



Survival Phrases - Brazilian Portuguese (Part 1) Lessons 1-30

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Lesson 1: Thank You!

Obrigado.

LESSON NOTES

Wherever you travel, manners are a must! And every culture has its own definition of politeness. In this respect, Brazil is no different. So in our first lesson, we'll be taking a look at a phrase you have no excuse not to know. I'm talking about how to say "Thank you." As you can imagine, knowing this tidbit of language can go a long way.

The phrase we'll learn today is "obrigado." In Portuguese "obrigado" means "Thank you." The word "obrigado" literally means "obligated" or, more specifically, "to be obligated toward someone."

Now in Portuguese there are several ways to express one's gratitude. There are more formal and more casual ways to do this.

One more formal way of expressing gratitude is "muito obrigado," which means "Thank you very much." The first word "muito" can mean several things in English, "much," "many" and "very" etc. but in this case it means "very."

This is followed by "obrigado" which in Portuguese you'll remember is "Thank you." So, "muito" and "obrigado" mean "Thank you very much".

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Obrigado.	Thank you.
Muito obrigado.	Thank you very much.

QUICK TIP

When I first arrived in Brazil a friend and I went to a Senhora Noêmia's house. I had only been in Brazil for a few weeks but had already fallen in love with Acerola juice (It is a very healthy kind of sour cherry). Brazilians always offer food to their guests and this house was no exception. It being a hot day, Mrs. Noêmia went to the kitchen and brought out a nice, cold glass of acerola juice. She offered it to me and I, dutifully, said, "Obrigado." She promptly turned away and put the juice back in the fridge. Let me explain why she did that.

In Brazil when someone offers you something and you say, "Obrigado." it is a polite way of actually refusing what is being offered to you. It's kind of like, "thank you for the offer, but I don't want whatever you're giving me." I explained myself to Noêmia because my friend was laughing too hard who also chuckled and gave me back the juice. As I said before, a little bit of language goes a long way, especially on a very hot day!



Lesson 2: You're Welcome

De nada.

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we continue on with basic etiquette. The Brazilians are a kind, friendly, and hospitable people and expressions of gratitude are frequent and often lavishly applied. In Brazil, "Thank you" and "You're welcome" are phrases you will hear and should say each and every day.

In Portuguese "You're welcome." is "de nada." The first word "de" means "of" or "from" and is one of the most frequently used words in Portuguese. And yes the pronunciation is exactly like the English letter "G." This is followed by "nada" which in English means "nothing." So to recap here, we have two words "de" and "nada" which you say together as "de nada."

Another way of saying "you're welcome" is "não há de que." The first word "não" means "no". This is followed by "há" which means "exist." Next we have "de" which we have already talked about. And then "quê" which basically means "that." Using this phrase will absolutely delight your listener because it sounds much more considerate. Literally the phrase translates to "no existence of that" or a little bit clearer "there is no reason for that." The "that" being the obligation you gave when you said "obrigado." But the feeling behind the phrase is very kind, something to the effect of "don't worry about it."

So to recap here, we have "de nada" which basically means "you're welcome" and "não há de quê" which also means "you're welcome" but in a kinder more educated way. They are both right and but you'll hear "de nada" much more often.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
De nada.	You're welcome.
Não há de quê.	You're welcome.

QUICK TIP

Now, I had been living in Brazil for nearly two years and I was at a friend's house in a little city called Gurupi in the state of Tocantins, it's in the northern part of Brazil. This friend, Raimunda, knew that I loved açaí and had purchased me 1 kilo of pure açaí fruit. Most of you are probably familiar with it so I won't really explain it but it really is a fantastic fruit. I was very grateful and I

told her, "muito obrigado" and she responded with "não há de quê." which I had not heard before and "de nada" was what I was expecting so I had no idea what she had just said. I could tell it was a good thing because she said it so kindly but the meaning... completely escaped me. This led to a wonderful conversation where she taught me what I just taught you.



Lesson 3: Please Por favor.

LESSON NOTES

Today's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! Today we'll take a look at "Please." as in asking for something.

The phrase we'll learn today is "por favor." In Portuguese "por favor" means "please." The phrase "por favor" literally means "as a favor" but is used just like "please." Brazilians are extremely good guessers and the most rudimentary way of using "por favor" is pointing at something while saying "por favor." But, how about we spice this up just a little bit? Let's start with, "This please." which in Portuguese "isto por favor." In English, "this" comes before "please" and it's the same in Portuguese. So, "this" in Portuguese is "isto."

Looking at the word for "this", warrants a look at the word for "that" which is "isso." So, the phrase "isso por favor" or "that please." is almost identical to the phrase "isto por favor" which is "this please."

"Isto por favor" means "this please".

"Isso por favor" means "that please".

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Por favor.	Please.
Isto por favor.	This please.
Isso por favor.	That please.

QUICK TIP

Now, usually I would give a little culture note right now but there is something important I need to explain. I don't want to use the "g" word but I'm afraid I'm need to explain a bit of "grammar" today. So, here we go.

These phrases we just learned are gender neutral. Gender, as it refers to Portuguese, denotes a particular type of grammatical agreement between the nouns, adjectives, articles, and prepositions. For example, in English you don't say, "She is an actor," you sound like an idiot. You say, "She is an actress." Likewise, we don't say, "He is a stewardess" because "stewardess"

denotes femininity and "He" is not a woman. This is gender agreement and in Portuguese it is much, much more extensive than in English. Because of these gender variations there are 5 ways to say "this" and 10 ways to say "that." But don't worry you don't need to know all 15.

The reason I explained this is that even though "isto" and "isso" are just fine for you to use the Brazilians probably won't because they're natives and understand the complex agreement patterns. And as we go through these lessons and during your trip you'll see several different ways to say "this" and "that." Don't worry don't get stress. It's all just "this" or "that." learn the phrases they way they are written in these lessons and you'll do great!



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Lesson 4: Basic Greetings

Tudo bem?

LESSON NOTES

Today we'll cover basic greetings for the appropriate time of day. As there are quite a few to cover, let's jump right in.

There is one expression that can be used as a universal greeting. That phrase is "Tudo Bem." The first word "tudo" means "everything." This is followed by "bem" which in Portuguese is "well." So the whole phrase is "Is everything well?" The nice thing about this greeting is that the correct response is "tudo bem." It's a question and answer, "Tudo bem?" "Tudo bem."

Next we have "good morning" which in Portuguese is "Bom dia." The first word "bom" means "good." This is followed by "dia," which in Portuguese is "day." So, "bom" and "dia" become "bom dia" and that means "good morning."

In Portuguese "good afternoon" is "Boa tarde." The first word "boa" means "good" just like the word "bom" does for "bom dia." This is that gender agreement I spoke of in our lesson on "please." "Bom" and "boa" are actually the same word just one is the masculine form and the other is the feminine form. This is followed by "tarde" which in Portuguese means "afternoon." So, "boa tarde" means "good afternoon".

And finally we have the evening greeting which in Portuguese is "boa noite." And one time fast "boa noite." The first word "boa" is the same "boa" from "boa tarde" which, not surprisingly, still means "good." and is followed by "noite", which in English means "night." So, we've got "boa" and "noite". Altogether, "boa noite."

Luckily, Brazil doesn't have special greetings for the workplace or other, more formal, situations. It is common to greet your colleagues, superiors, and clients with the standard "tudo bem," "bom dia," "boa tarde," or "boa noite" as you see fit. Degrees of respect are mostly shown in the same ways as English; tone of voice, word choice, clarity of pronunciation, and the occasional title. And remember, Brazilians are extremely expressive vocally and being honest and positive about your emotions is important in their culture.

Another greeting that doesn't really fall into any category but is extremely common for Brazilians to use is, "Como vai?" which translates to "How are you?". "Como vai?" is a casual phrase and has almost the exact same feeling and usage as "How are you?" in English. The first word "como" means "how." The next word is "vai" which means "go" or "goes." So, the whole phrase altogether is "Como vai?" or "How are you?"

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Tudo bem?	Is everything well?
Bom CIA.	Good morning.
Boa tarde.	Good afternoon.
Boa noite.	Good evening/night.
Como vai?	How are you?

QUICK TIP

So, just some quick cultural and usage notes on these greetings.

First, "tudo bem" is a question and questions in Portuguese are formed by simply raising your voice at the end of the sentence. For example, "tudo bem?" with a rising sound means, "Is everything well?" and "tudo bem" or "tudo bem" with a flat or falling sound mean, "Everything is well." Just raise your voice to make it a question and leave it flat or falling for statements. The only exceptions are when you use question words like "o que" (what), "como" (how), "onde" (where), "quem" (who), "quando" (when), and "por que?" (why). These words indicate questions and therefore don't need the raised voice. For example, with "Como vai?" which we just learned you don't raise your voice because the "como" is already present.



