

























































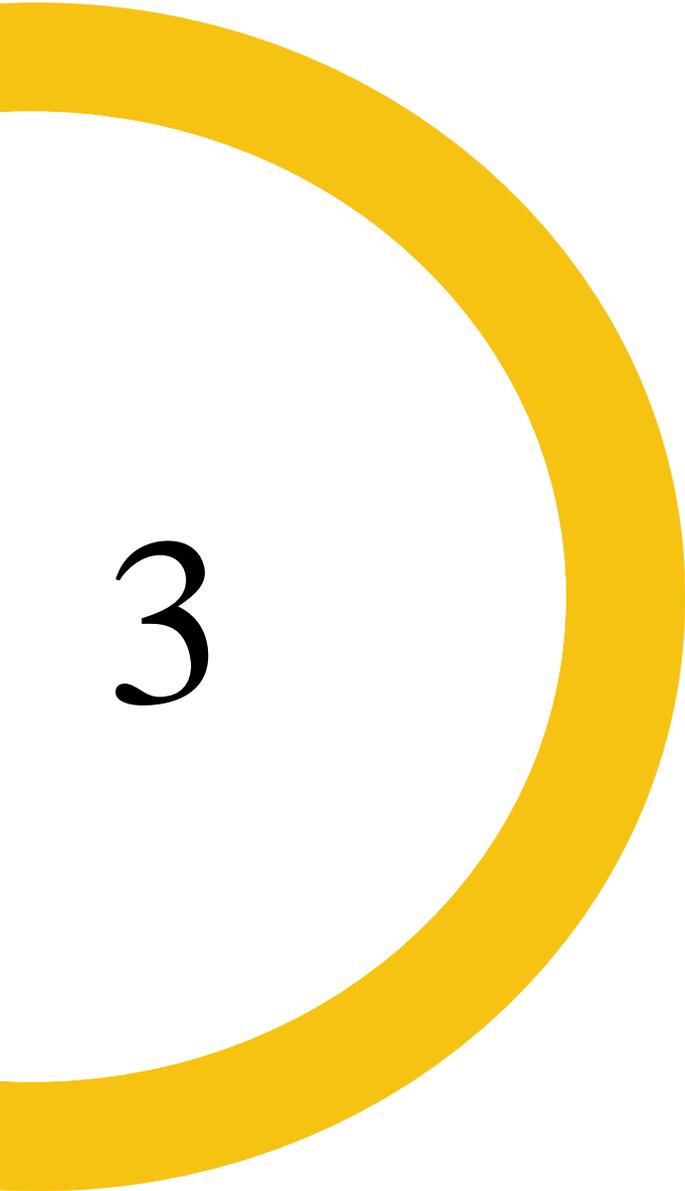




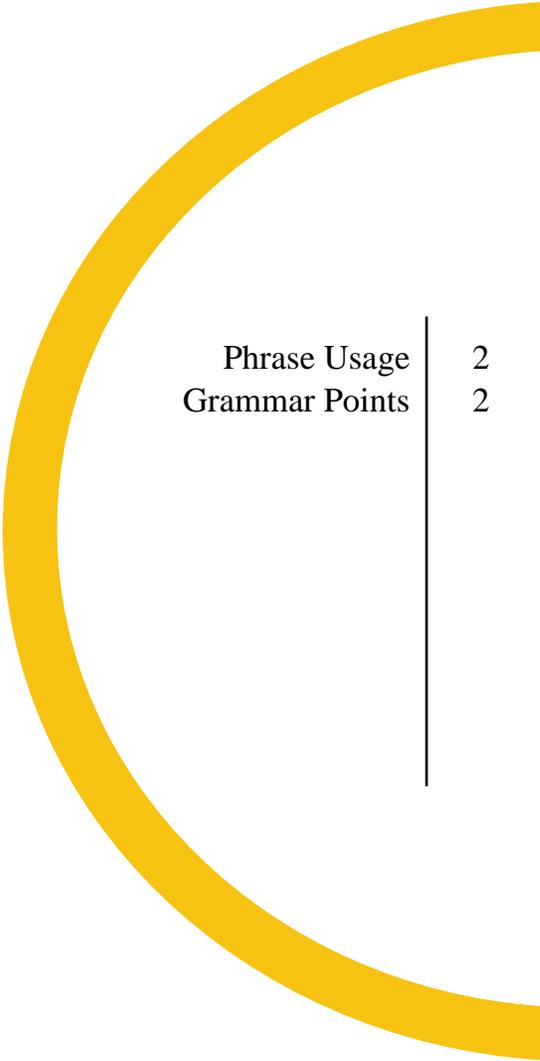




All About  
Painless Portuguese Grammar!

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3

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Phrase Usage	2
Grammar Points	2

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## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

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### Grammar Points

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#### **The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Portuguese Grammar**

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When learning a language, grammar usually chews you up, spits you out, and leaves you to cry in a small corner of the room. The good news is that Portuguese grammar is not the kind you need to spend hours and hours memorizing. In fact, you could master the basics in less than a week!

Portuguese grammar is a lot simpler than you might think. For example, basic word order is so similar to English you probably don't need to study it. We easily sum up some of the more difficult aspects of Portuguese grammar (like gender or subjunctives) in one word: agreement. Everything needs to agree with or match everything else. But we'll talk about that later.

#### **I. History of Grammar**

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We have studied grammar for at least four thousand years. That means, there are many (too many) terms used by grammarians that no one else understands or uses, like paroxytone or present indicative. Almost any four year old can speak their native language fluently without knowing those words, so why should you have to learn them?

In these All About lessons, we are going to avoid all but the most basic grammar words. Introducing complex grammatical concepts in the early stages of language learning actually makes things much more difficult than they need to be.

#### **II. Verbs**

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All languages have verbs, and every language uses those verbs differently. We sometimes call Portuguese verbs strong or heavy verbs because there is so much meaning in just one or two words. That means less vocabulary to learn. Yea!

### Time & Person

Portuguese verbs contain two central meanings: time (also called tense) and person. "Time" (or tense) is past, present, or future. "Person" means who is talking and who is being talked to or about. We express these meanings by altering the verbs according to specific patterns. Time is indicated by changing the verb to a past, present, or future form, and person is indicated by adding on a specific ending.

English verbs change to express time and person as well. For example, time can be expressed as "I was happy" (past), which is different from "I am happy" (present), which is different from "I will be happy" (future). Person can be expressed as "I am happy," which is different from "He is happy," which is different from "We are happy."

### Added Meaning

Portuguese verbs have more meaning in them than English verbs do. For example, the correct response to *Você está indo para a loja?* ("Are you going to the store?") is *Vou* ("go"). *Vou* is the verb *ir* ("to go") changed into the correct time and then to the correct person, "I." *Vou* literally means "go," but because of the increased meaning, this word *vou* practically means "Yes, I am going to the store."

### III. Gender

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Portuguese gender denotes a particular type of agreement among words not people. *Mulher* ("woman") is feminine but so is *mesa* ("table") and *terra* ("earth"). *Homen* ("man") is masculine but so is *sapato* ("shoe") and *livro* ("book"). This may sound strange, but it is very easy to pick up and is kind of fun to play with once you get it down.

English does this too just not as much. For example, we don't say "He is a stewardess," because "stewardess" denotes femininity, and "He" indicates masculinity. Since Portuguese doesn't have gender-neutral forms like "flight attendant," using the correct grammatical gender is very important.

Tables, chairs, cars, trees, socks, and food all have gender in Portuguese. We'll go over this in more detail in future lessons.

### IV. Plural - More Than One?

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Once again, agreement. We already learned that verbs need to be altered or conjugated to the correct person. This number agreement extends to all the articles, demonstratives, pronouns...wait! Too many grammar words! To...all the other words in the sentence. This is done just like in English through

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adding an -s to the end of the words that need to become plural.

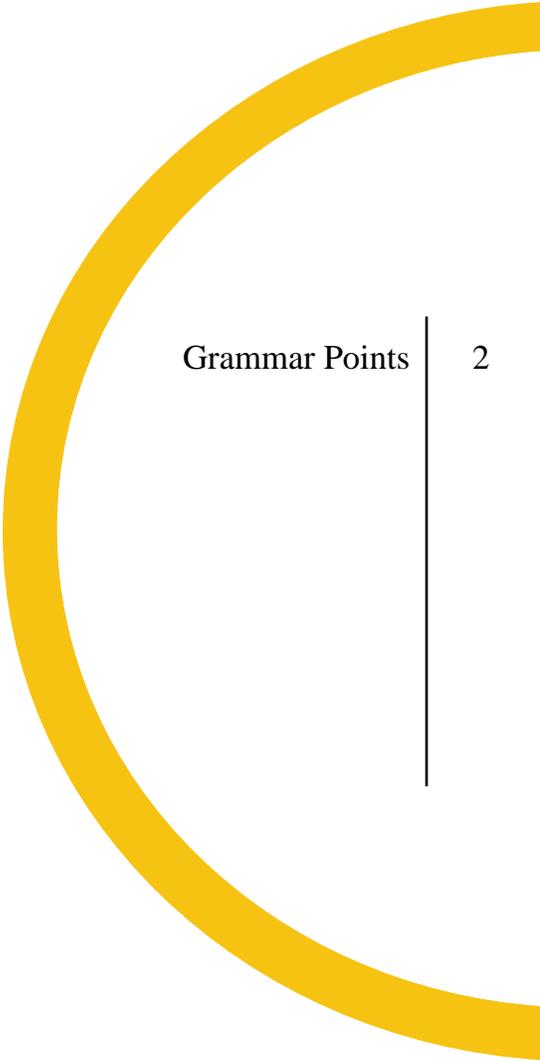


## All About

### Portuguese Pronunciation Made EASY!



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## Grammar Points

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### The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Pronunciation

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Comparatively speaking, Portuguese is an easy language to speak. A few sounds might be difficult, but almost every sound in Portuguese is used every day in English. That means you already know how to say it! Portuguese also follows many of the same intonation patterns as English.

Let's recap the written system quickly just as an introduction to the pronunciation. The Portuguese alphabet is the same as the English alphabet: twenty-six letters with five vowels (-A, -E, -I, -O, and -U).

### The Five Vowels

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#### -A

We pronounce the Portuguese letter -a like the [a] in "father." The word for "car" is *carro*, and the word for "big" is *grande*.

#### -E

We pronounce the Portuguese letter -e like the [e] in "get." The word for "foot" is *pé*, and the word for "she" is *ela*.

#### -I

We pronounce the Portuguese letter -i like the [i] in "ski" or "machine." The word for "list" is *lista*, and the word for "life" is *vida*.

#### -O

We pronounce the Portuguese letter -o similar to the [o] in "hope." The word for "soup" is *sopa*, and the word for "housefly" is *mosca*.

#### -U

We pronounce the Portuguese letter -u like the [u] in "flu" or "rule." The word for "raw" is *cru*, and *Tambaú* is the name of a neighborhood in João Pessoa, Brazil.

It's important to reproduce these sounds accurately. It doesn't matter how many words you know or how good you are at the grammar; if you don't pronounce the word correctly, the Brazilians won't understand.

## Consonants

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Some unique aspects of Portuguese pronunciation:

### -LH

The -lh sound in Portuguese is unique. We pronounce it is similar to the [ly] in the phrase "will ye," but not like the [ly] in "fly" or "comply." It's a liquid sound where your tongue glides across the roof of your mouth. The word for "woman" is *mulher*, the word for "leaf" is *folha*, and the word for "eye" is *olho*.

### -NH

-Nh is similar to the Spanish -ñ or the [ɲ] in "lasagna." The main thing to remember is that it doesn't close. In other words, your tongue doesn't touch the roof of your mouth when you say the -nh. *Senhor* means "Mr." or "sir," and *manhã* means "morning."

### -R and -RR

We pronounce an -r between two letters like the [d] in "ladder" or "meadow." Your tongue taps the roof of your mouth. The word for "expensive" is *caro*, and *Livraria Saraiva* ("Saraiva Bookstore") is one of the largest bookstore chains in Brazil.

The -rr makes a [h] sound like in "house," "hill," or "heart." The word for "help" is *socorro*, and the word for "tower" is *torre*.

