foundation (8-hour) and Advanced courses, in 'one-to-one' sessions with Michel.

The Michel Thomas Method Vocabulary courses apply and extend Michel's teaching philosophy by building on your knowledge of your own language through prompts and practice sessions with the tutor. By the end of the course you will have learned 1000 words and expressions and the means of working out many thousands more.

See the end of this booklet for details on all Michel Thomas products.

## **So, who was Michel Thomas?**

Michel Thomas was head of the Michel Thomas Language Centers and



*Michel in the uniform of an officer in the French Resistance*

taught languages for over fifty years, primarily in New York, Beverly Hills, and London. He was a graduate of the Department of Philology at the University of Bordeaux, France, and studied psychology at the Sorbonne (Paris) and at the University of Vienna. However, it was his remarkable life experiences that fuelled his passion for teaching languages.

Michel spent most of his childhood in Germany and France. With the rise of Hitler, he began his years of escape and resistance. He spent two brutal years in French concentration and slave labour

camps, constantly threatened by deportation to German death camps.

He escaped and fought for the French Resistance, surviving capture and interrogation by Klaus Barbie – the ‘Butcher of Lyons’ – and torture by the Gestapo.

His mastery of languages enabled him to adopt many identities (the last one being ‘Michel Thomas’), and, once France was liberated, allowed him to join the US Army as an intelligence officer. His unit went on to liberate Dachau, where he interrogated the camp executioner and interviewed survivors. As well as recording the horrors of the Holocaust, he was driven by a personal mission to discover the fate of his own family (he later discovered that they had all perished in Auschwitz). At the end of the war, he masterminded operations to uncover war criminals and infiltrate underground Nazi groups, and was renowned for his ability to extract confessions without ever recourse to violence. In 1944 Michel was nominated for the Silver Star medal for his service to the US Army’s 45th Infantry Division in France. The award was finally presented to him in May 2004, sixty years later.

Michel’s wartime experiences, particularly his torture by the Gestapo when he discovered the ability to block out pain, made him aware of the

*For a full account of his fascinating life, read ‘The Test of Courage: Michel Thomas’ by Christopher Robbins, published by Hodder & Stoughton.*



untapped potential of the human mind. However, it was his deeply held conviction that the biggest weapon in maintaining a free society was education that drove him to devote his life to probing the learning process. Michel moved to Los Angeles in 1947, and he set up a language institute in Beverly Hills. Over a period of twenty-five years, he developed a unique and revolutionary learning system that made him the world's leading language teacher. Now, for the first time, his method is made widely available through the publication of these recordings.

### Who has Michel Thomas taught?

People came from all over the world to learn a foreign language with Michel Thomas – because his method works. His students, numbering in the thousands, included well-known people from the arts and from the corporate, political and academic worlds. For example, he taught French to filmstar Grace Kelly prior to her marriage to Prince Rainier of Monaco.



*Michel with Grace Kelly*

Michel's list of clients included:

- *Celebrities:* Emma Thompson, Woody Allen, Barbra Streisand, Warren Beatty, Melanie Griffith, Eddie Izzard, Bob Dylan, Jean Marsh, Donald Sutherland, Mrs George Harrison, Anne Bancroft, Mel Brooks, Nastassja Kinski, Carl Reiner, Raquel Welch, Johnny Carson, Julie Andrews, Isabelle Adjani, Candice Bergen, Barbara Hershey, Priscilla Presley, Loretta Swit, Tony Curtis, Diana Ross, Herb Alpert, Angie Dickinson, Lucille Ball, Doris Day, Janet Leigh, Natalie Wood, Jayne Mansfield, Ann-Margaret, Yves Montand, Kim Novak, Otto Preminger, Max von Sydow, Peter Sellers, François Truffaut, Sophia Coppola.
- *Diplomats, dignitaries and academics:* US Ambassador to France, Walter Curley; US Ambassador to the UN Joseph V. Reed; Cardinal John O'Connor, Archbishop of New York; Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia; Armand Hammer; Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York; Professor Herbert Morris, Dean of Humanities at UCLA; Warren Keegan, Professor of

Business at Pace University in New York; Professor Wesley Posvar, President of the University of Pittsburgh.