Lesson 5: Parting Greetings

Até mais tarde.

LESSON NOTES

Today we'll introduce parting greetings.

A parting expression that can be used for all occasions is "Tchau" which literally means "bye." It is the same pronunciation as the Italian "ciao" or Spanish "chao." The Portuguese writing system is much more complicated than either Italian or Spanish and requires some unique lettering to make some of the sounds.

Another, more causal, parting greeting is "até mais tarde" which literally means "until more late" or "until later." This is used identically to the way English speakers say "see you later." So, first we have "até" which means "until." Then we have "mais" which means "more." And the last word we have is "tarde."

Now, this is the same word from the "good afternoon" phrase, "boa tarde." This word actually has two different, but related, meanings. The central idea is "after" in the sense of coming after something else. From this central idea we derive the first meaning "afternoon" which happens after noon. The second meaning is "late" or "later" in the sense of sometime after now.

PHRASES

Portuguese

Tchau.

Até mais tarde.

English

Bye.

See you later.

QUICK TIP

Now these two phrases are the basics but there are lots of variations. For example, often people will say "tchau tchau" just like English speakers say "bye bye." Once again tone and feeling is extremely important and loving, dismissive, longing, or impatient tones color the meaning of the word in important ways. Impatiently saying "tchau" carries the connotation of "Go away!" while saying it with a gentle tone has a connotation of "Goodbye but come back soon."

Also, "até mais tarde" has many variations. You could say, "até mais" or even just "até." But the feelings attached to these shortenings are important. For example, "até mais tarde" is very neutral. It could be happy, could be sad, could be playful, could be formal; it depends on your

intonation and situation. “Até mais” is a bit more relaxed and probably the most common way to use this phrase, kind of like “see ya” in English. Then “até” is a bit more slangy, kind of like “later” in English.



Lesson 6: Where Is The Bathroom?

Onde fica o banheiro?

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll cover an extremely important phrase, "Where is the bathroom?"

In Portuguese "Where is the bathroom?" is "Onde fica o banheiro?" Let's take a look at the components. The first word "onde" means "where." This is followed by "fica," which in Portuguese is "stays." So to recap here, we have "onde fica." Literally this means "where stays" or "where is located." The word "fica" is used for things that are permanently located somewhere, like buildings, countries, and monuments. Let's take a look at the next word, "o" which means "the." Last we have "banheiro" which means "bathroom." So all together we have "Onde fica o banheiro?" Literally this means "Where stays the bathroom?" or "Where is the bathroom?"

This phrase is very useful if you are in a restaurant or at a meeting in a new place but if you're at someone's home (which is very probable because Brazilians love guests) a request like "May I use the bathroom?" is much more appropriate. In Portuguese, "May I use the bathroom?" is "Eu poderia usar o banheiro?" Let's take a look at the components. The first word "eu" means "I." Next we have "poderia" which means "could/would be able to." This is followed by "usar," which in Portuguese is "use." So to recap here, we have "Eu poderia usar." Literally this means "I could use" or "I may use." Let's take a look at the next word, "o" which means "the." And again we have "banheiro". So all together we have "Eu poderia usar o banheiro?"

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Onde fica o banheiro?	Where is the bathroom?
Eu poderia usar o banheiro?	May I use the bathroom?

QUICK TIP

So a quick culture tip on this that is very important for you to know and understand is that Brazilians put their toilet paper in a special trash can near the toilet. They don't flush the paper. The reality is that plumbing is done with small pipes and the paper clogs the tubes. I don't know why they just don't put in bigger pipes but that's how it's done. I told an American this and he thought I was trying to play a trick on her so she didn't do it. Lo and behold, the toilet she was using got clogged and started overflowing. It wasn't a big deal and we got everything taken care of and cleaned up pretty quick but she was very embarrassed.



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Lesson 7: Can You Speak English?

Você fala inglês?

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll cover another extremely important phrase, "Can you speak English?" Using this phrase as opposed to just speaking English at someone is important for many reasons. For one, if the party you're speaking to doesn't understand English, at least they'll be able to understand what you're asking. Furthermore, it shows a lot respect that you took the effort to learn even a little bit of their language, and for these reasons and many more, we're going to cover this phrase.

In Portuguese "Do you speak English?" is "Você fala inglês?" The first word "você" means "you." Notice the strong part of the word, or stress, is on the last syllable "cê." This is followed by "fala" which in English is "speak." The next word "Inglês" means "English." Notice again the stress is on the last syllable. So all together we have "Você fala inglês?" Literally this means "You speak English." But since it is a question you raise your voice at the end and it becomes "Do you speak English?"

Now let's try a different language. How about Italian? "Do you speak Italian?" "Você fala italiano?" The word for Italian is "italiano." As you can see, only the word for the language changes. The rest stays the same. So you can put in any language you want, just look it up in the dictionary and plug it into the phrase.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Você fala inglês?	Do you speak English?
Você fala italiano?	Do you speak Italian?

QUICK TIP

In Brazil, English is studied in every school, but because there is such a large population and so few qualified English teachers, the English that many people speak isn't usually that good. But Brazilians are extremely caring and I have never met a people that will try so hard to understand foreigners. So, even if their English isn't that good if you're patient, sooner or later you'll understand one another.



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Lesson 8: I Don't Understand

Eu não entendi.

LESSON NOTES

"I don't understand" is a very useful phrase because most of the time, maybe even all of the time, it will be the truth! There is an adjustment period during which your ears will have to get used to Portuguese.

And in Portuguese "I don't understand" is "Eu não entendi." The first word "eu" means "I." This is followed by "não," which in Portuguese is both "no." Then lastly we have "entendi" which means "understood." So all together we have "Eu não entendi." Literally this means "I no understood" which sounds funny in English but it's perfectly correct in Portuguese.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Eu não entendi.	I don't understand.
Entendeu?	Did you understand?

QUICK TIP

It's very normal when you are having a conversation for the other person to stop and ask, "Entendeu?" This literally means, "Did you understand?" or "Are you following me?" Naturally you would respond with a, "Yes." which by the way in Portuguese is "sim". I learned this phrase and how to use it over the course of one hour from one lady who kept asking, "Entendeu?" blah blah blah "Entendeu?" so frequently that I've never forgotten it.



Lesson 9: Once Again Please

Por favor, você poderia repetir?

LESSON NOTES

There will be many times when the Portuguese around you, or coming at you, is fast and furious, and you may not catch all, or any, of it. In instances like these asking the speaker to say it again can prove the difference between understanding a crucial piece of information or spending the rest of the day trying to figure out where exactly you should have turned left. So, to prevent this from happening to you and tune your ear, you should use the following phrases over and over!

In Portuguese "Please, could you repeat that?" is "Por favor, você poderia repetir?" The first term "por favor" you've already learned and it means "please." Next we have "você" which means "you." Then we have "poderia" which means "could" or "would be able to." This is followed by "repetir" which in English is "repeat." So all together we have "Por favor você poderia repetir." Literally this means "Please could you repeat (that)." The (that) is inferred in Portuguese and doesn't need to be said.

At times, even repetition of what is said isn't enough to understand the speaker, as the words are still too fast. When this happens you can use the phrase "Please, could you speak slower?" In Portuguese, "Please, could you speak slower?" is "Por favor você poderia falar mais devagar?" We've already looked at the first part of the phrase "Por favor você poderia..." so let's look at the next word, "falar." "Falar" means "to speak" in English and is a very common word. This is followed by "mais," which means "more." Thus far we have "falar" and "mais." Literally these mean "speak more..." Let's take a look at the last word, "Devagar" which means "slow" or "slowly." So all together we have "Por favor, você poderia falar mais devagar." This means "Please, could you speak slower."

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Por favor, você poderia repetir?	Please, could you repeat that?
Por favor, você poderia falar mais devagar.	Please, could you speak slower?

QUICK TIP

"Por favor você poderia..." means "Please, could you (insert phrase here)" This is a great base phrase for making any type of request and you'll see it over and over in these lessons.



Lesson 10: Apologies

Desculpa.

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll cover phrases used for apologizing. These are extremely important because in Brazil not only will you be speaking a different language, you will be in a very different culture. On the surface Brazil seems very modern and similar to other western cultures but just under the surface is a very different world.

We'll start with "desculpa." This word literally means "to un-guilt" or "to un-blame" but it has the same felling as "I'm sorry."