An -r at the beginning of a word or before a consonant makes the same sound as the -rr. The word for "rat" is *rato*, the word for "tree" is *árvore*, and the word for "rare" is *rara*.

*(Depending on the dialect, the pronunciation of the "-r" can vary dramatically but the majority of Brazilian dialects follow these rules.)*

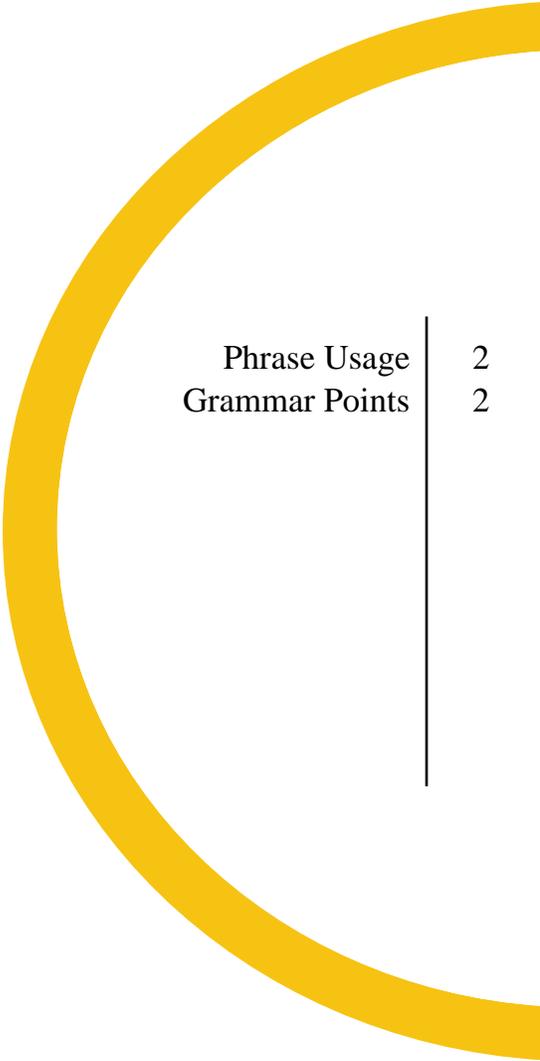


## All About

### 5 Most Important Phrases for Learning Portuguese!



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## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

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### Grammar Points

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#### **The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Must-Know Portuguese Phrases**

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Here we'll introduce five phrases in Portuguese that will take you a long way and help you out in a variety of situations!

#### ***Tudo Bem* ("Thank you," "No, thank you," "Hello," "Yes," "How are you?")**

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The most versatile phrase in Portuguese is *tudo bem*. It can mean both "Thank you" and "No thank you," as well as "Hello," "yes," "How are you?" "no," "I'm fine," "It's okay," "Is this okay?" and several others. Literally, it translates to "everything well," and most often someone will greet you with this phrase. The correct response to this greeting is...this phrase!

#### **For Example:**

A: *Tudo bem?*

B: *Tudo bem.*

#### ***Obrigado* ("Thank you," "No, thank you")**

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#### ***Obrigado* ("Thank you")**

A well-placed and sincere "Thank you" will always be appreciated when someone gives you a plate of food, a drink, or even a compliment. "Thank you" in Portuguese is *Obrigado*. You might notice the strong resemblance to the English word "obligated," and these two words do share a common ancestor; but in Portuguese it isn't as...obligatory...as it is in English. In everyday life, it's just "Thank you."

Brazilians are a group culture, and always want to make others happy; and thanking them for it, is just good manners. Beyond that, it's often the only thing they will let you do in return!

***Obrigado*** ("No, thank you")

A well-timed *Obrigado* can also let you politely refuse anything offered to you. *Obrigado* ("Thank you") and *Obrigado* ("No thank you") are the same word but function differently according to the context. When someone offers you something and you say *Obrigado*, it means "No, thank you." In contrast, if someone offers you something and you accept it, then it means "Thank you." It's a subtle timing difference.

***Por Favor*** ("Please")

Demanding things is bad manners in Brazil. To avoid any misunderstanding, say *por favor*, which means "please" or "as a favor." If you don't know the right words or how to phrase your request, don't feel ashamed to simply point and say *por favor*.

The variant, *faz favor*, has a slightly different use. Literally, it means "do favor," but because of the added meaning in Portuguese verbs, it means something more like "Could you come over here and do a favor for me?"

***Com Licença*** ("Excuse me")

Brazilian homes, parties, stores, and especially the buses, can be very crowded, and just shoving through people is a good way to make someone mad. Literally, *com licença* means "with your license," or better, "with your permission"; but we use it just like "excuse me." Simply saying *com licença* ("excuse me") gets you through just about any human roadblock.

***Desculpa*** ("I'm sorry")

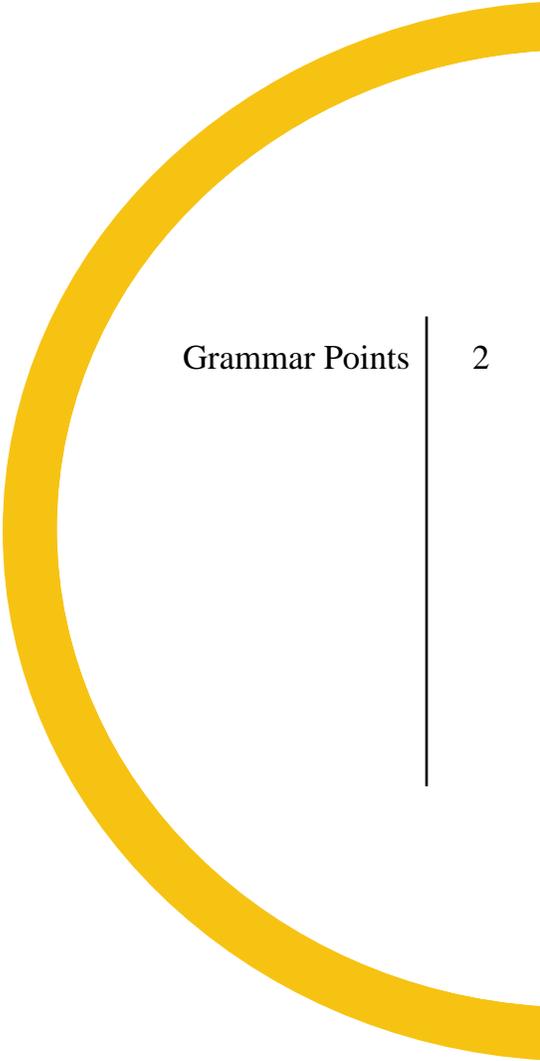
In Portuguese, *desculpa* means "I'm sorry." You're probably going to be saying this a lot. Literally, it's a request that means "unguilt me" in the sense that you did something (anything) and now you feel guilty about it. In the group society of Brazil, someone else needs to remove that guilt by saying *está desculpado* ("You are ungilted/forgiven").

## All About

Can You Answer These 5 Questions About Brazil?



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Grammar Points

2

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## Grammar Points

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### The Focus of This Lesson is a Quiz!

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Five things you have to know about Brazil! Test your knowledge of Brazil.

#### Geography

**1. In which part of Brazil is the Amazon located?**

1. The North
2. The South
3. The East

**Correct answer: 1. The North**

The Amazon is the largest rainforest in the world and extends past the political borders of Brazil into almost every neighboring country. Even though Brazil's square mileage is just smaller than the USA, roughly forty percent of that is the Amazon Rainforest. That's almost half the geographic landmass of the lower forty-eight states.

More freshwater flows through the Amazon River than any other body of fresh water in the world, and the Amazon is home to more plant, animal, and insect species that exist in all the rest of the Americas combined.









brass cultures in Latin America. They move as if they lived in New York but treat one another with a politeness only the Japanese can top.

### 3. Society

Brazilian society is such a blend of African, Native American, Portuguese, German, Italian, Japanese, Greek, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and every other ethnicity that it makes the American "melting pot" look like chicken soup.

### 4. Natives

Whereas most Latin American countries eradicated and/or oppress their native populations, in Brazil over twelve percent of the country is reserved for Native tribes. That's more than double the size of California.

### 5. Language

And last but not least, Brazilians speak Portuguese, not Spanish.

## All About

## Top 5 Brazilian Dishes!

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## Grammar Points

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### The Focus of This Lesson is Brazilian Cuisine

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Most people have heard of *churrasco* and *feijoada*, but those are just decoration on a very big cake. Brazil is mostly a tropical country and is home to the Amazon Rainforest. There are more fruits, plants, seasonings, and meats than in any other country on the planet and the natives have been very creative with their abundance. We could easily do a fifty-part series on this topic but let's go with an overview.

Brazilian food is a unique blend of Portuguese, African, and Native American influences. A typical Brazilian meal will have beans, rice, some kind of meat, some kind of vegetable, salad, and juice. Most meals are a variation on this basic theme. And believe me, there are variations. Brazilians who live inland usually have beef, chicken, or pork as the meat. Brazilians who live on the coast often use fresh seafood in addition to or replacing the beef, chicken, or pork.

Brazilians don't typically use recipes when they cook. This means that the recipes you see in cookbooks or on the internet, or even in these lessons are just one (typically simplified) version of one part of one Brazilian meal. After having rice and beans almost every day for seven years, I can honestly say, I've never had the same dish twice. Every meal is a unique experience.

It's also important to know that for Brazilians, lunch is the most important and largest meal. Meals are almost always made fresh each day and from eleven AM to one PM. The sweet aroma of fresh cooked food fills every home, street, and city in Brazil.

## Popular Food Items

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Everywhere you go in Brazil, you'll find *padarias* ("bakeries"). There you'll find *pão de queijo* ("cheese bread"), *pasteis* ("fried dough stuffed with either sweet or non-sweet things"), *bolo* (cake), and any number of sweet breads, ice cream, cookies, or torts. What will never be missing though is *pão francês* ("french bread"). A standard part of every Brazilian breakfast, Brazilian *pão francês* is very different from its inspiration, the French *baguette*. Every morning you can see lines of people at the *padaria* waiting to buy fresh *pão francês*.

As a side note, the fruit-based ice cream in Brazil is some of the best ice cream I've ever had, particularly the popsicles. Why? Real fruit. They flavor their ice cream with real fruit instead of artificial syrups or colorings, common in developed countries. Which means the pineapple ice cream actually tastes like pineapple. If you are not sure, cross the street and buy a fresh pineapple for about thirty cents in the US.

## Seasonal Dishes

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Christmas is a big food holiday in Brazil. Since December twenty-fifth is in the middle of the Brazilian summer, lots of fruits, including *manga* ("mangos"), *abacaxi* ("pineapple"), and *goiaba* ("guava") are plentiful. What you see everywhere though is *Panetone*. Originally, *Panetone* was an "Italian sweet bread" that Brazilians have changed into something that can only be described as a vast improvement on the typical American fruitcake.

Through the years, Brazilians have developed many variations on the original *Panetone*, my personal favorite being the *Chocotone*, which mixes in chunks of chocolate instead of pieces of fruit.

## Table Etiquette

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While it may seem like an unorganized tumult of plates, food, and conversation, table etiquette in Brazil is important. The basic rules apply, such as don't talk with your mouth full, sit up straight, don't put your feet on the table, etc. There are two other things that are particularly irritating to Brazilians.

1. Cut your food with your knife not your fork. Using your fork to cut meat is very brutish in Brazil.
2. Second, don't scrape the plate with your utensils. Pay attention next time you're in a Brazilian-filled restaurant. You won't hear the click-scrape-tink of utensil on dish unless there's a foreigner there.

## The Top 5 Brazilian Dishes

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### Number 5 – Feijoada

The Brazilian national dish, or at least it is in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. While not as common in other parts of the country, *feijoada* is a good example of typical "Brazilian beans."

### Number 4 – Churrasco

Most popular in the southern regions where Brazil and Argentina meet, *churrasco* is a "style of roasting or barbecuing meat," and is quickly gaining worldwide recognition because of its unique cuts, simple seasonings, and powerful flavor.

### Number 3 – Acarajé

A dish typical of Salvador, Bahia, made of "cooked beans deep-fried in *dendê* oil filled with shrimp, okra, coconut milk, tomato, onion, peppers, and many other possible variations."

