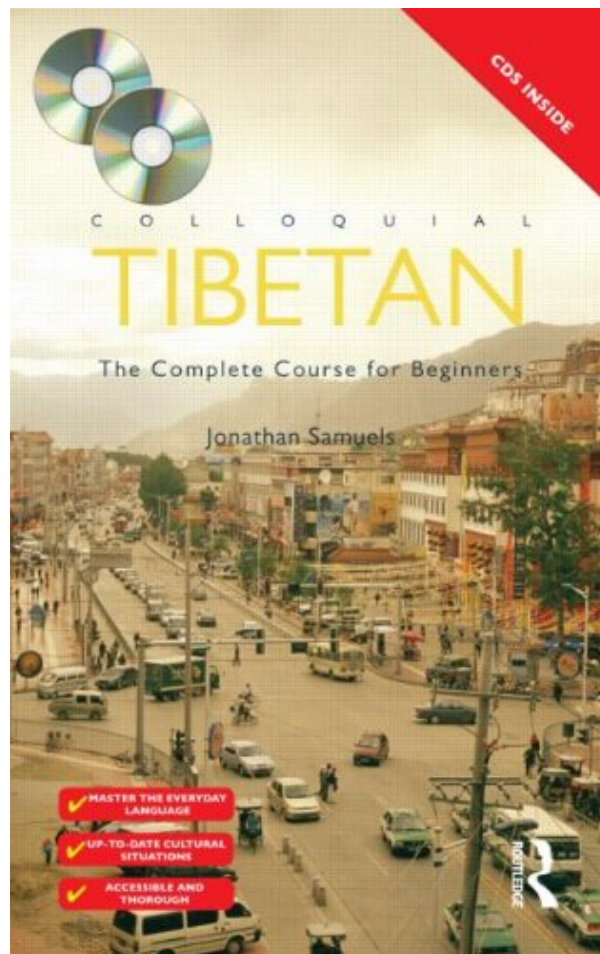
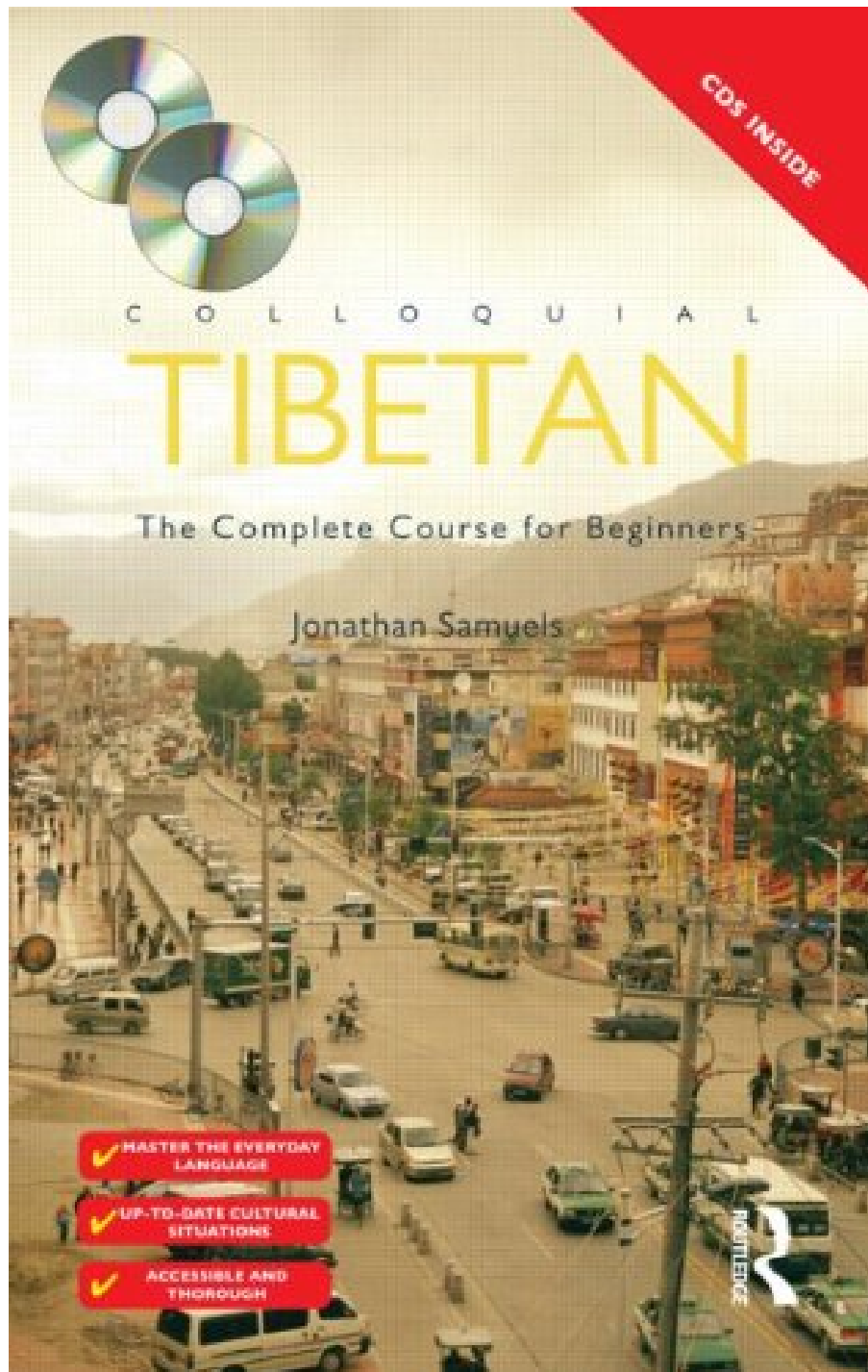


