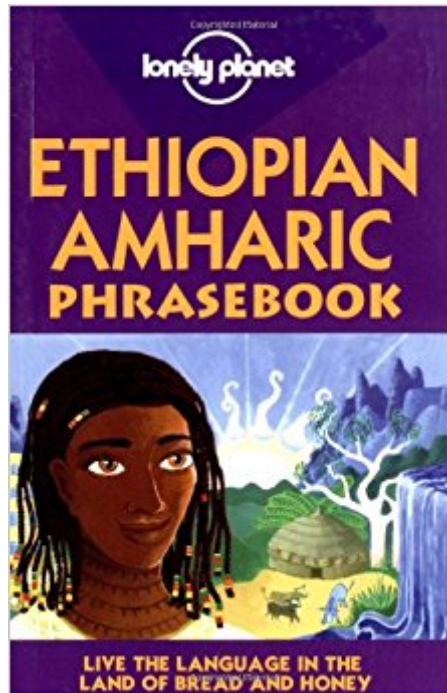




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Lonely Planet Ethiopian Amharic Phrasebook



Synopsis

Voices woven through staccato rhythms lead you to a narrow alley. Laughter flows from beneath a door. It opens to a kaleidoscope of sound and color, led by an azmari singing a song of invitation. A waiter smiles as you glance in the book - you order a bira and some ocholoni. The day had started with a mountain-top view of the Blue Nile and now the vibrant city nightlife takes you in...In This Guide:New pronunciation guide and Amharic script.Expanded dictionary with over 1000 words.Grammar essentials for building your own sentences.Cultural information and basic travel tips.Phrases for every traveler.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

National Geographic Traveler, September 2006'Lonely Planet Phrasebooks. Portable, pocket-size, cheap, and available for almost any country you might want to visit...'

This is a great book, I'm still struggling with learning the language but it has been helpful in this regard.

I was able to impress my Ethiopian friends many times with lessons and tidbits from this book. It was actually useful, fun, and easy to use. It features very practical information about a language and culture that is otherwise difficult to access.

Actually I didn't use the book very much, as my surroundings were almost all English or Oromo-speaking. Before spending much time on a learning a language to use in Ethiopia, be sure to check out the location. Since the Amhara's are no longer the dominant tribe, their language may be less useful. Tigrayans are now in power and Oromo are the largest language group.

I bought this book in Addis Ababa, in the Hilton hotel, after attempting to use a couple of the locally written 'learn amharic' books, which I found difficult to try and work out pronunciation of some words. To my surprise this book was published in my home city 'down under'-Melbourne. The copy I bought is the second edition with the cover illustration: "Spot the Blue Donkey" by Patrick Marris. I found reading this book was easier for me personally; it assisted in pronunciation of some words and I always had a lot of Ethiopian friends who'd gladly help out with the correction of any mis-pronunciations and also to explain the differences in words relating to gender-if you're talking to a man or a lady. Mainly because Amharic and Aussie English are like cheese and chalk. I also liked the boxed texts and cultural notes, which give some insight into the Ethiopian culture. Like anything new, you've got to give it a go to get the confidence to carry on. The book is also a very handy size to carry around in a shirt pocket or small bag. Good on you Tilahun.

I bought this book with me the first time I ever went to Ethiopia. It actually wasn't very helpful to me in helping me speak Amharic and there were a lot of mistakes that were pointed out to me in the book. However the fact that the words are also written out in Amharic are most helpful because you can always point to the word if you have trouble and someone will be willing to help you pronounce the correct word in Amharic. If you want to learn some very basic words then this book is good. However if you want to speak phrases or sentences, that book does not exist just yet. This book also does a good job of telling basic facts about the culture which was very helpful to me during my first trip to Ethiopia. Overall I'd say that it is a good book and was well worth my money. I would say that others also enjoyed this book because when I left Ethiopia I could not find my book ;-)

This is a helpful phrasebook, usable without any previous knowledge of Amharic. As I am not a native English speaker, I appreciate the way the sounds used are described in the beginning of the book. It is well organized, with different, logical, chapters; i.e. the possibility to find the phrase I am looking for in the chapter where I think it should be is high. The dictionary part is short (as it of course has to be), and I really miss "please" as a word in the dictionary.

I'm married to an Ethiopian and have found this book to be a lifesaver each and every time I go to Ethiopia. The book gets you close enough to the correct pronunciation that anyone can half way understand you and correct your pronunciation of the words. Although Tigrinyan's are now in power Amharic is still the national language of Ethiopia so it's better to learn Amharic if you plan on speaking to anyone in Ethiopia.

Although this pocketbook is helpful for beginners it has one big mistake: phrases and words are written in Amharic letters (which is a good thing) but the authors were really careless when they proofread the book. In many cases the word (or phrase) written in Amharic does not correspond to it's English translation ... which leads to misunderstandings as soon as one uses the book for nonverbal communication (and that was the idea behind the usage of amharic letters)!

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