### Number 2 – Moqueca de Peixe ("Fish Moqueca")

Common along the coast of Brazil but perfected in the eastern Bahia/Espirito Santo region, *moqueca de peixe* is an experience not to be missed. "Coconut milk, shrimp, crab, *dendê* oil, oregano, cilantro, garlic, sea salt, and any (or every) kind of fish that can fit in the hand-made clay pot."

### Number 1 – Açaí na Tijela ("Açaí in a Bowl")

At one point in my life, I spent three years in the United States without going to Brazil. I just didn't have the money. When I finally was able to go, what I wanted more than anything was *açaí na tijela*. For those of you familiar with *açaí*, known in the US as the Amazonian superfood, you need to understand that we cannot find pure *açaí* in the US. It is an incomparably healthy food, but like most foods, the more processing it goes through the less potent (and less flavorful) it becomes.

## Top 5 Foods for the Brave

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### Number 5 – Mocotó de boi ("Leg of Bull")

Never had it because it's rather hard (and expensive) to make. Calls for the shin, ankle, and foot of a bull cooked in a rather complex set of seasonings and beans for several hours. Then you split the resulting broth in half, beat one half into an almost cream, mix them back together and add beans (or what every else you want).

**Number 4 – Cachaça ("Cachaça")**

*Cachaça* actually isn't a food, it's a drink and a strong one at that. Somewhat similar to vodka, cachaça is made out of sugar cane and originally was considered a low-class drink. Cachaça is the main ingredient in the caipirinha, an internationally-known Brazilian drink.

**Number 3 – Buchada de Bode ("Goat Stomach")**

*Buchada de Bode* is the stomach of a male goat. Emptied, cleaned, then refilled with any number of vegetables, legumes, seasonings, and other meats, and cooked for hours in a pressure cooker. Need I say more?

**Number 2 – Piqui ("Piqui")**

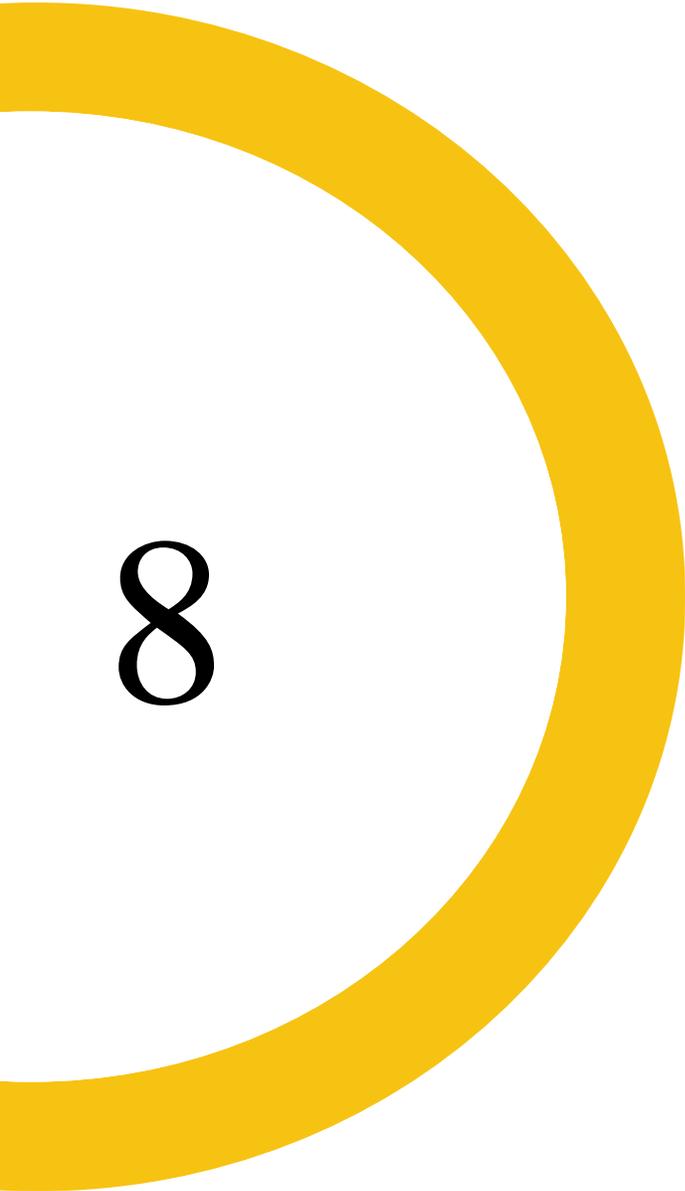
Don't bite too hard or this pungent little fruit will leave you picking stickers out of your lips for a week.

**Number 1 – Pimenta Malageta**

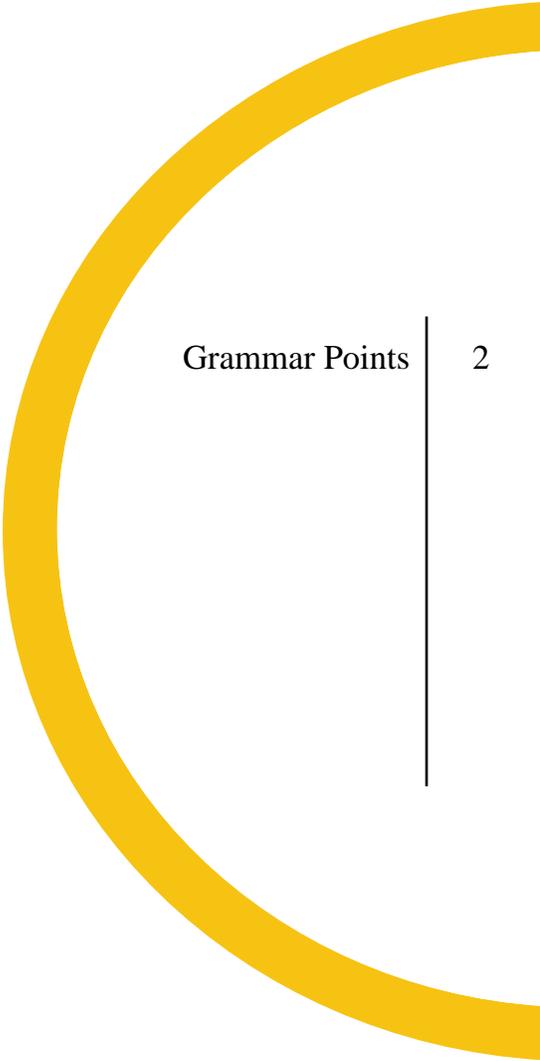
The "hottest pepper in Brazil," one of the hottest in the world, and one of the healthiest. The processed pepper sauces are typically not as hot as eating the pure fruit, which we find at city markets.

## All About

### Top 5 Things You Need to Know about Brazilian Society



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Grammar Points

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## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Things You Need to Know about Brazilian Society**

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Society is a very broad topic, and can't be summarized in a single lesson. That's why we're narrowing it down to the top five most important aspects of Brazilian society!

### Major Cities

#### Rio de Janeiro

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Located in the southeast of Brazil and with a population of just over three million, Rio isn't the political capital of the country but it is certainly the tourist capital. In Rio you can see the *Cristo Redentor* ("Christ Redeemer"), *Pão de Açúcar* ("Sugar Loaf"), Ipanema and Copacabana beaches, unique architecture, and geological formations, and in 2016, the Olympics.

#### São Paulo

Located about two hundred and seventy miles south of Rio, São Paulo is the third largest city in the world and the manufacturing and mass media hub for all of Brazil. As such, it is a city of business more than tourism. As one of the oldest and simultaneously most modern cities in Brazil, it is home to a fantastic contrast of old and new world influences. From the baroque styled *Theatro municipal de São Paulo* ("Municipal Theater of São Paulo" – built in 1903), to São Paulo Fashion Week (the largest fashion event in South America and one of the largest in the world), and with a population of roughly eighteen million people, São Paulo has not just a little but a lot of something for everyone.

## Brasília

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Every inch of Brasília was pre-planned before any construction began. Designed like a giant airplane with the capitol as the cockpit, Brasília is located at the practical center of Brazil.

Brasília is divided into sectors. Down the "first class," you can find the individual government Ministries with the Central Bank located in the financial sector of the South Wing. Toward the "tail fin," is the tallest radio tower in South America with television broadcasting companies located nearby. Surrounding the entire eastern side is a beautiful "manmade lake" called *Lago Paranoá*. Over two million people live in the *Distrito Federal* with over four hundred thousand living in Brasília proper.

## Contradictions in Brazilian Cities

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The number one thing you need to know about Brazilian cities is that they are full of contradiction.

### Rio

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Rio is, and probably always will be, beautiful almost beyond compare. Mountains

rising straight out of the ocean and towering hundreds of feet in the air make Rio's coastline breathtaking to say the least. But for about the past ten years, Rio has been consistently ranked in the Top Ten Most Dangerous Cities in the world. The violence there is such a problem it earns a spot on the list of major challenges Brazil needs to overcome.

### São Paulo

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São Paulo is a behemoth of a city, rapidly absorbing once distant cities into one

massive metropolitan area. There you see Ferraris taking one person to the shopping mall and one bicycle taking entire families to church. A mixture of all that is good and bad in Brazil. São Paulo has wealth, affluence, and creativity no other Brazilian city can match amid a road system so convoluted that only "a spaghetti bowl dumped on an ant hill" gives the right mental image.

## Brasília

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Brasília is different. Quite, safe, inspiringly organized, and recently voted the best

place to live in South America, Brasília has one of the highest standards of living in the Americas. But coupled with that is a high cost of living, too high for many people. A five minute bus ride west of the city takes you to *Estrutural*, a shanty town of over forty thousand where the street cleaners, housekeepers, garbage men, and window washers – Brasília's lower class – lives.

## Family Life

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Families in Brazil are typically very traditional and very tight-knit. It is not unusual or strange for twenty and thirty-year old men and women to still live with their parents. Brazilian families are typically large but that tradition has tapered off as the cost of living increases. While many parents are unmarried because of the high price tag for marriage licenses, children still show a great deal of respect toward their parents, often calling them *senhor* ("sir") or *senhora* ("madam"), even in casual

conversation.

The number two thing you should know about Brazilian society is that most people (more than seventy percent of the population) are Catholic. One hundred and fifty million Brazilians identify themselves as Catholic making Brazil the largest "Catholic" country in the world. Catholicism is often part of the family identity.

### Work Culture and Economy

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Ranked ninth in the world, Brazil's economy is strong in agriculture, industry, oil, and information technology. Some well-known companies in Brazil are *PetroBrás*, *Vale*, and *Globo*; all large Brazilian corporations with bags of international clout. *Globo Television* has the largest television audience in Brazil and is transmitted to over sixty-four countries worldwide. Over one hundred and twenty million people watch *Globo* every day.

Every company and every region in Brazil has a different work culture. In the south, you find a culture much like the United States where people work long, busy, office hours. In the northern and western regions, tremendous ranches sprawl across the landscape. In *Mato Grosso* alone, we found over twenty-seven million head of cattle, roughly ten times that of Montana. According to the numbers posted by *IBGE*, Brazil has more cattle than people.

With that short introduction to the economy and the work culture, the third most important thing you should know about Brazilian society ties closely to the land. Phrases like *está arara* ("is macaw") to

indicate that someone is angry and *burro amarrado na sombra* ("donkey tied up in the shade") to indicate an easy life and thousands of other phrases and customs show a close connection to nature, despite Brazil's industrial development.

## Politics

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Currently, Brazil is a Federative Republic based heavily on the American model. Three branches (executive, legislative, and judicial) with a bicameral legislative branch (called the *Congresso*) form the backbone of the Brazilian federal government. The head of the executive branch is President Lula who controls or influences almost all the governmental action. All literate people ages eighteen to seventy are legally required to vote.

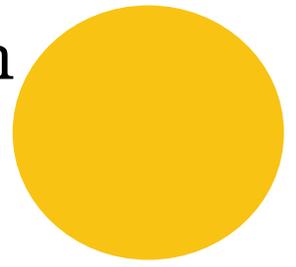
7 With that said...The number four thing you have to know about Brazilian society is that few Brazilians understand how their government works. This is partially due to the fact, that over the past one hundred years Brazil had several dramatic changes in government; going from republic, to populist, to dictatorship, to the current federal system. Many people were educated on the government in power when they were in school but not reeducated with each governmental change.