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## Review

"This is an excellent book which accurately shows the way the actual Tibetan colloquial language is spoken today. Another useful thing about this book is its approach to learning language. You learn to speak the language right away without having to learn the alphabet first, instead gradually learning the alphabet as you go. Above all, it has covered some of the rhetoric, emphatic verbs and adverbs never explained in any other book before... I would definitely recommend it. This is an excellent resource for anyone who wants to learn to speak Tibetan quickly. The book contains many dialogues, language points, cultural points and exercises, helpful for any beginning student of the language." Karma T. Ngodup, The University of Chicago, USA

"A vital publication for those wishing to study a language witnessing renewed interest, Colloquial Tibetan addresses the practical aspects of conversation, using the standard Central Tibetan dialect of U-Tsang. The publication provides a clear phonetic breakdown for each lesson, as well as its English translation and Tibetan written form. Importantly, audio accompaniments are available to guide the reader, and will appeal to both dharma students and Tibetologists alike." - The Tibet Foundation

## About the Author

Jonathan Samuels (also known by the name Sherab Gyatso) spent 20 years as a monk, living in Tibetan communities in Asia. He is one of a handful of foreigners to have been awarded the title Geshe, having completed a full course of traditional academic studies in Tibetan monastic institutions. He has many years experience teaching Tibetan, and has both designed and taught training courses for translators and interpreters. Jonathan Samuels holds a Masters degree from the Oriental Institute of the University of Oxford, and is currently completing his PhD with the same institution. He currently holds the position of Research Fellow (Buddhist Studies) at the Cluster of Excellence "Asia and Europe in a Global Context" at Heidelberg University.

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Having studied a variety of Tibetan language courses, the thoroughness and logical progression of this book make it stand out as the best written tutorial I've seen to assist with mastering the complexities of Tibetan grammar, pronunciation and sentence structure. The short segments introduce new material with excellent written exercises at the end of each for reinforcement. This book is a welcome aid to anyone seeking to gain a working knowledge of Tibetan.

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The book itself is fantastic. It is particularly good for students focusing on self study, because it is unique in that it uses a method which allows you to learn easily without the help of a physical teacher. There are many books on Tibetan language which are thorough, but many use grammar jargon that makes learning difficult for those of us who are not language scholars. This book avoids confusing readers with jargon, it keeps explanations very simple, pragmatic, and effective. We used the complementary audio which is very very good, and essential for truly taking advantage of this jewel of a textbook. Overall, I'd say this is the best self study learning method for Tibetan (compared to all the books available in Dharamsala, as well as MST by N. Tournadre, which is great but really overwhelming and jargony).

Having said that, the kindle edition we bought in late 2014 has serious flaws with the Tibetan script. The book text is zoomable of course but the Tibetan script was obviously scanned and is not zoomable (without serious pixelation), so it is very small and in some parts difficult to read especially with stacks (superscript plus subscript). Now it seems they may have improved the kindle version because it says "optimized for large screens." No doubt they realized this and fixed it. But i would make sure this has indeed be fixed before purchasing. Otherwise the print version is great, i've seen it and it is very well made.

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