- *Executives from the following corporations:* AT&T International, Coca-Cola, Procter & Gamble, Chase Manhattan Bank, American Express, Merrill Lynch, New York Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Boeing Aircraft, General Electric, Westinghouse Electric, Bank of America, Max Factor, Rand Corporation, Bertelsmann Music Group-RCA, Veuve Clicquot Inc., McDonald's Corporation, Rover, British Aerospace.



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## The Michel Thomas Product Range

- No books
- No writing
- Just confidence

### 2-hour Introductory course (CD) £14.99\*

French	ISBN: 978 0 340 78064 0
German	ISBN: 978 0 340 78066 4
Spanish	ISBN: 978 0 340 78068 8
Italian	ISBN: 978 0 340 78070 1

**\*These are the first 2 hours of the Foundation course.**

### 8-hour Foundation course – 2nd edition (CD) £70

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Spanish	ISBN: 978 0 340 93893 5
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### 5-hour Advanced course – 2nd edition (CD) £50

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German	ISBN: 978 0 340 93913 0
Spanish	ISBN: 978 0 340 93899 7
Italian	ISBN: 978 0 340 93900 0

The **Review** courses have been devised to allow the student at home to check on their learning to find areas causing difficulty and revisit the relevant teaching point in the main Foundation (8-hour) or Advanced course, or to review the course quickly if returning to it after some time.

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### Advanced Review course (1 CD) £10

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## What other courses are available with Michel Thomas?

The **Language Builders** take the form of a 'one-to-one' lecture with Michel Thomas, building on the words and phrases in his Foundation (8-hour) and Advanced courses. The courses provide confidence in pronunciation, increase your word-power and consolidate your knowledge in just two hours.

### Language Builders (2 CDs) £20

French	ISBN: 978 0 340 78969 8
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Italian	ISBN: 978 0 340 78975 9
Spanish	ISBN: 978 0 340 78971 1

The much-anticipated **Vocabulary courses** carry forward the Michel Thomas teaching tradition and faithfully follow his unique approach to foreign language learning. The courses remain faithful to the method Michel Thomas uses in his earlier courses, with the all-audio and 'building-block' approach.

### Vocabulary courses (3 CDs) £30

French	ISBN: 978 0 340 93982 6
German	ISBN: 978 0 340 93984 0
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The **Michel Thomas Special Editions** comprise:

- The Foundation (8-hour) course on CD
- The Language Builder CD
- Sample hours from 2 other languages
- A CD wallet to store the course in
- Michel Thomas' biography *The Test of Courage*

### Special Editions £99

French	ISBN: 978 0 340 81402 4
Italian	ISBN: 978 0 340 81403 1
Spanish	ISBN: 978 0 340 88289 4

Read Michel Thomas' amazing life-story **The Test of Courage**, by Christopher Robbins (ISBN 978 0 340 81245 7; £9.99 paperback).



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## Have your say! Listener response form

1. What is your name?
2. Are you ☐ male or ☐ female?
3. What is your age?
4. What is your occupation?
5. What is your address (email and/or postal)?
6. How did you hear about the Michel Thomas Method?
7. Why are you learning a language?
8. Which language are you studying?
9. Which of the Michel Thomas Method courses have you done?
10. Where did you buy/borrow them from?
11. Have you tried another method before? If so, which product?
12. What's the best thing about learning with the Michel Thomas Method?

Please send this form to our FREEPOST address:

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The Michel Thomas Method aims to offer a great learning experience.

If you have any comments or suggestions please email us at

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# ***Just how good are the Michel Thomas language courses?***

***Daily Telegraph***

**‘works like a dream’**

***Time Out***

**‘...five minutes into the first CD, you already  
feel like you’re winning’**

***The Times***

**‘the nearest thing to painless learning’**

***Guardian***

**‘Michel Thomas is a precious find indeed’**

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