Recently, the strides Brazil has made financially have been invested into education and the general well-being of the Brazilian populace. Many Brazilians look at the 2016 Olympics in Rio as international acceptance and approval of their progress.

## Generational Trends

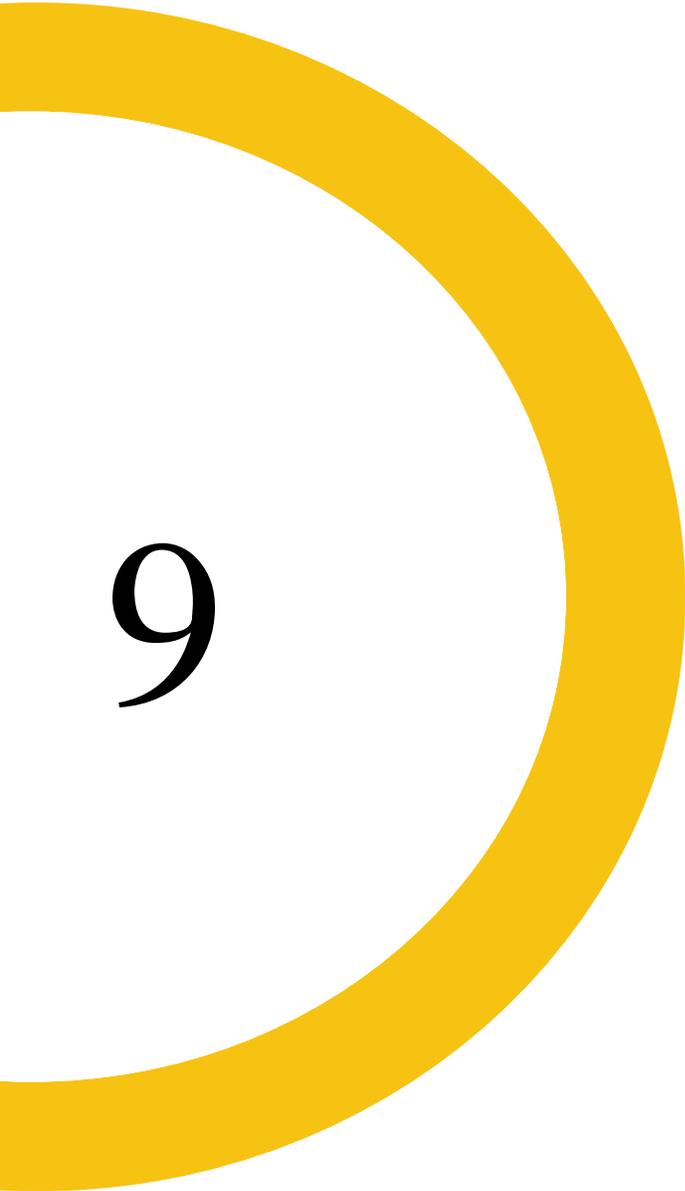
The number five thing you should know about Brazilian society is that it is changing, constantly. In the past thirty years, Brazil has changed so fast that novelty constantly bombards Brazilians. People who grew up without electricity are now writing software and designing solar panels. Women who washed clothes by hand in the village river now travel the world as partners in international businesses. It's as if Brazil jumped from the 1820s straight to the twenty-first century.

Not surprisingly, this has caused a tremendous generational gap. The younger generation absorbs every novelty presented to them. iPhones, Twitter, and bio-fuels are part of everyday life but many of the older generation have had difficulty keeping up.

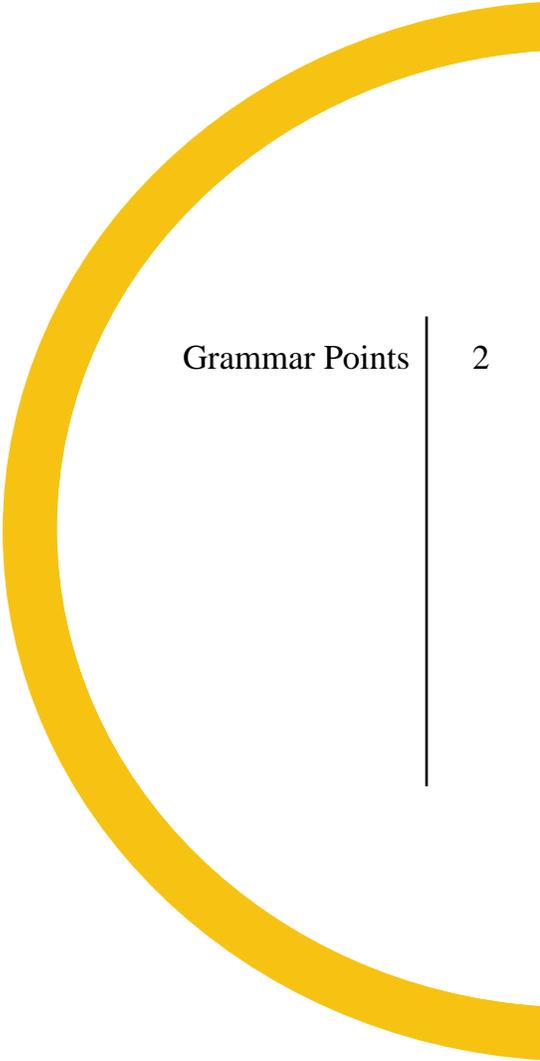


## All About

### Top 5 Important Dates During the Calendar Year!



9



Grammar Points

2

## Grammar Points

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### The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Dates During the Calendar Year

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Oh, dear, oh, dear! How to choose among so many! In reverse order:

#### Number 5: Independência do Brasil ("Independence Day")

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The fifth most important day in Brazil is *Independência do Brasil* ("Independence Day"). The Brazilian Independence Day is the seventh of September and it began with the Brazilian Declaration of Independence on the seventh of September, 1822. Dom Pedro the First, is reported to have yelled the famous phrase, *Independência ou morte* "(Independence or death)", on the seventh of September, 1822 in what is now *Ipiranga*, São Paulo, which became the Brazilian Declaration of Independence. Today, Independence Day celebrations happen all over Brazil in the form of parades, public solemn assemblies, concerts, fireworks, and many other displays of patriotism. Many Brazilians consider items with the pattern of the Brazilian national flags an honor to wear, display, and use on any patriotic occasion. On this day, people often say *Feliz dia de Independência* or *Bom feriado de Independência*.

#### Number 4: Natal ("Christmas")

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The fourth most important day in Brazil is *Natal* ("Christmas"). Brazilian Christmas is the same day, the twenty-fifth of December, as every other country in the world. Natal is a Christian holiday meant to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ, the central figure of all Christian religions. As Brazil is over seventy percent Catholic, this is a national holiday.

Brazilians celebrate Christmas in many ways. *Papai Noel* ("Santa Clause") is a common fixture. Imported to Brazil recently, he usually wears very cool clothing as Christmas time in Brazil is also summer time.

For the most part, Brazilians celebrate Christmas similar to how Americans celebrate New Year's. They stay up late the twenty-fourth, shooting off fireworks at midnight, and wishing *Feliz Natal! e um prospero Ano Novo!* ("Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year") to everyone around them.

Traditionally, *Natal* is more for family and most people stay home. Many families have a large, traditional *ceia* ("supper") late Christmas Eve, which is often continued on the twenty-fifth with a family lunch.

### Number 3: Ano Novo ("New Year")

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The third most important day in Brazil is *Ano Novo* ("New Year"). *Ano Novo* is celebrated in Brazil much the same way *Natal* is celebrated with the conspicuous addition of *oferendas* ("offerings") to Catholic saints in hopes of good coming in the new year, and the wearing of white to symbolize peace.

Traditionally, *Ano Novo* is less about family and more about society as a whole. Many people go out with friends, go to parties, and have community events.

### Number 2: Carnaval

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The second most important day in Brazil is *Carnaval*. *Carnaval* takes place over a one-week period in early to mid February. The actual dates change every year because *Carnaval* is based on the Old Catholic calendar, which in turn, is based on the ancient Jewish calendar.

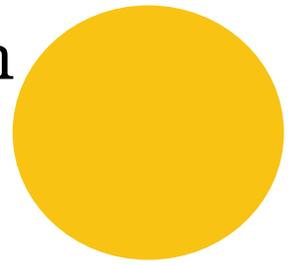
The history of the celebration of *Carnaval* is quite complex and far beyond the scope of these lessons, but the three largest *Carnaval* celebrations in the world are, in order of size: Salvador, Bahia; Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro; and São Paulo, São Paulo.

## Number 1: Copa do Mundo ("World Cup")

---

The most important day in Brazil is...the *Copa do Mundo* ("World Cup"). While not a yearly event – the World Cup is held every four years – it is by far the most important time of those four years for most of Brazil. And it is even more important when Brazil wins. Brazil has five World Cup titles, more than any other country, and does not treat that position lightly. While not officially condoned as a national holiday, the entire country stops when Brazil plays.

The players on the Brazilian World Cup team are national heroes and most of their life story every Brazilian home knows.



## All About

Top 5 Pop Culture Things/Icons You Need to Know About!

10

Grammar Points

2

## Grammar Points

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### **The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Pop Culture Things/Icons You Need to Know About!**

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As popular culture changes quickly and drastically, this lesson focuses on the most recent pop cultures. Please keep in mind, we recorded this lesson in 2010.

#### **Popular TV**

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In Brazil, the main form of entertainment is television, and the four major TV channels – which are Globo, SBT, Band, and Record – influence everything from political campaigns to fashion to international relations. One of the most important aspects of TV in Brazil is the novela. Brazilian novelas are similar to soap-operas but they are on a whole different scale. More money goes into producing novelas than feature films.

Many popular daily expressions can be traced to a particular episode or character in a novela. And when a new clothing style is featured in a novela, you'll see people wearing it within a week. Novelas are so important you'll often hear "acaloradas" or heated arguments about a particular character's actions from yesterday's episode.

Content among the TV channels can vary but in general includes: kids and varieties programs in the morning, general entertainment programs, movies, and reruns in the afternoon and news, novelas, sports, films, and talk shows in the evening.

## Popular Brazilians Abroad

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Brazilians often occupy surprising roles on the international scene. From Aryton Senna, a three time world champion Formula-1 racer, to Gisele Bündchen, the back-country girl who redefined the word “supermodel,” Brazilians are changing the world in unexpected ways.

With that short introduction to Brazilians abroad, the number four thing you should know about Brazil is...Pelé. Pelé is the only footballer ever to win three World Cup titles, holds the world record for most lifetime goals made and he is referred to as the King of Football. Besides being a good player, he’s also a good person. Pelé has always been very vocal in support of programs and policies that help poor people, especially poor children.

## Popular Music

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3 The most popular Brazilian genres outside of Brazil are “Bossa Nova” and “samba.” The most internationally famous Bossa Nova song is *Garota de Ipanema* ("Girl from Ipanema") and *Aquarela do Brasil* is a good example of *samba*. Many other Brazilian styles and groups are popular both in Brazil and internationally. For example, those who have their eyes toward the stars, the song "DA DA DA" by *Banda Casaca* is the wake up song for the Mars Rover Spirit.

The number three thing you need to know about Brazilian pop culture is that Brazilian music is diverse. From *sertanejo* to *Bossa Nova* to *Axé*, Brazilian music has something for everyone. Some famous musicians include, Victor e Leo, Maria Rita, Ivete Sangalo, Roberto Carlos, Caetano Veloso, Skank, NXZero, O Rappa, just to name a few.

## Popular Sports

If you know anything about sports then you know that Brazil means "soccer," called *futebol* in Brazil. Here, "futebol" is more than a sport, it's a cultural phenomenon and when Brazil plays in the World Cup, it's almost a national holiday; super markets down, stores empty, and banks lock their doors.

Even though soccer is the overwhelming favorite, other sports are played in Brazil. Brazil has won many world titles in both men and women's volleyball and is receiving more and more recognition in basketball. And thanks to Daiane Garcia dos Santos and others like her, gymnastics is becoming more popular. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, created and made popular through the Gracie family, is widely regarded as the "best" form of Jiu-Jitsu in the world.