This phrase is used when you arrive late for a meeting, step on someone's foot by accident, or when you've done anything you shouldn't have and you feel bad about it.

In the case that someone uses this expression towards you, the proper response is "está desculpado" which literally means, "you are un-guilty" and is used similarly to the English "you are forgiven." Now while this is the proper answer you will also hear things like "tudo bem" (everything is well) which we learned in lesson 4 and "não se preocupe" (don't worry about it). Let's look a little bit closer at "Não se preocupe." The first word, "não" we've already talked about and it means "no." The next word, "se" doesn't really exist in English but it kind of means "yourself." The last word is "preocupe" which means "worry." So altogether we have "Não se preocupe" which means "don't worry about it."

Next, let's take a look at the phrase "Com licença." "Com" literally means "with" and "licença" means "permission." So the phrase "com licença" means "With (your) permission." (the "your" being implied) and is used almost identically to the English, "excuse me..."

This phrase is used when you ask for someone's attention, like when you want to ask the name of the street, you can put "Com licença,..." at the beginning of the phrase. "Com Licença" is also used as a standalone phrase when you need to get by someone. For example, if you are in the supermarket and two women are chatting up a storm and happen to be blocking the aisle, you could say, "com licença" and they would quickly apologize and move out of the way.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Desculpa.	I'm sorry.
Está desculpado.	You are forgiven.

Portuguese

Com licença.

English

Excuse me.

QUICK TIP

One last phrase you should know is "dá licença." Basically "dá licença" has the same meaning as "com licença" with one important exception; "com licença" is a request, "dá licença" is a command. People usually only use "dá licença" when they are irritated or angry so I suggest not using this but if you hear it, it means, "Get out of the way!"



Lesson 11: Smoking? Non Smoking?

Não fumante.

LESSON NOTES

Today we'll cover a little bit of etiquette. In Brazil, less than 20% of the population smokes and when you enter a restaurant it's assumed you don't smoke, or at least you won't in the restaurant. If you want to smoke in a restaurant you'll need to ask for the smoking section which is usually separate from the other tables, but most Brazilians just leave the restaurant and smoke outside. The terms for "non-smoking" and "smoking" are good to learn because signs might be posted in places you won't expect.

"Non-smoking" in Portuguese is "não fumante". The first word "não" means "no" or "non." This is followed by "fumante," which in English is "smoking." And altogether we have "não fumante." Literally this means "non-smoking." And places where you can smoke have signs with the word "fumante."

Speaking of restaurants, most restaurants in Brazil are buffet-style self-service restaurants. There you not only choose whatever you want from the large selection of food but also where you sit so you don't have to need to worry about asking the host for a seat.

Brazilians have also developed their own unique style of the buffett called "rodízio." Rodízio is where waiters come by your table with a sample of what was recently cooked and ask if you want any. You can take as much as you like of whatever is there. The most famous examples of rodízio are the churrascarias or steak houses which I will explain in another lesson and the pizza restaurants. You have got to try the banana pizza with cinnamon and sugar, it's one of my favorites.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Não fumante.	Non smoking.
Fumante.	Smoking.

QUICK TIP

A word to the wise about rodízio is only take what you can eat at the moment. The first time I went to a churrascaria in Brazil they brought out so many pieces of meat and I wanted to try all of them so I took a little bit of everything. Pretty soon I had to grab another plate to hold all the meat and most of it got cold before I could eat it.



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Lesson 12: Table Manners

Essa comida é...

LESSON NOTES

Table manners are a must wherever you go! In this lesson we'll cover some basic table etiquette when sitting down for a meal in Brazil. I've said it before and I'll say it again, Brazilian culture is a food culture and if you want to experience Brazil you start with the food.

Whether you are in a restaurant or in an individual's home the most important thing to remember is to sincerely compliment. As I've said in a previous lesson Brazilian's work very hard at cooking and one of the biggest pitfalls that foreigners encounter is not showing enough gratitude. Even if the food isn't that good the cook almost certainly spent hours trying to make it good so thank them for the effort.

I've already addressed a few ways to compliment someone's food but in this category, the more you know the better!

In Portuguese "This food is...!" is "Essa comida é..." "Essa comida é..." We've already covered each of these words but never together. "Essa comida é..." means "This food is..." something. Well, What is it? Is it great? Is it fantastic? Is it delicious? Interesting? Marvelous? In my experience, it's probably a combination of all of these so let's learn each word so you can describe the food properly.

Let's start with "great" which in Portuguese is "ótimo." Then we have "fantástico" which, in English is, "fantastic." We've already learned "delicious" but let's review it quickly, "deliciosa". Next we have "interessante" which means "interesting." Last we have "maravilhosa" which means "marvelous." This word is often used to describe food in Brazil and doesn't sound patronizing at all. In fact it sounds very grateful. These are typical words used in Brazil to compliment and thank for the food.

Now let's talk about what you do when you eat. In Brazil, there are no fixed phrases that surround food beyond just complimenting it. Some families pray before eating, some don't. Some will wait until everyone has their food before anyone can start eating, others won't. For these kinds of things I suggest paying close attention to what people around you are doing and copy them.

To a Brazilian every weekend and every holiday reason enough for a party and to Brazilians and that means churrasco. Every Brazilian is accustomed to some churrasco on the weekend with friends and family. So, what is churrasco? Basically, it's barbeque done the way it should be, cooking "Picanha" (top sirloin), rump roast, sausage, chicken wings, garlic bread, and family for hours, that's churrasco. Brazilians never miss a good churrasco.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Essa comida é...	This food is...

VOCABULARY

Portuguese	English
ótimo	great
fantástico	fantastic
deliciosa	delicious
interessante	interesting
maravilhosa	marvelous

QUICK TIP

Also scattered throughout Brazil are churrascarias which are "all you can eat steak houses." Following the rodízio format I explained in a previous lesson you pay a certain amount per person and eat as much as you want of whatever meat they bring to you along with a "salad bar" that has way more stuff than any salad bar I've ever seen in the United States. The price of a good Churrascaria varies from R\$20- R\$40 per person which is about \$10 to \$20. But the best churrascaria I've ever been to was in Gurupi, Tocantins and was R\$12 or \$6.



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Lesson 13: Delicious! Tasty!

Que comida deliciosa.

LESSON NOTES

In Brazilian culture, when you go out to eat in a group, each person pays their own way. Some exceptions do exist like employer sponsored meals, but unless you've been told otherwise, plan on paying for what you eat.

When you are in a public setting like a restaurant there aren't any special rituals or prayers or sayings that happen before or after you eat. That said, Brazilian culture is a food culture and phrases like "Que comida deliciosa!" or "Isto é muito gostoso!" will fill the air.

Let's look at these two phrases. First we'll look at "que comida deliciosa" This phrase means "What delicious food."

The second phrase is "Isto é muito gostoso." This phrase means "This is very tasty." The first two words are "isto é" and they mean "this is." The next word is "muito" and it means "very." We talked about it in the lesson on "Thank you" so let's review it right now. The last word is "gostoso" and it means "tasty" but it can have many other meanings. For example, fleece coats are often described as "gostoso" because they're so soft. Altogether we have, "Isto é muito gostoso." Literally this means, "This is very tasty."

Brazil has many different regions and in each region food is prepared differently.

The simple, normal, everyday meal consists of rice, beans, salad, some kind of vegetable and a piece of meat. The food is always fresh so it needs to be washed, cut, seasoned and lastly cooked which takes anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour and 45 min.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Que comida deliciosa.	What delicious food.
Isto é muito gostoso.	This is very tasty.

QUICK TIP

The most important meal in a Brazilian's day is lunch. Dinner is usually more like a snack to keep you from getting hungry before bed like a banana and some tea or milk and a piece of cake. Leftovers from lunch are eaten for dinner also so that nothing is wasted and lunch can be made fresh the next day.



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Lesson 14: Counting 1 - 10

zero



LESSON NOTES

This lesson is very straightforward, as we're going to cover counting zero through ten. Let's jump right in.

0 zero

1 um, uma

2 dois, duas

3 três

4 quatro

5 cinco

6 seis

7 sete

8 oito

9 nove

10 dez

Counting things in Portuguese is very straightforward as the number is followed by the item, just like English. For example, "one person" is "uma pessoa." The number "uma" comes first followed by the item, in this case "pessoa." In Portuguese nouns have singular and plural forms. Therefore, if there are "two people" it becomes "duas pessoas." Just put an "s" at the end.

