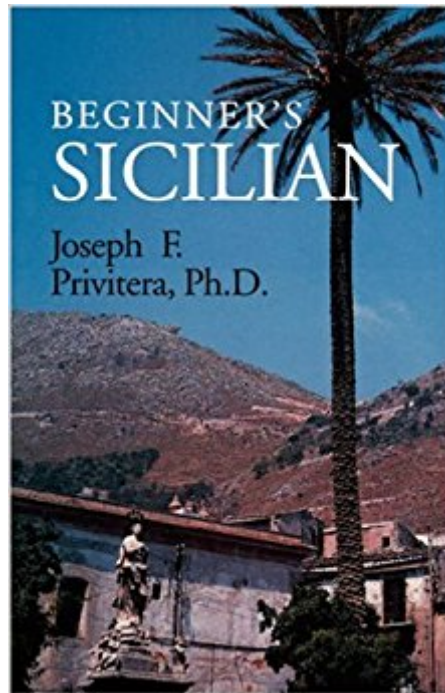




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# Beginner's Sicilian (Beginner's (Foreign Language))



## Synopsis

The Beginner's Series is designed to meet the bilingual needs of the traveling businessperson, tourist, and student. These language lessons cover such common situations as: passing through customs, checking into a hotel, placing phone calls, going to the post office, and extending and accepting invitations. First learn about the country's history and culture, acquaint yourself with social customs, restaurant practices, and transportation systems. Then learn basic language skills, including vocabulary, grammar, and useful phrases that will have you communicating with natives and moving about freely. Clear, easy to use, and insightful, the Beginner's Series will introduce you to the languages of the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

There is basically nothing else in the market so we're stuck with this book. The good thing is that it provides a basic introduction to the language (not a "dialect" please!!!) with Sicilian dialogues, basic grammar explanations, vocabulary, and some practice. It also comes with a complex pronunciation guide, which is pedagogically very weak. The frustrating things about the book are: too many typos and inconsistencies if you read it carefully and potentially confusing to students; very old-fashioned pedagogy of the 1960s--we've come a long way since then in how to teach languages; the grammar is introduced with no understanding of how students actually learn it in a scaffolded way; practice activities are just silly; the pronunciation part should use the international phonetic alphabet and not

some made-up version that mixes sound-spelling correspondences. And yes, there's more, but I'll stop here. Should we buy it? Of course. It's the only thing out there besides Cipolla's book, which has its own set of issues (many similar to these), but the author should be concerned about these comments and should consider a co-authored revision.

Not very helpful

I have a basic knowledge of Sicilian and this book is helping me to further my understanding of the language.

Excellent for what I needed.

Item is as described & delivered as expected... Thanks!

This book is not your typical language instruction book. It has a brief description of customs and culture, which is nice. However, the chapters often repeat themselves, so it could have been better organized into chapters that have distinct lessons and progressively get more complex (like most language books). This book stays at a fairly basic level throughout, however, it accomplishes its purpose, which is to give a taste of Sicilian.

This book is an excellent overview of the Sicilian language/dialect, but it is NOT designed as a "traveler's guide" to the language. The lessons are set up in an "immersion approach", providing the Sicilian dialog and THEN following with an English translation; so, it is a little hard to get started. But, once begun, the progress flows quickly and an elemental grasp of the language soon follows. It is not full of "traveler phrases", but the understanding the reader gains from study of the book should provide ample capability regardless of their original intent.

Dr. Privitera does a decent job of introducing basic Sicilian in this book. Each chapter begins with a conversation in Sicilian, followed by the English translation, and then it moves on to the vocabulary used in the chapter. After the vocabulary comes a brief grammar lesson. The conversations are not very creative, and I can't imagine Sicilians actually having conversations like some of the ones used. Like another reviewer said, the chapters are a bit repetitive, but I think that's intended in order to enforce memorization. The only problem I had with book is that there wasn't enough grammar

provided. I wish he went into more detail about verbs, and that he had provided some grammar about prepositional contractions. I managed to come to the conclusion on my own that a circumflex signified a contraction, but this was never actually explained. Another problem is that people who don't have a knowledge of Italian might get lost quickly. All in all, however, I've learned quite a bit of Sicilian, and thanks to this book I can now communicate with my Sicilian friends in their own dialect, instead of standard Italian.

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