The number two most important thing you need to know about Brazil right now is that the FIFA World Cup will be held in Brazil in 2014. Even though it's only 2010 and the South Africa World Cup was held this year, the FIFA World Cup has the largest international audience in the world and is the world's largest sporting event. If you want to be in Brazil during the 2014 World Cup, an incomparably unique experience, you'd better start planning now.

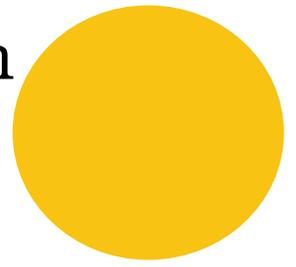


## International Pop Culture

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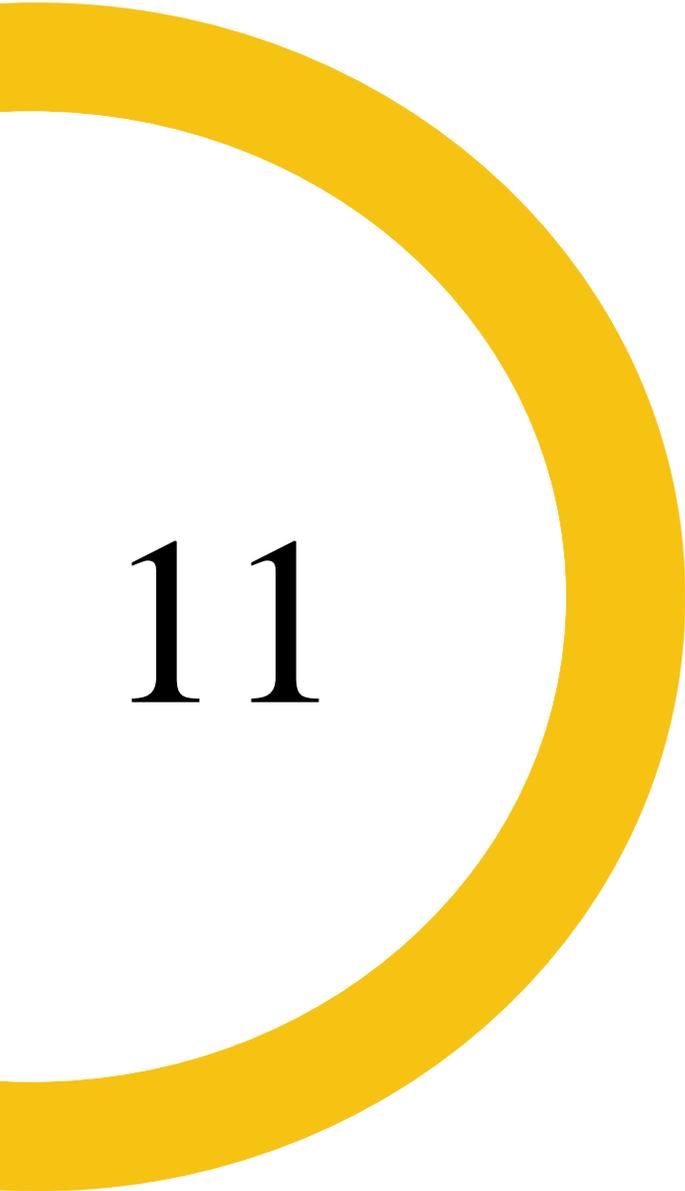
Brazilians are surprisingly up to date on international pop culture. Twilight, Lady Gaga, and Beyonce are part of popular culture as well as Kesha, Justin Bieber, the Black-Eyed Peas, and Avatar. Basically, what ever is popular internationally is popular in Brazil too.

I remember when I was living in Vitória several years ago the Portuguese translation of Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire came out. It was mass hysteria just like in the US. I remember one young boy holding the book up in the air triumphantly with several other children surrounding him, trying to take it.

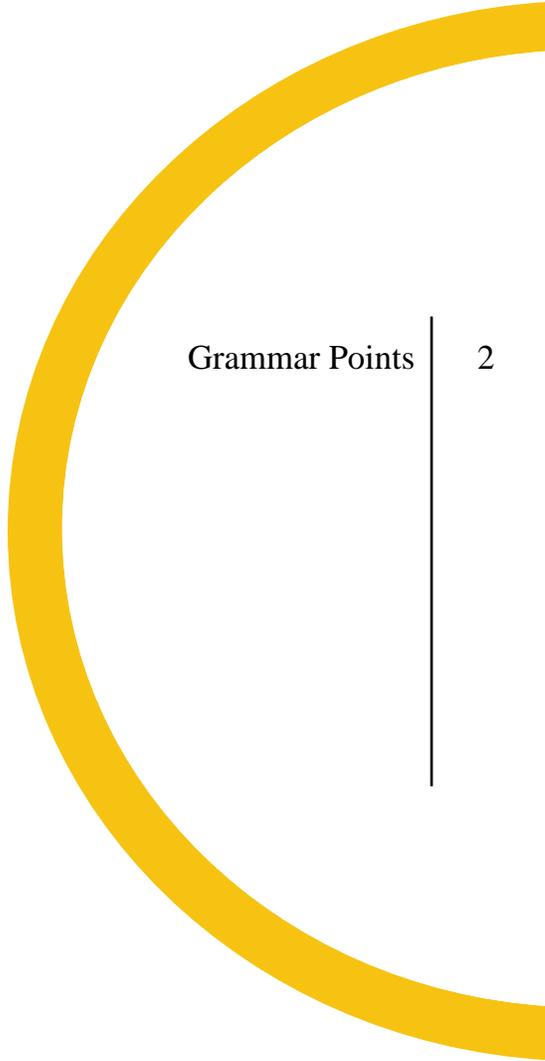


## All About

### Top 5 Tools for Learning Portuguese



11



Grammar Points

2

## Grammar Points

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### 2

#### **The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Most Useful Tools for Learning Portuguese**

##### **Entertainment**

Language is not just an academic pursuit. The purpose of any language is to communicate with others, and that is more often done through stories and video than through academic papers. Besides, these sources of reading and listening pleasure provide excellent examples of how native speakers actually use the language, something no textbook can copy. Some great sources for Portuguese learners of all levels are [YouTube](#) and [Google Images](#). Just type in the Portuguese word for whatever you want to learn and start studying. Many people have used movies and TV shows as their primary means of contact with a culture. Just remember, you are what you watch. Watching a professionally produced feature film will yield better results faster than watching people stupidly doing dumb stuff on YouTube.

##### **Dictionary**

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Using bilingual dictionaries used to be a bit of a catch-22. Only the larger sized dictionaries were complete enough to be useful, but were too large to carry around. Nowadays, web-based and electronic dictionaries are rapidly bridging that gap. They are complete enough to help you with your composition assignments, faster than paperbound dictionaries, and available on any web browser or smart phone. Currently, no online Portuguese dictionary is a "one-stop-shop," but the English-Portuguese dictionary at [LookWayUp.com](http://LookWayUp.com) is about as close as you can get. It gives you definitions in English then the correct word that matches that definition in Portuguese. Very useful!

**Warning:** Make sure you're using a web-based dictionary and not an online translator. Web-based dictionaries will give you the dictionary entry of the word you're looking for; an online translator will offer you a machine translation that is rarely accurate.

### Portuguese-Speaking Friends and Loved Ones



3

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This is potentially the most efficient and most rewarding source of learning Brazilian Portuguese. Friends and loved ones who speak to you in Portuguese can give you more insight, understanding, and help you feel the heart of Portuguese. Brazilian Portuguese is always changing and the only way you can keep up is if you can feel the language the way they do. With their help, you'll learn to express yourself in Portuguese and understand others in ways that none of the tools previously mentioned can even approach. The more time you spend negotiating meaning from natural native speech the better.

## Social Networking

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If you are like I was when I started learning Portuguese, then talking with Portuguese-speaking friends and family isn't really an option. I didn't know anyone who spoke Portuguese and didn't feel comfortable randomly calling people in Brazil to practice speaking. Many people, probably most people, are in a similar situation. That's why social networking sites can be so useful when you are learning a language. One of the best is called [Lang-8](#). This site is different from other language learning sites in that it provides a free connection for native speakers of a language to correct writings of people who are studying that language. For example, a native English speaker can correct a Brazilian person's English writing and a native Brazilian speaker can correct a native English speaker who is studying Brazilian Portuguese. It's quite helpful because it offers a free service for people to correct each others' writings. It's a great place to see how a native person might write a particular sentence, paragraph, or short writing sample.

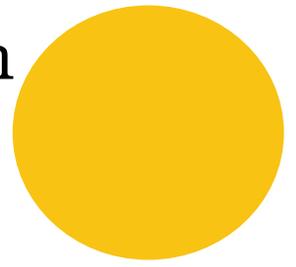
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And if you want to meet even more Brazilians, the best place is [Orkut](#). Orkut is a social networking service like FaceBook, but provided by Google. It's been around for years but for some reason has never taken off in the USA - but it has skyrocketed in Brazil. From a Brazilian perspective, Orkut is used more than Facebook and MySpace combined. Millions and millions of Brazilians access Orkut everyday and post messages about their lives. You can create an account, search for and get to know new people, and practice your Portuguese all for free on Orkut.

## Pen and Paper

Ultra low-tech and ultra cheap, pen and paper is still the king of speed and flexibility in note taking. No one will mug you for a notebook (but they might for that three hundred dollar smart phone or one thousand dollar laptop), and it doesn't matter if it gets wet--let it dry and keep on using it, or throw it out and get a new one. Journalists still use pen and paper for note taking because it's just plain faster. For example, you're at the store and you have a good idea about something to study, but when you have time to study, you can't remember what it was. Has this happened to you? Instead, write down all your ideas and then choose what you want to study from your list. That way, you study what you want, when you want, and you aren't wasting time trying to remember your great idea.



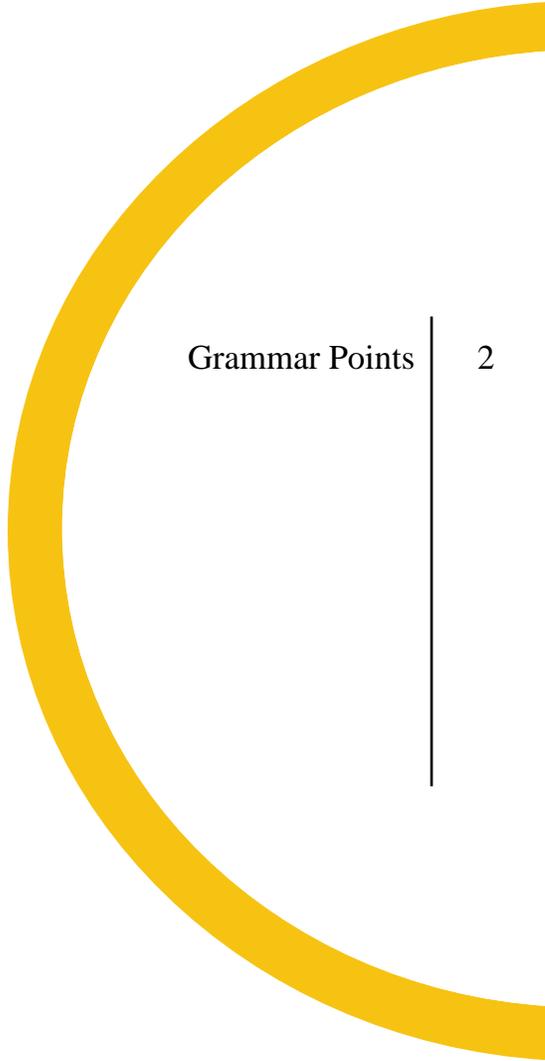


## All About

### Top 5 Mistakes You Should Never Make!



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Grammar Points

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## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Mistakes You Should Never Make!**

### **Tip #1: Don't Talk Fast**

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It's so hard to understand someone when he or she speaks too fast. When you hear native Brazilians speaking, it will seem like they are talking a thousand words per minute, but don't feel like you need to keep up. They're native, which means they can talk as fast as they want. Many foreigners try to speak as fast as Brazilians do, and even though their grammar is perfect, they smash the words together in ways that we can't decipher. It usually takes years of fine tuning pronunciation to be able to speak as fast as a Brazilian does. Many people jumble up their words in Portuguese because they speak too fast. Speak slowly and clearly, and people will understand.