As I explained in a previous lesson, Portuguese nouns also have gender. For example, the word for person, "pessoa" is feminine. That means that the feminine form of the number two, "duas", has to be used. "Dois pessoas" is wrong and very harsh on the ears.

VOCABULARY

Portuguese	English
zero	zero
um, uma	one
dois, duas	two
três	three
quatro	four
cinco	five
seis	six
sete	seven
oito	eight
nove	nine
dez	ten

QUICK TIP

Another important word to know is "meia" which means "six." It isn't actually a number but it always means six. This word references to the term "meia-dúzia." which literally means "half a dozen" or six. The word "meia" means "half" and the word "dúzia" means "dozen" and over time the word "meia" has come to mean simply "six" in everyday conversation, like telephone numbers.



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Lesson 15: Counting 11 - 100 onze



LESSON NOTES

Today we're going to continue counting as we cover 11-100.

Let's just quickly review 0-10.

0 zero

1 um, uma

2 dois, duas

3 três

4 quatro

5 cinco

6 seis

7 sete

8 oito

9 nove

10 dez

In Portuguese counting from 11-20 is also very straightforward so let's jump right in.

11 onze

12 doze

13 treze

14 catorze

15 quinze

16 dezesseis

17 dezesete

18 dezoito

19 dezenove

20 vinte

A quick tip about numbers in Portuguese is to say the numbers one at a time. If you were born in 1984, for example, just say "um nove oito quatro." which is literally "one nine eight four." This is not the correct way to say years in Portuguese but it is understandable. In English we often group numbers together as we say them like "nineteen" and then "eighty four." Grouping numbers like this makes sense in English but not in Portuguese. Just say the numbers slowly one at a time and you'll avoid probably 75% (seventy five per cent) of the number-related problems I had while I worked as an assistant to a finance secretary.

So here are all the numbers from 30 to 100

30 trinta

40 quarenta

50 cinquenta

60 sessenta

70 setenta

80 oitenta

90 noventa

Finally we have the number for 100, "cem."

Numbers from 21 to 99 are formed by combining these two lessons. For example, you say "twenty" in Portuguese which is "vinte" followed by the Portuguese word for "and" which is "e." Then you say "three" which in Portuguese is "três." So you put it all together and get "vinte" "e" "três". This literally means "twenty and three" or "twenty three."

VOCABULARY

Portuguese	English
onze	eleven
doze	twelve
treze	thirteen
catorze	fourteen
quinze	fifteen
dezesesseis	sixteen
dezesete	seventeen
dezoito	eighteen

Portuguese	English
dezenove	nineteen
vinte	twenty
trinta	thirty
quarenta	forty
cinquenta	fifty
sessenta	sixty
setenta	seventy
oitenta	eighty
noventa	ninety
cem	hundred



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Lesson 16: Currency

Real



LESSON NOTES

In Brazil the currency is the "Real" (or "Reais" when plural). Its monetary symbol is a capital R followed by \$. Paper denominations range from R\$1 to R\$100. As of Jan. 1, 2009 the exchange rate was roughly R\$2.20 to one US dollar or \$0.45 US cents to 1 Brazilian Real. Put simply, just divide the Reais price by two and you get the dollar price. Brazilian coins are called "centavos" and run in denominations from R\$0.05, R\$0.10, R\$0.25, R\$0.50, and R\$1.00 coins.

The first thing you'll recognize about the Real is that it is very colorful. Every bill is a different color and most have more than one color on them. For example, the R\$20 bill is bright yellow with red and brown accents and a light yellow background. I've heard many Americans describe it as looking like Monopoly money.

Like most currencies the bills have many unique images and designs. I'm going to give a quick overview of what is on most of the bills and coins.

The um centavo coin is rarely used and even though it was discontinued in 2005 some are still in circulation. Coins are said simply with the number value then the word "centavos." All Brazilian coins have a large number indicating their value with the word "centavos" underneath. The "southern cross," is also on the front of all Brazilian coins. The "Southern Cross" is a star constellation and is important in Brazilian culture, history, and religion. Bills are spoken similarly with the number then the word "real." "um real" or "reais" if the number is more than one, for example "dois reais."

So, on the back of the cinco centavos coin is a picture of Pedro Alves Cabral the navigator who discovered Brazil. The dez centavos coin has a picture of Emperor Pedro I, the first monarch of Brazil. The vinte e cinco centavos coin has a picture of Field Marshall Manuel Deodoro da Fonseca, Brazil's first republican president.

The cinquenta centavos coin has a picture of José Maria da Silva Paranhos Júnior, Brazil's most influential minister of foreign affairs.

The um Real coin has a brass colored ring on the outside and a silver colored circle inside. The inside has the "Effigy of the Republic" which is the symbol of the republic to the Brazilians.

On the front of all bills is the same "Effigy of the Republic" and a large number showing the value of that bill.

The um Real bill is green with the picture of a humming bird on the back.

The dois reais bill is blue with the picture of a turtle on the back.

The cinco reais bill is a kind of pinkish purple with an Egret on the back.

The dez reais bill is red and has a Green-winged Macaw, on the back.

The vinte reais bill is yellow, as I described above, has a Golden Lion Tamarin, a type of monkey, on the back.

The the cinquenta reais bill is a shade of light orange with the picture of a jaguar on the back.

Last we have the cem reais bill. It is very rare and you probably won't see one unless you exchange a LOT of money or stay in Brazil for an exceptionally long period of time. It is a light blue color like tropical ocean water and has a fish called a "Dusky Grouper" on the back.

There is also a special dez reais bill that feels like plastic when you touch it and it is a mixture of orange blue and red. It has Pedro Alvares Cabral on the front and a bright red transparent circle on the side.

That was a lot of information I just ran through and I hope you caught all of it. Now you have a better idea about Brazilian money and hopefully you've gotten an idea of about how much you'll be spending by going through these lessons.

Now, with that understanding how much money should you actually carry around with you? That's a hard question because it depends on what you will do. While I lived in Brazil I rarely had more than R\$50 with me. But if you are going to be taking the taxi a lot or buying lots of stuff from street vendors you will need more. I would suggest at least R\$100 maybe even R\$200 in your wallet or somewhere on you that you can have access to.

One tip is to not have on you or use debit cards while your are in Brazil. Use credit cards instead. Two reasons, if your credit card gets stolen, it isn't your money that will be lost, it's the bank's. And you can call and cancel it within 15 min of it being stolen and debit cards typically take much longer. Also, most credit cards (in my experience) won't charge you each time you make a purchase and debit cards will, usually about 5% of the money exchanged. So, bring cash with you, exchange it, and any time you need to use cash use the cash you've exchanged but if you can use a card, use it and use a credit card not a debit card.

VOCABULARY

Portuguese	English
Real	Brazilian currency unit
Reais	Plural of Real

QUICK TIP

A Big Mac meal costs about R\$10.00 or \$4.53. but in Brazil you can get a lot more food and better food for about the same price and any "self-service" restaurant. Another nice tidbit of information is that in Brazil very few places have sales tax. The price you see is the price you pay.



Lesson 17: How Much?

Quanto custa?

LESSON NOTES

This lesson covers a phrase for all you shoppers out there. Today, we'll look at the phrase "How much does it cost?" You can use this phrase at the market, at the restaurant, on the bus, at your hotel, on the beach, and many other places. You know, depending on your shopping habits, this may just be the most useful phrase we cover!

In Brazil "How much does it cost?" is "Quanto custa?" Let's look at the first word, "quanto." "Quanto" means "how much" in English and is used for amounts like price, size, and time. Then we have "custa" which means "cost." In daily life, this word is almost exclusively for money and prices.

So, altogether we have, "Quanto custa." which literally means "How much does it cost?"

Context is very important in Portuguese. So, if you are looking at a shirt, and you ask "Quanto custa?" the salesman will understand by context that you are asking about the shirt. You don't need to be specific or say "How much is this?" He knows what you're talking about.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Quanto custa?	How much does it cost?

QUICK TIP

I'm married so at one time I needed to get an engagement ring. I looked around a lot in the United States but soon realized I could get one for much cheaper in Brazil. So, on a trip to Brazil I went to a market and visited several jewelry shops. I have very pale skin so the vendor immediately identified me as American and in their mind, rich. This isn't true. I would look at rings and ask "Quanto custa?" and they would give some extremely high price. One place tried to charge me \$1000 for a simple gold ring. Needless to say, I went to quite a few shops. Finally, I found one that would make the kind of ring I wanted but still keep the price within reason. So much within reason that I bought my wedding ring from the same store, both of them for less than \$400.



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Lesson 18: The Internet

Por favor, um computador com internet por 30 minutos.

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll learn about a place crucial to your travels in this modern age: the internet café! In Brazil, there are two types of internet cafés. The first is a "LAN House." These are the cafés that are usually dark and filled with teenagers playing games over the internet. They yell and scream when they kill something and that's OK at a "LAN House." The trade off is that these are the most common, 1 every 5 blocks or so, and usually the cheapest, somewhere around R \$3.00 per hour which is about \$1.50. "Cyber café" is more along the lines of what we usually think of as an "internet café." Usually it's a kind of book shop mixed with a coffee shop and the cheapest one I ever found was R\$5.00 an hour and I have paid R\$12.50 per hour. The term "Cyber Café" was borrowed from English and as you can tell is pronounced pretty similarly to the English. There are many "Cyber Cafés" and "LAN Houses" located throughout the cities, so finding one shouldn't be a problem! However, so that things go smoothly once inside, let's go through the the internet cafe experience step by step.

In Brazil, when you walk into the "Cyber Café" or "LAN House" the reception desk is usually near the door. The most universal phrase you can use is, "Please, one computer with internet for 30 minutes." In Portuguese this phrase is, "Por favor, um computador com internet por 30 minutos." The first word "Por favor" you already know. The second word is "um" which is the number "one." Then we have the word "computador" which means "computer." The next word "com" means "with." Then next word "internet" is another borrowed word from English and means, obviously, "internet." So, thus far we have "Por favor, um computador com internet." which in English means "Please a computer with internet." It's important to ask for the internet because some computers might not have it. This is followed by the phrase "por 30 minutos." The first word here is "por" and it means "for." The next word is "trinta" which we learned in our lesson on numbers as the number "30." Then we have "minutos," which in Portuguese is "minutes." So all together we have "Por favor, um computador com internet por 30 minutos." Literally this means "Please, one computer with internet for 30 minutes."

The most common system is that you pay at the desk before you use the computer. So you pay for 30 min and they assign you a computer and you sit there and use it. They have a program that controls the computer and after those 30 minutes are up the computer will "pause" and you'll either have to pay more to continue or just get up and leave. Remember to say "obrigado" and smile when you leave.

For all you laptop-packing world trekkers out there, WIFI isn't very common in Brazil so don't count on it. I stayed at a 5 star hotel in Foz de Iguaçu a few years ago which is a HUGE international tourist destination and even they just had a hard wired network cable. It was pretty fast internet, probably about 7 MB, but no WIFI.

And finally there is one more phrase that might prove useful:

"Password and username please." In Portuguese "Password and username please." is "Senha e nome do usuário, por favor." The first word "Senha" means "Password." This is followed by "e," which in English is "and."

Next we have "Nome" which means "name." Then we have "do" which means "of the." This is followed by "usuário" which in English means "user." Then we have the word "Por favor" which we have already learned.

So all together we have "Senha e nome do usuário, por favor." Literally this means "Password and username please." These words are important to know even if you never say or hear them because if you use an internet café, you are going to need to read them so you can know what information to put into the blank field on the screen.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Por favor, um computador com internet por 30 minutos.	Please, one computer with internet for 30 minutes.
Senha e nome do usuário, por favor.	Password and username please.



Lesson 19: Riding the Bus 1

Esse ônibus passa em Copacabana?

LESSON NOTES

The bus is an important means of transportation. However, before you get on the bus you probably want to confirm if the bus is going to your destination. We can accomplish this by asking "Will this bus go to..." and then add your destination. In Brazil, the best way to get somewhere is to ask about landmarks near where you want to go. Let's say your hotel is on Copacabana beach so we'll use Copacabana beach as our landmark.

So in Portuguese "Will this bus go to Copacabana?" is "Esse ônibus passa em Copacabana?" The first word "esse" means "that." This is followed by "ônibus," which in Portuguese is "bus." The next word "passa" means "pass" or "pass by." Next we have "em" which means "in." Then you just plug in your destination; Copacabana. So all together we have "Esse ônibus passa em Copacabana?" Literally this means "This bus passes by Copacabana?" Since it is a question always remember that you need to raise your voice at the end of the sentence. "Esse ônibus passa em Copacabana?"

These first two words, "esse ônibus," (this bus) can often be left out because of the context. If you say, "Passa em Copacabana?" (Are you going by Copacabana?) the "esse ônibus" part is understood.

Once you have the right bus there are a few things you need to know about riding the bus:

- 1) When do you pay? Usually there are two employees on the bus. The driver and the "cobrador" or cashier. The "cobrador" will be in a raised seat about 15 ft back from the front door. You pay him when you cross to the rear part of the bus.
- 2) How much is it? Prices depend on distance to travel and where you are. I've seen prices anywhere from 50 centavos up to R\$4 reais but the average fare is between R\$1 and R\$2 reais. Remember that all tickets are one-way.
- 3) How do you get off? There is always at least two cords or ropes of some kind inside the bus on each side. If you see your stop approaching you just pull that cord which sends a signal to the driver to pull over at the next stop.

PHRASES

Portuguese

Esse ônibus passa em Copacabana?

English

Will this bus go to Copacabana?

QUICK TIP

Many cities in Brazil, but not all, have what is called "o terminal." This means the terminal or end stop on a route and is where you get off but some are special. These special terminals are more like changing stations than actual stop points. You do have to get off the bus but you can get on another one for free.

For example, you live in Várzea Grande about 30 min outside of Cuiabá which is the capital of Mato Grosso, a Brazilian state that borders Bolivia. You need to get to the far side of Cuiabá about 25 miles away. Normally you would have to pay for and get on and off of 4 or five buses to get there at a cost of about R\$8.00 each way. Then you remember that both Várzea Grande and Cuiabá have "o terminal." So, you ask the bus that pulls up, "Esse ônibus passa em o terminal?" They respond, "Sim" and you board the bus and pay the R\$1.60 ticket. You arrive at the terminal and change to a bus going to the Cuiabá terminal, without paying for a new ticket. Then you arrive at the Cuiabá terminal, change buses to one of the other terminals closer to your final destination, once again not paying for a new ticket. Then you arrive at the next "o terminal" and change buses again to your destination, again, not paying for a new ticket. So, you've arrived at your destination for R\$1.60 instead of R\$8.

The trade off is that going from terminal to terminal is slower, anywhere from 10 min to one personal case of 3 hours slower. But you saved yourself a total of R\$6.40 one way. If you did the same thing on the way back you'd save over R\$13 and that's a decent meal at a restaurant.



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Lesson 20: Riding The Bus 2

Por favor, você pode me falar quando chegar até o Banco Central?

LESSON NOTES

Once on the bus, the only clues you get about when to get off are visual; buildings, street lights, shopping malls, beaches, landmarks, etc. Road signs are few and far between so you can't use them and you will go by literally hundreds of stops that all look exactly the same, do not have names, and have no distinguishing marks. That means that unless you are familiar with your destination, you'll probably miss it. You need to know the terrain...or ask for help.

In this lesson we will learn exactly how to ask for help with the phrase "Could you tell me when we arrive at the...". Only two people on that bus know all the stops on that route: the driver, and the cobrador. Since the driver is busy taking you to your destination I would suggest not asking him. That leaves the cobrador.

So, here we go! A quick trip to the Banco Central or Central Bank in Brasília.

In Portuguese, "Please, could you tell me when we arrive at the Central Bank?" is "Por favor, você poderia me falar quando chegar até o Banco Central?" The first part, "Por favor, você poderia..." you'll hear over and over in these lessons. It is the standard and courteous way of requesting something. The next word is "me". Not surprisingly "me" in Portuguese means "me" in English, too! The next word "falar" means "speak" or "tell." This is followed by "quando," which in English is "when." So we have the request phrase "Por favor, você poderia..." followed by "me falar quando." This means "Please, could you tell me when..." Let's take a look at the next word "chegar." which means "arrive." The next word in the phrase is "até". In English "até" means "until." The last part of this phrase is the name of your destination, in this case "o Banco Central." You can substitute this with the name of any other location or destination. So all together we have "Por favor, você pode me falar quando chegar até o Banco Central?" Literally this translates to "By favor, could you me tell when arrive until the Central Bank?" As you can see word order in Portuguese is a bit different from English but don't worry about that, in Portuguese this is very intelligent and polite. This phrase means "Please, could you tell me when we arrive at the Central Bank?"

PHRASES

Portuguese

Por favor, você pode me falar quando chegar até o Banco Central?

English

Please, can you tell me when we arrive at the central bank?

QUICK TIP

A scary thing happened to my wife while she was in Rio de Janeiro.