### **Tip #2: Don't Just Add -o or -a at the End of English Words**



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Portuguese and English have many cognates, but it isn't that simple. You could very easily say something very offensive if you use cognates like that. Several simple patterns exist to help you form cognates.

"English"	Portuguese
"-ty"	-dade
"-ent," "-ant"	-ente, -ante



### Tip #3: Learn basic conjugations

---

Portuguese verbal conjugation is very extensive. Brazilian Portuguese has ninety-four verb conjugations, and each verb has at least fifty different forms. But don't worry! There are really only about thirteen that are commonly used. But still, that is way too many to go over in one lesson. And for that matter, if you're just starting out, *ser* and *estar* are a great place to begin because they are the most commonly used verbs in Brazilian Portuguese.

People starting to speak Brazilian Portuguese often say things like *Eu estar cansado*, or *Eu ser americano*. This is incorrect and very painful for Brazilians to hear. It's kind of like hearing "They is tired," or "I are American," only worse. Learning the correct conjugations isn't hard, but can be time consuming as there are so many. Just remember to pace yourself and focus on what each conjugation means instead of its grammatical function.

Many people get very frustrated when it comes to verb conjugation because we place so much focus on the grammatical function that the actual meaning of the verb is somehow lost. We'll try to avoid that sinkhole in these lessons and help you understand verbs the way the Brazilians do.

#### **Tip #4: Learn the Pronunciation Now**



4

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Don't delay! We've dedicated an entire lesson series to pronunciation because it's that important in Brazilian Portuguese. It doesn't matter how well you know the grammar, if you don't pronounce it right, the Brazilians won't understand you.

## **Tip #5: Watch Out for Open and Closed Vowels**



5

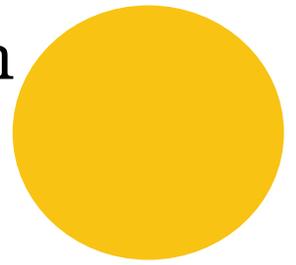
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Brazilian Portuguese has open and closed vowels. This is one of the most difficult aspects for foreigners to master because the differences are so minute that most don't even notice there's a difference. But the Brazilians notice. It's one of the first things that tell Brazilians that you are not native. The good news is that with a bit of practice, knowing when a vowel should be open or closed is easy.

## Examples:

<i>Portuguese</i>	"English"
<i>Avó</i>	"Grandmother"
<i>Avô</i>	"Grandfather"
<i>Seu</i>	"Your"
<i>Céu</i>	"Heaven/Sky"





## All About

Top 5 Phrases Your Teacher Will Never Teach You!

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## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Phrases Your Teacher Will Never Teach You!**

**Phrase One: *Peraí* ("Wait a minute.")**

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*Peraí* is actually a condensed form of the phrase *Espera aí*, which literally translates to "wait where you are," but means "Wait a minute."

**Phrase Two: *Que negócio é esse* ("What's going on?")**

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*Que negócio é esse* is an expression that means "What is that?" or "What's going on?" Literally, it means "What business is that?" We typically use it in situations where something disagreeable or unpleasant has happened.

**Phrase 3: *Tadinho* ("Poor thing")**

---

*Tadinho* is a complex word that means "poor thing" and we use it in almost identical ways as it's English equivalent. The root word is *coitado*, which means "worthy of pity." The Portuguese diminutive suffix is then added to form *coitadinho*, and then we drop the beginning *coi* for no other reason than it's faster to say.

**Phrase Four: *Fala sério* ("Speak seriously")**

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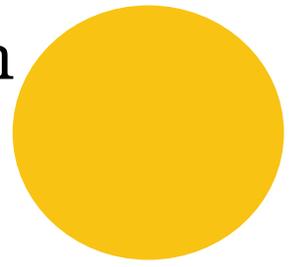
*Fala sério* literally translates to "speak seriously," but is an expression we use with a tone of disbelief and can be roughly interpreted to mean "tell the truth." We usually use it in a playful setting and the tone of voice gives a similar meaning to "You're kidding!" in English.

## **Phrase Five: *E aí?* ("What's up")**

---

*E aí?* is a casual greeting used among friends and is very similar in feeling and use to the English phrase "What's up?"





All About  
Top 5 Classroom Phrases!

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## Grammar Points

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### The Focus of this Lesson is Useful Portuguese Phrases For the Classroom

#### Phrase One: *O que significa...?* ("What means...?")

---

*O que significa...* is a written phrase that literally translates to "What means...?" This is a very useful phrase in the classroom because you can ask your teacher what certain words, ideas, or places, mean in Brazilian Portuguese. You would use this phrase by first stating, *O que significa*, and then adding the item you want to know.

#### For Example:

1. *O que significa sapato?*  
Literally, "What means *sapato*?"  
"What does *sapato* mean?" (*Sapato* means "shoe")
2. *O que significa casar?*  
Literally, "What means *casar*?"  
"What does *casar* mean?" (*Casar* means "to marry")
3. *O que significa pára?*  
Literally, "What means *pára*?"  
"What does *pára* mean?" (*Pára* means "stop")

#### Phrase Two: *Por favor, abram os livros* ("Please, open your books.")

---

*Abram os livros* literally means "Open your books," and *Por favor* means "please." Your teacher might use this phrase to tell the class to open their books to begin reading.

### **Phrase Three: *Eu não entendi* ("I didn't understand.")**

---

*Eu não entendi* literally translates to "I no understood," but means "I didn't understand." You would use this phrase if your teacher explains something or says something that you didn't understand. Portuguese teachers like it when you use Portuguese to interact in the classroom, even if they have to explain things in English afterward.

### **Phrase Four: *Mais uma vez* ("One more time.")**

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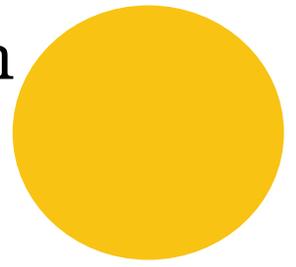
*Mais uma vez* literally translates to "more one time," but means "one more time" or "again." You can expect your teacher to say this when they want you to repeat something.

### **Phrase Five: *Entendeu?* ("Understood?")**

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*Entendeu* literally translates as "Understood?" but as Portuguese verbs always have added meaning, the complete translation would be "Did you understand?" Teachers use this question to make sure the students understand what they are explaining.





## All About

Top 5 Pet Phrases from the Teachers!

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## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
homem	man	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Pai e filho conversaram de homen para homen.* "Father and son talked man to man."

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson is the *Top 5 Pet Phrases from the Teachers!***

**Phrase One: *Comé que tá?* ("How are you doing?")**

---

**2** This phrase means "How ya doin'?" This is slang as *que* is the only word you will find in the dictionary. It is a very normal slang and you might hear it even in more formal settings. It's a condensed form of *Como é que você está?* which means, "How is it that you are doing?" or "How are you doing?"

**Phrase Two: *Tô bem* ("I'm good")**

---

This phrase means "I'm good." It's a very casual phrase but not quite slang.

**Phrase Three: *Cadê* ("Where is...?")**

---

This word means "Where is...?" It is classified as a colloquialism (something that the people say often but that isn't grammatically correct) and you normally use it for things you are having difficulty finding.

**Phrase Four: *Pois é* ("Therefore it is.")**

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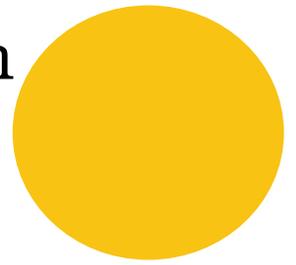
Literally, this phrase translates to "Therefore it is." Properly interpreted though, it's a non-committal form of "Isn't that always how it is?" *Pois é*, literally translated, doesn't make much sense in English or in Brazilian Portuguese. We use *Pois é* constantly but it doesn't have an exact meaning. In this case, it acts as a non-committal confirmation of what was said. A related and equally ambiguous phrase is *Pois não*. Literally, it translates to "therefore no," but somehow, it means "What do you want?" This phrase is almost always a question and is used to initiate a contact.

**Phrase Five: *Né* ("Isn't it?")**

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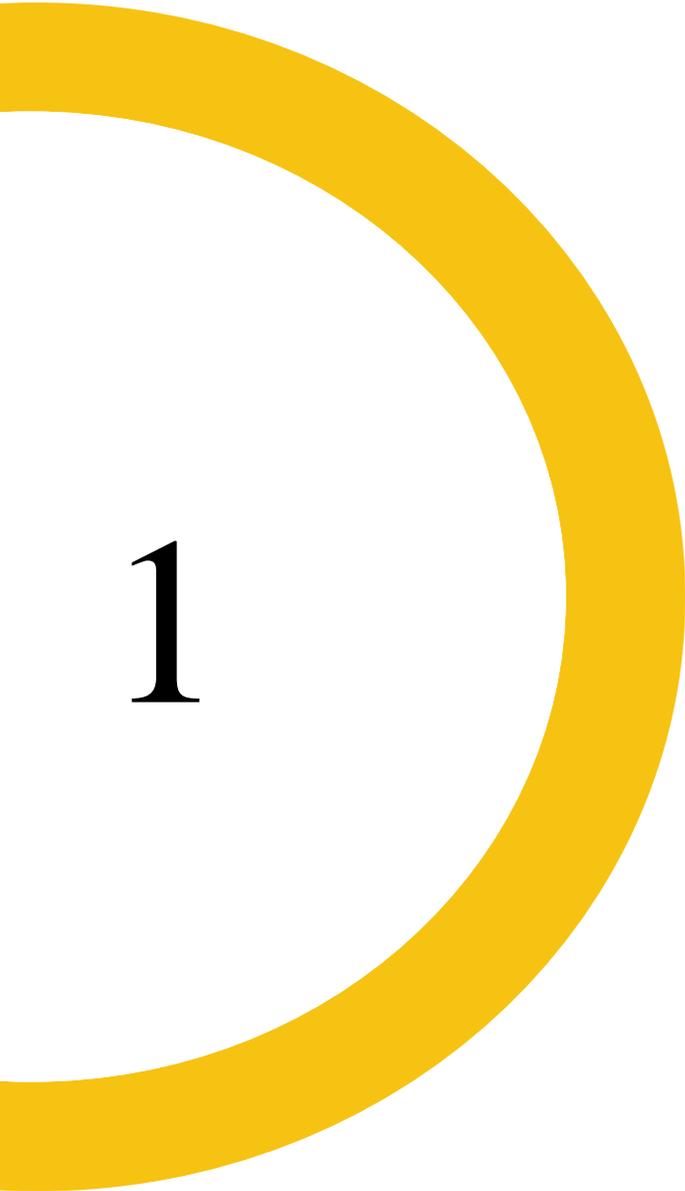
The last phrase is *né* and is a contraction of the words *não é*, which mean "isn't it?" Brazilians always try to avoid conflict and use *né* to see if their listeners agree with what they are saying.



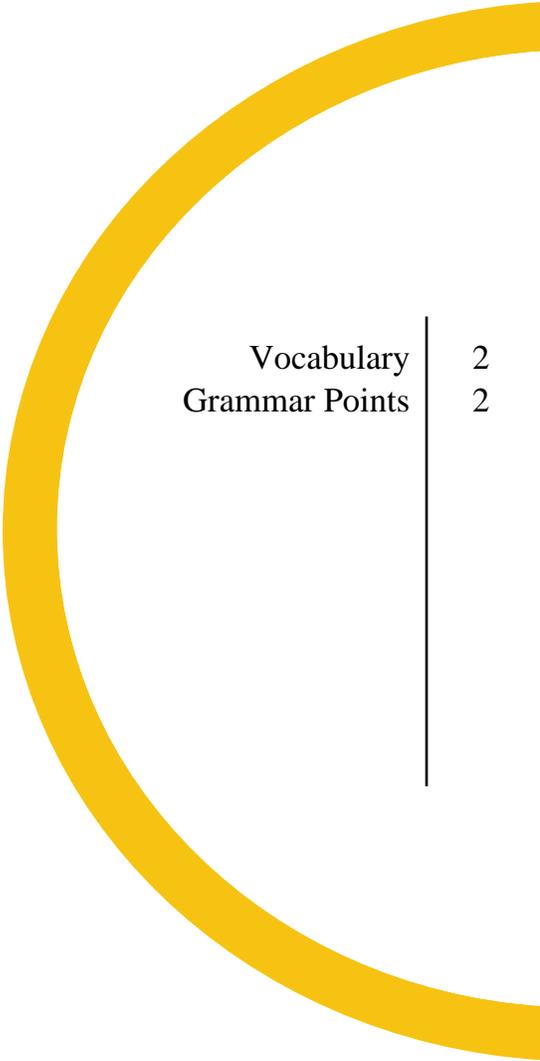


## Pronunciation

### The Portuguese Vowels



1



Vocabulary	2
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## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
cesta	basket	noun
caro	expensive	adjective

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Aquele hotel é muito caro.*

"That hotel is very expensive."