One afternoon, she got on an over full bus going toward Copacabana on her way back home. On the bus was a French family, father mother and two children. They looked completely lost and didn't know when to get off. They were in the back of the bus close to the exit door and the father moved forward to the front of the bus to ask the cobrador something. Only problem was that the Frenchman didn't speak Portuguese nor had he used Survivalphrases.com because the cobrador didn't understand a thing. The Frenchman yelled something in French back to his wife and children. Someone gave the signal that they wanted to get off the bus and when the bus stopped the mother and children got off the bus with the father still inside. The bus was too full for him to get to the back door in time and the bus started moving again. The father started yelling something at the driver, I presume something like "STOP!" The mother and children ran after the bus thinking it would stop but it didn't. At the next stop the Frenchman got off and as the bus drove away my wife saw them reunite.

This story illustrates a few important points. First, a little bit of language goes a long way. Second, buses in Brazil can only stop at bus stops. By law they are not allowed to stop anywhere else so don't ask. Third, it is very difficult to move around inside a bus when it is full. This should be obvious but remember to think ahead. When your stop is coming get to the back of the bus early. It's better to stand around a bit than miss your stop. Fourth, most bus stops in Brazil are not that far apart. The French family was able to walk to each other rather quickly. On a typical route the bus will stop about every 800 meters so even if you miss your stop you can usually walk back quickly.



Lesson 21: Riding the Bus 3

Uma passagem para Fortaleza por favor.

LESSON NOTES

When traveling long distances in Brazil, buses can be a cheap way of getting there. In today's lesson we're going to work on getting a ticket to Fortaleza. This city is located in the northeast part of Brazil and is well known for its beaches.

In Portuguese "A ticket to Fortaleza please." is "Uma passagem para Fortaleza por favor." The first word "Uma" is the feminine form of the number "one." This is followed by "passagem," which in English is "ticket". Note the similarity to the English word "passage." Next we have "para" which means "to." So to recap here, we have "uma passagem para." Literally this means "One ticket to..." and then you just plug in the destination, Fortaleza. Let's take a look at the last term "por favor" which means "Please." So all together we have "Uma passagem para Fortaleza, por favor." Literally this means "One ticket to Fortaleza, please."

Now if you want to buy more than one ticket, for example 2 tickets, you can accomplish this by saying "Duas passagens para Fortaleza por favor." Notice that only two things happen. We substitute the number "duas" for "uma" and make "passagem" plural "passagens." From there on all you do is change the number, "duas" for "trez" or "dezesete" or "trinta."

Now you also might need to ask "How much is it to Fortaleza?" So, we use the same phrase we learned in lesson 6, "Quanto custa." In Portuguese this is really simple because you just put the "Quanto custa?" phrase together with the phrase we just learned, "Uma passagem para Fortaleza, por favor." and the whole phrase becomes "Quanto custa uma passagem para Fortaleza, por favor?" Now you should be aware that word order is more fluid in Portuguese than English. For example you could reorder these phrases to, "Por favor, uma passagem para Fortaleza, quanto custa?" These two phrases have exactly the same meaning in Portuguese.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Uma passagem para Fortaleza por favor.	A ticket to Fortaleza please.
Quanto custa uma passagem para Fortaleza, por favor?	How much is it to Fortaleza?

QUICK TIP

Long distance bus trips in Brazil are typically uncomfortable you rarely have control over where you sit or who sits next to you as the seats are assigned. the following is a list of tips for making that trip as pleasant as it can be.

First, I usually wear comfortable clothes and shoes and I bring an extra pair of socks in my carry on.

Second, it's hot in Brazil so they turn on the air conditioning (if they have it) which is nice during the day but if your trip happens at night the air conditioning is typically still on full blast and it can get very, very cold. That's why I always take a blanket with me on the bus.

Third, there are little TVs and they show films but they will be in Portuguese. These films are great ways to learn more Portuguese because they are often dubbed Hollywood films you've probably seen.

Fourth, the bus stops about every 4 hours for about 10-20 min to refuel and pick up new passengers. You are allowed to walk around outside and I suggest buying food at the little shops and bakeries that are close by.

Fifth, be back in time because the bus will not wait for you.

Sixth, whenever I travel I bring something for me to do, read a book, listen to music, etc. But be careful not to leave any valuables as you exit the bus. The large crowds and high traffic makes recovery of any valuables very improbable.



Lesson 22: Riding the Lotação

Quanto custa para Taguatinga?

LESSON NOTES

In Brazil riding the bus is one of the best ways to get around both locally and long-distance. However, there is another mode of transportation that, if used properly can save you lots of time and money. Depending on the region of the country you're in, the name changes so let's assume you're in Brasília where it's called "lotação."

Let's set up the situation. You're at the bus stop in Brasília, the bus you want to take hasn't shown up when a large van pulls up, the side door opens and a man starts shouting something you don't understand but you catch the name of your destination, Taguatinga. What is going on?

These vans are the "lotação" I mentioned earlier. They are independent local companies that act as auxiliaries to the buses. They are similar modes of transport but they have different rules. For example, the guy shouting is the cobrador just like in the buses. You pay him to get on.

So, you hear him shout your destination. What do you do? You should ask him how much it is to your destination, in our situation Taguatinga. You ask this by saying "Quanto custa para Taguatinga?" This is a great phrase for both the bus and these vans. We've already learned the first two words in the lesson on "How much." These words are "quanto" and "custa." These words together mean "How much does it cost?" The next word "para" means "to". Then we just add on our destination, "Taguatinga." So all together we have "Quanto custa para Taguatinga?" Literally this means "How much does it cost to Taguatinga?"

Now, you've found the right van, found out how much to pay, and are now on your way but, how do you get off? There's no cord like on the buses.

There is a simple phrase you say to the "cobrador" that will get you off at the next stop. "Próxima parada" which means "next stop." The first word is "próxima" which in Portuguese is "next." The next word is "parada" which means "stop." So all together we have "Próxima parada." Literally this means "Next stop."

A quick note about this phrase is that it will change from region to region and even from person to person. You might hear "Próxima desce" which means "I will get off at the next stop" or "próximo ponto" which means "next point" (in the sense of the next stopping point) or sometimes they shorten the phrase and it becomes "próxima" or even just "próx" which means "next." But they all mean the same thing, "Let me out at the next stop."

In Brazil there are a many of modes of transportation both public and private and every state will be a little different. In Brasília for example, you can catch a bus, these lotação, metro, taxi, and even a carona. "Carona" means to get a ride with someone for free. Or in São Paulo, a very large city, you can find all of these plus a moto-taxi which is just like a taxi service except you will be on a motor bike instead of a car. Electric buses, helicopters (if you have that kind of money), and a random mixture of several other things.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Quanto custa para Taguatinga?	How much to Taguatinga?
Próxima parrada.	Next stop.

QUICK TIP

In São Paulo the fastest way anywhere is the Moto-taxi. The main reason why these are so fast is that these motor bikes drive between the lanes of traffic, and they do it a lot. Since they do that in Brazil the police can't really pull them over because the traffic is too thick and the Moto-taxi drivers are always at full throttle. Now I won't recommend taking moto-taxi because the obvious...health risks but lots of people in Brazil do it. So, it must work at least some of the time.



Lesson 23: Taking a Taxi Ao Cristo Redentor.

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll cover a phrase used to get you to your destination when taking a taxi. We'll look at the most basic way to express this, which is the word "to" followed by a destination. In today's lesson we'll use "O Cristo Redentor" in Rio de Janeiro. This means "Christ the Redeemer." This location is known for the enormous statue of Jesus Christ that can be seen from any point within the city. So now let's go over what to say to the taxi driver to get there.

In Portuguese "to the Cristo Redentor" is "ao Cristo Redentor." Portuguese has two words for the English word "to." The first word we have is "a" which means "to." We've already learned the word "para" means "to" but "para" has a permanency feeling so "para o Cristo Redentor" has a connotation that you will be staying there for a long time, like months. The word "a" also means "to" but it doesn't have the permanency feeling. So, "ao Cristo Redentor" means you are going just for today. Next we have our destination, "o Cristo Redentor."

This is the most basic way of expressing where you would like to go. Well, actually just saying your desired destination should work, but speaking the local language is one of the most fun things you can do on your travels. So let's go over another option!

You can also say, "I would like to go to Cristo Redentor", which in Portuguese is "Eu gostaria de ir ao Cristo Redentor." Let's take a look at the components. The first word "eu" means "I." This is followed by "gostaria de" which is actually two words but we'll learn them together. "gostaria de" means "would like." Next we have "ir" which means "to go." So to recap here, we have "eu gostaria de ir." Literally this means "I would like to go." Then you just add on our phrase, "ao Cristo Redentor." So all together we have "Eu gostaria de ir ao Cristo Redentor." Which means "I would like to go to Cristo Redentor."

In Brazil, you aren't required to tip the driver but tips are accepted. Typically the tip isn't very large, R\$2-5 reais but if you liked the driver you tip according to your gratitude.

One more helpful phrase when taking a taxi is "Here is fine." This phrase will allow you to get out of the taxi whenever and wherever you want. In Portuguese "Here is fine." is "Aqui está bem." The first word "aqui" means "here." The next word is "está" which means "is." Last we have "bem" which is the same word from "tudo bem" and literally means "well." This word sounds a lot like the word "bang" in English except you don't put the "g" sound at the end. So altogether we have "aqui está bem" which means "Here is fine."

PHRASES

Portuguese

Ao Cristo Redentor.

Eu gostaria de ir ao Cristo Redentor.

English

To Cristo Redentor.

I would like to go to Cristo Redentor.

QUICK TIP

I remember a time when I was going to a large bus station in Brasília where a friend of mine was waiting for me. I wasn't sure exactly where he was at the bus station so I just told the taxi driver "rodoviária, por favor." "Rodoviária" was the name of that particular bus station. We stopped at a light a little before the bus station and I saw my friend so I checked the meter in the front seat and it said R\$48.63. I pulled out a R\$50 bill, said "Aqui está bem." handed him the bill and got out. I did it fast enough to get to the sidewalk before traffic started again and went on with my day.



Lesson 24: Where Can I Get...?

Onde posso comprar roupas?

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll introduce you to a phrase that will help you track down that specific something you're looking for. Today's phrase is "Where can I buy something." First we need a something, so let's use the word "roupas" which means clothes.

In Portuguese, "Where can I buy clothes?" is "Onde posso comprar roupas?" The first word "onde" means "where." This is followed by "posso" which in English is "I can." So to recap here, we have "Onde posso." Literally this means "Where can I." Let's take a look at the next word "comprar" which means "buy." The last word we have is the "something" you want to buy which in our case is "roupas." So all together we have "Onde posso comprar roupas?" Literally this means "Where can I buy clothes?"

Now to ask for a different item we can just replace the word "roupas" with the new term. Let's try "açai smoothie", which in Portuguese is "açai na tijela." So our phrase becomes "Onde posso comprar açai na tijela?" The only thing that changes is the thing you are looking for. In this case the "açai na tijela." Let's take a look at the components. First we have "açai" which is the natives' name for this fruit. Most Americans have heard of it and I highly suggest eating it while in Brazil because it's one of my favorite foods. And one time fast, "açai." Next we have "na" which means "in the." And last we have "tijela." which means "bowl." And altogether we have "açai na tijela." Literally this means "açai in the bowl" or "açai smoothie."

This phrase will come in handy before leaving the hotel, talking with taxi drivers, or other people trying help you locate a desired item. Now that you're able to ask, you're going to get an answer...as we're running out of time for today we're going to cover that in a later lesson.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Onde posso comprar roupas?	Where can I buy clothes?



Lesson 25: How Do You Say This In Portuguese?

Como se diz

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll introduce you to a phrase that will provide you with the tools to learn from the people around. Now, a dictionary is a great idea, but don't forget that you can use Portuguese to learn in a more fun and interactive way. For today's lesson we're going to need a word, as we're going to cover "How do you say 'something' in Portuguese?" For today's lesson, let's use "shoe" for that something.

In Portuguese "How do you say shoe in Portuguese?" is "Como se diz 'shoe' em português?" The first word "como" means "how." This is followed by "se diz" which in Portuguese is "say." These are actually two words but it's better to learn them together. So to recap here, we have "como se diz." Literally this means "how do you say". Then you insert your "something" which in our case is "shoe." The second half of our phrase starts with "em." This word means "in." The last word we have is "português." This is how you say "Portuguese" in Portuguese. So all together we have "Como se diz 'shoe' em português." Literally this means "How do you say 'shoe' in Portuguese."

Now this is only useful if the person you are talking to actually knows English. What if no one else speaks English? You can use the next expression without any English. "How do you say 'this' in Portuguese?" In Portuguese this is "Como se diz isto em português?" These two phrases are almost identical. You just change the "shoe" for the word "this." The first phrase is used when you are asking someone who speaks English. The second phrase is for when you are feeling courageous or there are no English speakers around. The "isto" depends on context and usually refers to something you're pointing at or holding.

So all together we have "Como se diz isto em português?" Literally this means "How do you say this in Portuguese?"

To ask how to say "How do you say that in Portuguese?" Simply substitute the Portuguese word "isso" for "isto."

This is one of the most frequently used phrases when you are learning a new language.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Como se diz "shoe" em português?	How do you say "shoe" in Portuguese?

QUICK TIP

You could, given enough patience and time learn all of the Portuguese language with only these phrases!



Lesson 26: Write It Down Please

Por favor você poderia escrever isto?

LESSON NOTES

Today's lesson will introduce you to a phrase that will provide you with the tools to learn from the people around. You can use Portuguese to learn in a more fun and interactive way. Today we're going to cover a way for you to hold on to the information you get.

In Portuguese "Please, could you write that down?" is "Por favor, você poderia escrever isto?" The first four words are our base request phrase that we learned in lesson 9 on asking people to speak slower. Let's review this base phrase, "Por favor você poderia..." This means "Please, could you..." The first new word is "escrever" which means "to write." This is followed by "isto" which we have previously covered and means "this." So all together we have "Por favor, você poderia escrever isto?" Literally this means "Please could you write this down?"

Once you have it written down, In Portuguese "Please, could you pronounce this." is "Por favor, você poderia pronunciar isto?" Notice again our request phrase. The first new word here is "pronunciar" which means "pronounce" in English. As you can see there is a formula to these kinds of phrases. First the request phrase, "Por favor, você poderia..." then whatever you want them to do, in this case "pronounce this" "pronunciar isto." Or in our last example "write this" or "escrever isto." So all together we have "Por favor você poderia pronunciar isto?" Literally this means Please could you pronounce this."

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Por favor, você poderia escrever isto?	Please, could you write this down?
Por favor você poderia pronunciar isto?	Please, could you pronounce this.

QUICK TIP

Asking people to write down a phrase for you is a great idea because often you won't understand what the person is trying to say and this is also a great way to learn new words. Maybe their accent is really strong or maybe you just can't understand what they are saying. Seeing the word written down can often give you a clue as to the meaning because many Portuguese words are written similarly to English words, just the pronunciation is different.



Lesson 27: Where Is There A...?

Tem correios por aqui.

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll introduce you to another useful phrase for locating new places. Today's phrase is "Is there a (place) around here?" Let's use a bank as our destination. Now, in Brazil the word for bank is banco and it is a homonym with the word for "bench" (also banco) so when you need a bank usually you use the name of said bank. So let's use the "Bradesco" bank.

In Portuguese "Is there a "Bradesco" around here?" is "Tem Bradesco por aqui?" The first word "tem" means "there is." Next we have our location or the name of our bank, "Bradesco." So to recap here, we have "Tem Bradesco." Literally this means "There is a Bradesco." but if you raise your voice at the end it means, "Is there a Bradesco?" Let's take a look at the next word, "por." This word has several meanings but in this situation it means "around." The last word we have is "aqui" which means "here." "aqui" So all together we have "Tem Bradesco por aqui?" Literally this means "Is there a Bradesco around here?"

Now to ask for a different place, we can just replace the word "Bradesco" with any other word and the phrase works just fine. Let's try "Post office" which in Portuguese is "correios." We don't have the synonym problem here so the generic term "Correios" is fine. So the new phrase is "Tem correios por aqui." The only thing that changes is the thing you are looking for. In this case it's correios.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Tem Bradesco por aqui?	Is there a Bradesco around here?
Tem correios por aqui.	Is there a post office around here?

QUICK TIP

Brazil has many different kinds of banks; national banks, state banks, federal banks, etc. For international travelers Bradesco is usually the best because they have buildings and ATMs everywhere and they either don't charge you to withdraw money or charge very little. The next best one is the HSBC bank which is a huge international bank and very hospitable to foreigners but HSBC is kind of hard to find. It is probably the easiest bank to use because they often have

English speaking employees but there just aren't that many branches in Brazil. Bradesco has ATMs at the almost every mall, outlet store, flea market, post office, and hair salon you'll find. Another bank, Banco 24 Horas is pretty common but they charge very high withdraw fees.