## Grammar Points

### The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Vowels

Portuguese uses the same alphabet as English. But even though the letters are the same, every sound is different. Some people refer to Portuguese as a phonetic language, which means that what you say is what you write.

English is not a phonetic language. English words like "enough" and "through" have the same "-ough" spelling but different pronunciations. In Portuguese, each letter or combination of letters has only one sound. We can modify each sound slightly, but that only happens according to very specific and very simple rules.

### Vowels and Their Rules at the Beginning or Middle of Words

There are five vowels in Portuguese: "-A," "-E," "-I," "-O," and "-U."

#### 1. -A

We pronounce the Portuguese letter *-a* like the [a] in "father." The word for "I speak" is *falo*, and the word for "dear" is *caro*.

#### 2. -E

We pronounce the Portuguese letter *-e* like the [e] in "get." The word for "nap" is *soneca*, and the word for "basket" is *cesta*.

#### 3. -I

We pronounce the Portuguese letter *-i* just like the [i] in "ski" or "machine." The word for "I saw" is *vi*, and the word for "cooked" is *cozido*.

#### 4. -O

We pronounce the Portuguese letter *-o* similar to the [o] in "hope." The word for "sweet" is *doce*, and the word for "tower" is *torre*.

#### 5. -U

We pronounce the Portuguese letter *-u* like the [u] in "flu" or "rule." The word for "grape" is *uva*, and the word for "juice" is *suco*.

### **The Vowels -A, -E, and -O and Their Pronunciation at the End of Words**

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#### 1. -A

*-a* is [uh] like the "-a" in the English word "about." The word for "salad" is *salada*. The word for "potato" is *batata*.

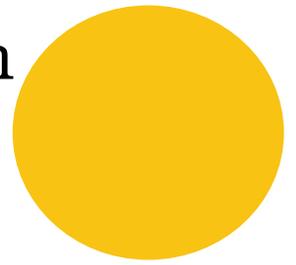
#### 2. -E

*-e* is [ee] like the "-y" in the English word "funny." The word for "face" is *face*. The word for "class" is *classe*.

#### 3. -O

*-o* is [oo] like the "-oo" in the English word "book." This is a tricky one as it can change from dialect to dialect, but basically, the sound is somewhere in between an [o] and an [u]. A friend once said that it is an -o mouth with -u lips. The word for "dry" is *seco*. The word for "finger" is *dedo*.

**Disclaimer:** We base these pronunciation comparisons on the standard American dialect. (sorry Brits, Aussies, Irish, Scotts, people from India, etc.) We tried to pick examples that would hold true among all dialects of English but that simply isn't possible.

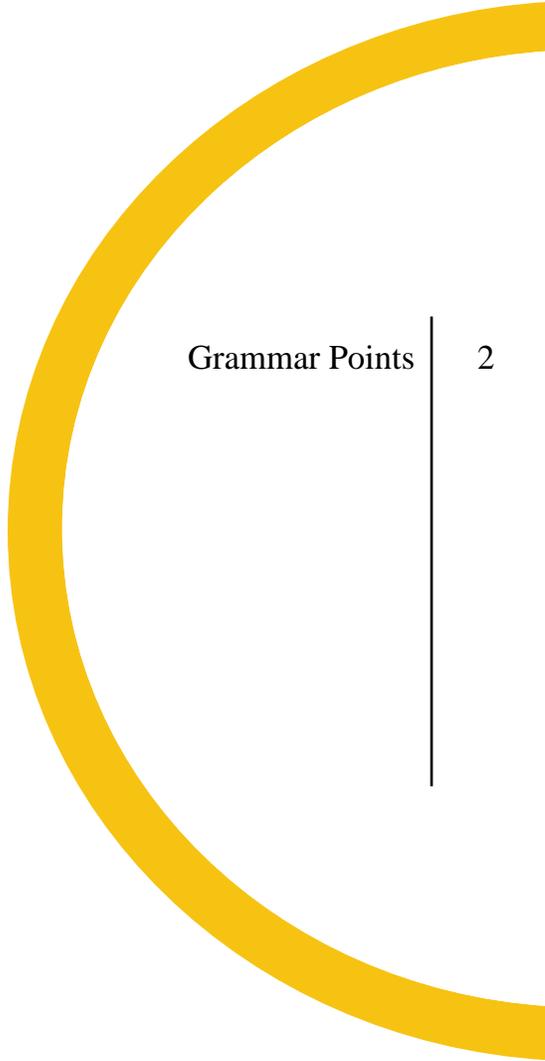


## Pronunciation

### Portuguese Consonants: Part 1



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Grammar Points

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## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson is Consonant Sounds in the Portuguese Language.**

### **THE -C, -G, AND -QU**

---

These three consonants are similar in that we pronounce each in one way when followed by -e or -i and another way when followed by any other letter.

#### 1. -C

---

The Portuguese -c acts just like the English "-c" in that it has an [s] sound when it appears before the vowels -e and -i (e.g., *centro*, *cinto*) and a [k] sound before all other letters (e.g., *carta*, *corda*, *culpa*, *cru*, *claro*). When we place a cedilla (,) under the -c, it makes what would normally be a [k] sound into an [s] sound (e.g., *dançar*, *raça*, *faço*).

#### 2. -G

---

The Portuguese -g has a [zh] sound (such as in the English word "azure") before the vowels -e and -i (e.g., *gelo*, *giz*) and a hard [g] sound before all other letters (e.g., *gato*, *globo*, *agora*, *guri*). The -gu before an -a has a [gwa] sound (e.g., *guarda*, *guaraná*, *água*). When -gu is followed by -e or -i, it is silent (e.g., *guia*, *guerra*, *guichê*).

#### 3. -QU

---

The Portuguese -q is always followed by -u. -Qu has a [k] sound before the vowels -e and -i (e.g., *querer*, *quiser*) and a [kw] sound before -a and -o (e.g., *quatro*, *quota*).

### **The -H and -CH**

#### 1. -H

---

The Portuguese -h at the beginning of a word is silent (e.g., *hora*, *hábito*, *história*).

#### 2. -CH

---

The Portuguese -ch sounds like the English [sh] (e.g., *chorar*, *achar*, *machucar*).

## The *-R* and *-RR*

### 1. *-R*

---

We pronounce an *-r* between two letters like the [d] in "ladder" or "meadow": your tongue taps the roof of your mouth. The word for "expensive" is *caro*, and the word for "three" is *três*.

### 2. *-RR*

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The *-rr* makes an [h] sound like in "house," "hill," or "heart." The word for "help" is *socorro* and the word for "tower" is *torre*.

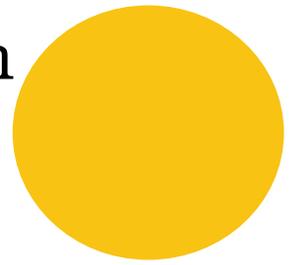
### 3. *-R* (revisited)

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An *-r* at the beginning or end of a word or before a consonant makes the same sound as the *-rr*. The word for "rat" is *rato*, the word for "tree" is *árvore*, and the word for "walk" is *andar*.

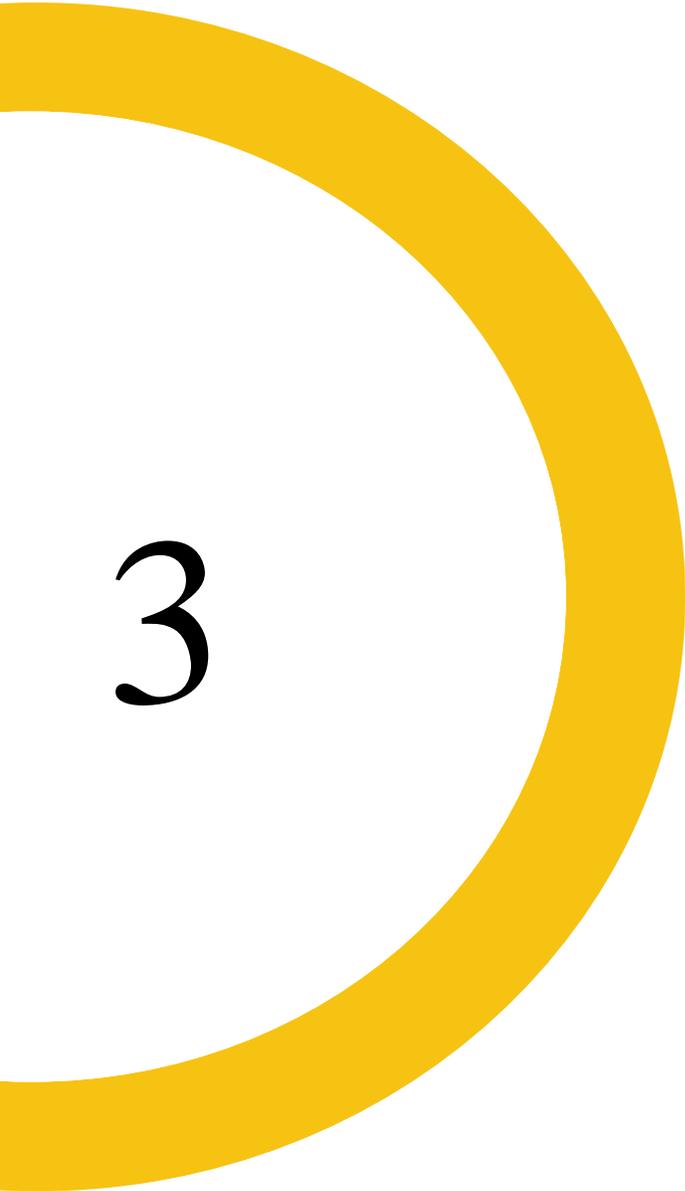
*(Depending on the dialect, the pronunciation of the -r can vary dramatically, but the majority of Brazilians follow these rules.)*



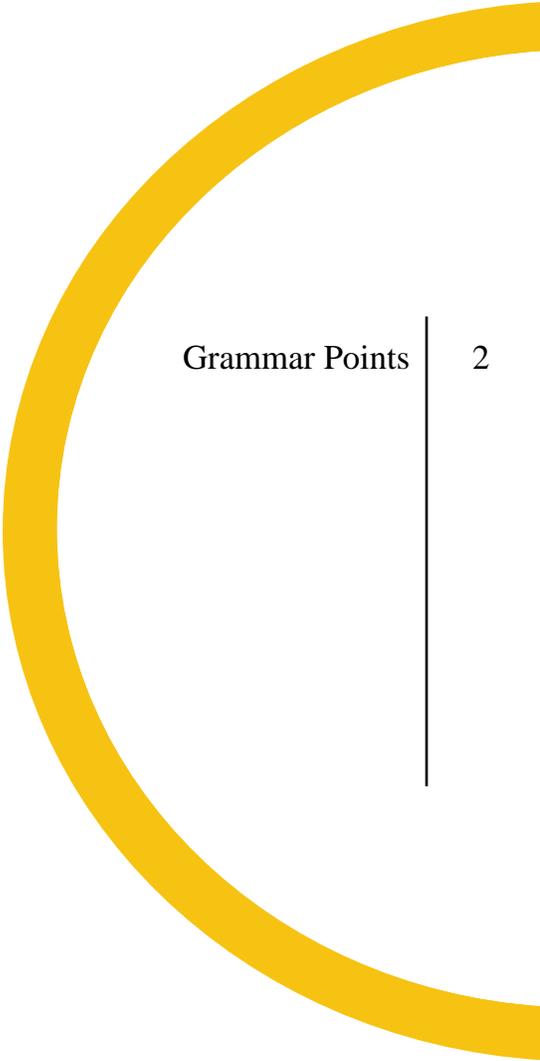


## Pronunciation

### Portuguese Consonants: Part 2



3

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Grammar Points

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2

## Grammar Points

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### The Focus of This Lesson is Sounds for Other Consonants in Portuguese The **-D** and the **-T**

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#### Touching The Teeth

We pronounce the English "-d" and "-t" by tapping the tip of the tongue on the ridge just behind the teeth. (To see this for yourself, say the last sentence aloud). We pronounce the Portuguese *-d* and *-t* by touching the back of the teeth with the tongue, instead of the ridge (e.g., *tanto*, *dedo*, *dotado*).