The last bank that has lots of ATMs is the Banco do Brazil. They always have bright yellow signs with blue lettering so you can't miss them but in my experience you kind of hit and miss here. I've had some of my smoothest and also some of my most irritating experiences trying to get money out of a Banco do Brazil ATM.

So, to recap, Bradesco is the best because of availability and services provided. Next we have HSBC, for superior services but kind of hard to find. Then Banco do Brazil for ease of finding them but low probability of you actually getting any money out of them. And lastly Banco 24 Horas because they charge so much.



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A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 28: Directions

Vai reto.

LESSON NOTES

In today's lesson we'll introduce you to directions that will help you find the place you're looking for. Previously we introduced, "Is there a Bradesco near here?" and "Where is there a something?" But while we can now ask, we haven't addressed understanding the answer. Today we're going to work on understanding what is said. So today we'll go over basic directions. First we have, "go straight."

In Portuguese "go straight" is "vai reto." The first word "vai" means "go." This is followed by "reto," which in Portuguese is "straight." So all together we have "vai reto." Literally this means "go straight."

Now we're going to work on turning. Let's try "turn right." In Portuguese, "turn right" is "vira à direita" The first word "vira" means "turn." This is followed by "à" which in Portuguese is "to the." The last word is "direita" which means "right." So altogether we have "Vira à direita" which literally means "turn to the right."

Now "turn left." In Portuguese "turn left" is the same phrase just substitute the word "esquerda" for the word "direita." "Esquerda" means "Left." So altogether we have "Vira à esquerda." which literally means "turn to the left."

So, "turn right" OK, got that. "turn left" OK, got that too. But "turn right" where? How about "at the light?" "At the light" in Portuguese is "no sinal." "No sinal" is actually two words but they go together. So altogether we have "Vira à direita no sinal."

Another place where you could turn is "at the end of the block." "at the end of the block" is "no final da quadra." First we have "no final" which means "at the end." Next we have "da" which means "of the." Last we have "quadra" which means "block." Altogether you have, "no final da quadra." which means "at the end of the block. Then you attach it to our first phrase and you get, "vira à direita no final da quadra."

In Portuguese "It's on the right." is "Está no lado direito." The first word "Está" means "is." This is followed by "no" which in English is "on the." Next we have "lado" which means "side." So to recap here, we have "está no lado" Literally this means "is on the side." Let's take a look at the next word "direito" which means "right." So all together we have "Está no lado direito." Literally this means "It's on the right side." The "it" is inferred.

In Portuguese "It's on the left." is "Está no lado esquerdo." The first word "Está" means "is." This is followed by "no" which in English is "on the." Next we have "lado" which means "side." So to recap here, we have "está no lado". Literally this means "is on the side." Let's take a look at the next word "esquerdo" which means "left." So all together we have "Está no lado esquerdo." Literally this means "It's on the left side." The "it" is still inferred.

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Vai reto.	Go straight.
Vira à direita.	Turn right.
Vira à esquerda.	Turn left.
...no sinal.	...at the lights.
...no final da quadra.	...at the end of the block.

QUICK TIP

Getting lost in a new place isn't fun so you should ask for directions. The problem is that many people in Brazil aren't used to giving directions so they can be quite confusing and even faulty. When you ask someone for directions you should always check if that information is correct by asking a least one more person.

My own experiences of getting directions when I lived in Brazil were often humorous. I lived in three different regions of Brazil and eight different cities, and

I often walked or rode the bus systems alone. Asking directions would not always solve my problem, so one thing I learned to do was carry a map of every city, broken down by neighborhood. These maps are available in every phone book, and always available in hotels. If you have a smartphone, you could probably take a picture of the map to keep with you that way.



Lesson 29: Can You Take My Picture?

Por favor, você poderia tirar uma foto de nós.

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll introduce a phrase that is certain to come in handy for capturing your memories on film. Brazil is full of beautiful scenery, and there are times when you'll want to be in the picture or have everyone in your party in the picture. Therefore, there are times when the question, "Could you take our picture?" will be invaluable!

In Portuguese "Please, could you take our picture?" is "Por favor, você poderia tirar uma foto de nós". The first four words are our fixed request phrase so we won't look at them individually here. The first new word we have is "tirar" which means "to take". This is followed by "uma" which we have covered in our lesson on numbers and it means "one". Next we have "foto" which means "picture" in English. So to recap the new stuff, we have "tirar uma foto" which means "take a picture". The last two words are "de nós". Let's take a look at the first word, "de" which in English means "of". Last we have "nós" which means "us" or "we". So all together we have "tirar uma foto de nós". Literally this means "take a picture of us". The you add our fixed request phrase and we get "Por favor, você poderia tirar uma foto de nós".

When traveling alone, "Please, could you take my picture?", "Por favor, você poderia tirar uma foto de mim." As you can see the only thing that changes is the last word, "mim". Literally this means "me".

In English, before someone takes a picture, the person taking the picture may say, "1, 2, 3. Cheese" In Portuguese before a picture is taken, the person taking the picture will probably do the same thing just in Portuguese. They say, "Um, dois, três, Cheese". The first three words are the numbers "one," "two" and "three" which we covered in a previous lesson. The last word "Cheese" is actually the English word "cheese" spoken with a Brazilian accent. So all together we have "Um, dois, três, Cheese". Literally this means "one, two, three, cheese".

So if you're taking the picture, you'll say this. And if you having your picture taken, you'll hear this!

PHRASES

Portuguese

Por favor, você poderia tirar uma foto de nós.

Por favor, você poderia tirar uma foto de mim

English

Please, could you take our picture?

Please, could you take my picture?

QUICK TIP

When you are visiting a new state or country, everything is new and you don't want to miss anything. There is something grabbing your attention that you don't want to forget. The solution, take pictures!

I will warn you that the typical Brazilian isn't very good at taking pictures. The reality is that while they can afford this new "gear" few have ever been taught how to take a picture. I can't count how many blurred, over exposed, miss-shot, and just bad pictures I have from my years in Brazil.

I don't want to scare you because I do have some very good pictures from my years in Brazil, but you do need to be aware that they may not come out the way you wanted to.



Lesson 30: Can I Take Your Picture?

Posso tirar uma foto sua?

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson we'll introduce a question related to, "Could you take our picture?" which in Portuguese is "Por favor, você poderia tirar uma foto de nós?" There are cases when you may want to take a picture of someone or with someone, but before doing so, you'd like to ask for permission.

In Portuguese "May I take your picture?" is "Posso tirar uma foto sua?" The first word "Posso" means "I can." This is followed by "tirar" which means "to take." Next we have "uma" which means "one." So to recap here, we have "Posso tirar uma". Literally this means "Can I take a..." The next word, "foto" means "picture." The last word is "sua" which means "your." So all together we have "Posso tirar uma foto sua?" Literally this means "Can I take your picture?"

There may also be times when you want to take a picture with someone. In this case, you could ask by saying "May I take a picture with you?", "Posso tirar uma foto contigo?" The first four words are the same as the previous phrase, "Posso tirar uma foto..." Only the last word changes, "contigo." "Contigo" means "with you."

So all together we have "Posso tirar uma foto contigo?" Literally this means "May I take a picture with you?"

And finally, for asking permission to take a picture you can say "Posso tirar uma foto aqui?" which in English is "May I take a picture here?" As you can see the entire phrase is exactly the same except for the last word, "aqui." We've already covered "aqui" in a previous lesson. So all together we have "Posso tirar uma foto aqui?" Literally this means "Can I take a picture here?"

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Posso tirar uma foto sua?	May I take your picture?
Posso tirar uma foto contigo?	May I take a picture with you?
Posso tirar uma foto aqui?	May I take a picture here?

QUICK TIP

The Brazilian people really like it when a foreigner wants to take their picture with them. They always say, "Sim é claro." which means "Yes, of course." Some people might laugh because they are not used to getting their picture taken. When you ask, "Posso tirar uma foto sua?" often they will be embarrassed but a kind smiling face from you and soon they'll be ready and you can take as many pictures as you want. The Brazilian people love to see smiles on people's faces so with a simple, honest smile you can captivate many.

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- ★ Getting the right medicine
- ★ Expressing yourself with adjectives and being understood
- ★ Home visits and proper protocol that will wow hosts
- ★ Getting help, this may be the most useful phrase you ever learn

Finally, thank you again!

If you have a story to share about how Survival Phrases - Brazilian Portuguese helped you with your travels, business, or personal relationships, we would love to hear about it!

Please e-mail us contactus@survivalphrases.com