#### Before [ee]

If the *-d* and *-t* are followed by an [ee] sound (an *-i* or unstressed final *-e*), we may pronounce them like the letter *-g* in the case of the *-d* (e.g., *bondade*, *divino*), and [chee] in the case of the *-t* (e.g., *assiste*, *tinta*).

#### The **-W** And **-Y**

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The letter *-y* makes an [ee] sound in almost all conditions. The *-w* makes either a [v] or [u] sound.

Until recently, neither *-w* nor *-y* nor *-k* were part of the Brazilian alphabet. They've only recently been incorporated because so many words have been borrowed from English and other languages that contain those letters. We also pull the pronunciation of each letter from the original language. We typically only use them in names and imported words.

#### The **-LH**, **-NH**, and the **-X**

---

##### **-LH**

We pronounce the *-lh* in Portuguese like the [l y] in the phrase "will yeild" (e.g., *lhe*, *mulher*, *folha*).

##### **-NH**

The *-n* in the Portuguese *-nh* serves to nasalize the preceding vowel, and the *-h* serves like a [y] (e.g., *senhor*, *tenha*, *ponho*). The tip of the tongue is not to touch the roof of the mouth.

##### **-X**

The *-x* in Portuguese has four basic pronunciations: [z] (e.g., *exame*, *exortar*); [s] (e.g., *próximo*, *extra*

); [ks] (e.g., *táxi, fixo*); and [sh] (e.g., *luxo, puxar*). Since no set rule applies for the pronunciation of the *-x* in Portuguese, you will need to learn the sound of the *-x* in each word.

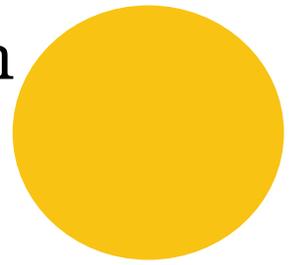
## The -S and -SS

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The *-s* in Portuguese has an [s] sound when:

1. It begins a word (e.g., *sala, sorte, sem*).
2. It follows a consonant (e.g., *pulso, casa, lapso*).
3. It occurs before the voiceless consonants (*-c, -f, -p, -q, -t*) (e.g., *justo, esquerda, esperar*).



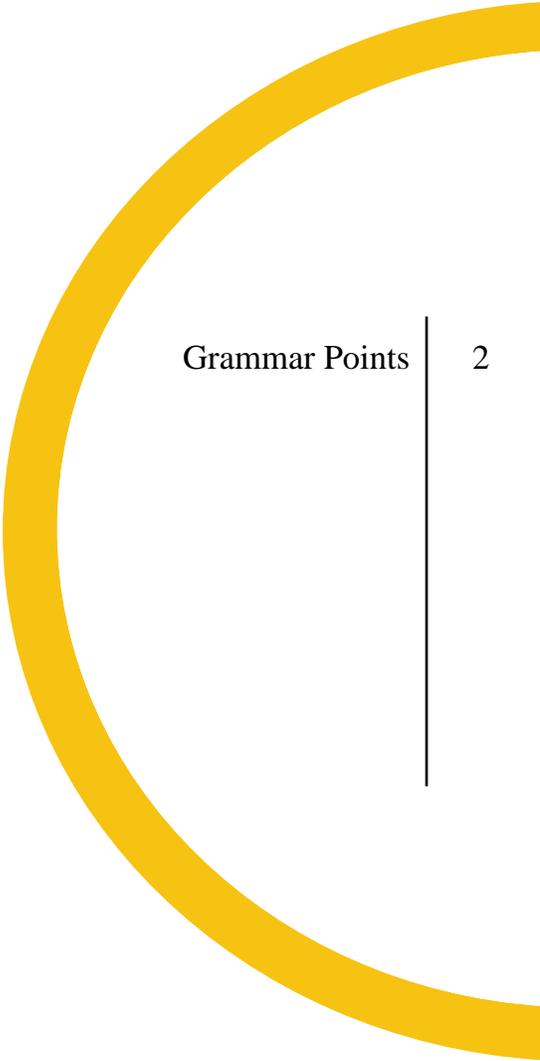


## Pronunciation

A Past and Present Portuguese Student



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Grammar Points

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2

## Grammar Points

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### The Focus of This Lesson is the Rhythm of Portuguese

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In Brazilian Portuguese, words have rhythm just like music. Every word has its own natural rhythm. For example, *teclado* ("keyboard") has a weak-strong-weak pronunciation pattern, [*te-CLA-do*]. Changing the rhythm changes the word: [*te-cla-DO*] isn't a word in Portuguese.

The rhythm of a word is distinguished by one syllable always being stronger than the others. This syllable is called the "tonic syllable" or *sílaba tônica* in Portuguese. By default, the tonic syllable is the second-to-last or penultimate syllable. Identifying the tonic syllable is essential to recognizing words and their meaning.

A change in rhythm can change the meaning of certain words in English too, such as progress vs. progress, or conduct vs. conduct. In Brazilian Portuguese, this change in rhythm changes meaning much more often.

### Rules

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The rule states that the tonic syllable is always the penultimate syllable except:

1. If the word has a written accent, the stress will fall on that syllable (e.g., *médico*, *está*, *difícil*, *rápido*).
2. If the last vowel of the word is *-u* or *-i* or if the word ends with the letters *-l*, *-r*, or *-z*, the stress is on the last syllable.

Letter	Portuguese	"English"
-I	<i>Comi</i>	"I ate"
-U	<i>Urubu</i>	"a type of vulture"
-L	<i>Papel</i>	"paper"
-R	<i>Andar</i>	"to walk"

### Quick Tip

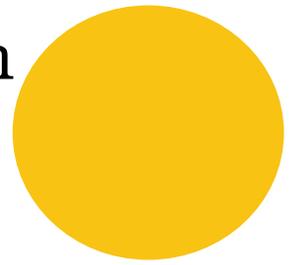
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When you see a new word, look for an accent mark. If it has none, look to see if it ends in *-i*, *-u*, *-r*, *-l*,

or -z. If so, it will be stressed on the last syllable. If it ends in any other letter, it will be stressed on the penultimate syllable.

In English, this concept has many names, the most common being stress, meter, strong syllables, heavy syllables, or accented syllables. All of these terms describe the same pattern of certain syllables receiving more emphasis typically through making them slightly louder and/or longer than other syllables in the word.



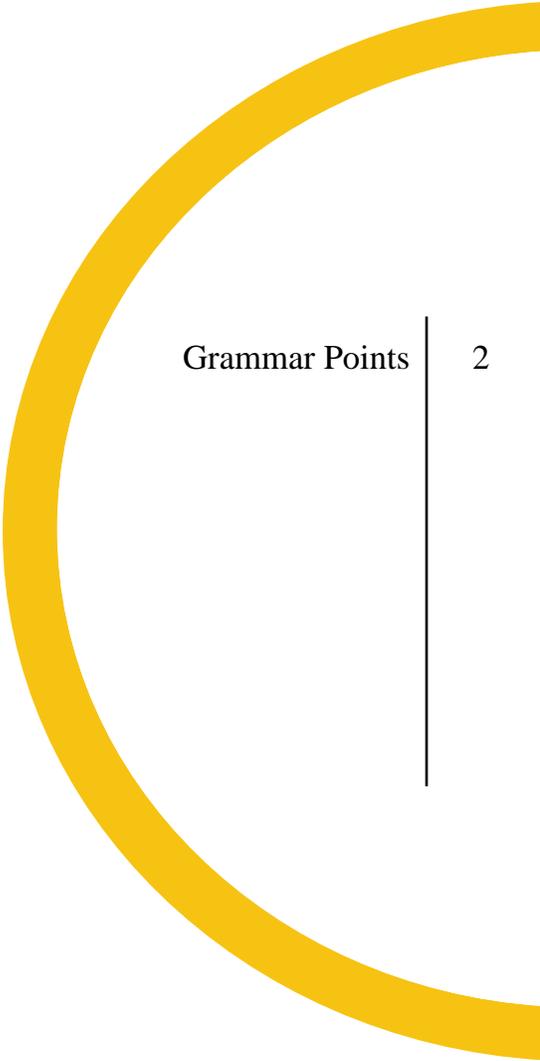


## Pronunciation

An Awesome Portuguese Tutor



5

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Grammar Points

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2

A vertical line is positioned to the right of the text 'Grammar Points', extending downwards. To the right of this line, the number '2' is written in a black serif font.

## Grammar Points

### The Focus of This Lesson is Accents, Nasals, and Special Marks

Accent marks are small symbols written above certain syllables to indicate some peculiarity in pronunciation. For example, the word *palito* ("toothpick") has the tonic syllable on the penultimate syllable. In contrast, the word *palitó* ("suit coat") does have an accent mark on the last syllable. This changes the tonic syllable to the last syllable and then alters the pronunciation of the word-final -o from a [u] sound to an open [o].

The shift in tonic syllable changes the meaning. In both English and Portuguese, the tonic syllable changes in every word. English is more complicated in that it can have multiple tonic syllables per word, and Portuguese can only have one. Portuguese is simpler because the rules for identifying which syllable(s) is/are the tonic syllable(s) are finite and simple, whereas English has no discernible patterns.

### Accent Marks

There are three accent marks in Portuguese: the *acento* (´), the *circunflexo* (^), and the *crase* ('). These accents mark the tonic syllables and often modify the sound of the vowel they are placed over.

Accent	Name	Where Used	What Happens	Examples
´	<i>Acento Agudo</i>	Over any vowel	Indicates tonic syllable, opens [e] and [o] sounds	<i>lápís, está, país, pó, saúde</i>
^	<i>Acento Circunflexo</i>	Over -a, -e, and -o	Indicates tonic syllable, closes the sound	<i>português, experiência,ônibus</i>
'	<i>Crase</i>	over -a	Indicates a contraction with the preposition -a	-a + -a = -à -a + -as = -às

### Nasals

The Portuguese -m at the end of a word only serves to nasalize the vowels it follows (e.g., *bem, bom, falam*). The lips never close.

Nasals are one of the most difficult sounds for English speakers to produce. English has nasal sounds in words like "sound," "down," and "flounder." When you say these words, the middle syllable has a little vibration like a quiet hum in your nose. Portuguese nasals are more intense, and you can find them throughout the language.

### We Indicate Nasals in Three Ways:

1. Following a vowel with the letter -m.
2. Following a vowel with the letter -n.
3. Placing a *tilde* (~) over the letters -a or -o.

The 'são' part of São Paulo is nasalized as well as words like *cão* ("dog"), *violão* ("guitar"), and *mamão* ("papaya"). This nasalization occurs in other vowels like *quem* ("who"), *irmã* ("sister"), and *fim* ("end"). In each of these words, we color the preceding vowel by the nasalization.

### Special Marks

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There are two special marks in Portuguese that are not accents. The *tilde* (~) nasalizes the sounds of *-a* and *-o*. The *cedilha* (ç) makes the -c have an [s] sound when -c is followed by *-a*, *-o*, or *-u*.

<b>Portuguese</b>	<b>"English"</b>
<i>bênção</i>	"blessing"
<i>aço</i>	"steel"
<i>açúcar</i>	"sugar"
<i>maçã</i>	"apple"
<i>não</i>	"no"

## Thank You

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