

Absolute Beginner 1

Lesson 1-25

1-25

## Introduction

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This is Innovative Language Learning.

Go to [InnovativeLanguage.com/audiobooks](http://InnovativeLanguage.com/audiobooks) to get the lesson notes for this course and sign up for your FREE lifetime account.

The course consists of lessons centered on a practical, real-life conversation.

In each lesson, first, we'll introduce the background of the conversation.

Then, you'll hear the conversation two times:

One time at natural native speed and one time with the English translation.

After the conversation, you'll learn carefully selected vocabulary and key grammar concepts.

Next, you'll hear the conversation 1 time at natural native speed at the end of the lesson.

Finally, practice what you have learned with the review track. In the review track, a native speaker will say a word or phrase from the dialogue, wait three seconds, and then give you the English translation. Say the word aloud during the pause. Halfway through the review track, the order will be reversed. The English translation will be provided first, followed by a three-second pause, and then the word or phrase from the dialogue. Repeat the words and phrases you hear in the review track aloud to practice pronunciation and reinforce what you have learned.

Before starting the lessons, go to [InnovativeLanguage.com/audiobooks](http://InnovativeLanguage.com/audiobooks) to get the lesson notes for this course and sign up for your FREE lifetime account.

## Absolute Beginner S1

### Portuguese Party Icebreaker

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## Formal Portuguese

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(Formal)

Naiara                  Tudo bem?  
Michael                Tudo bem.  
Naiara                Me chamo Naiara. E você, como se chama?  
Michael                Me chamo Michael. Prazer em conhecê-la Naiara.  
Naiara                O prazer foi meu!

(Informal)

Naiara                Oi, tudo bem?  
Michael                Tudo bem.  
Naiara                Meu nome é Naiara. E o seu?  
Michael                Meu nome é Michael. Prazer.  
Naiara                Prazer!

## English

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(Formal)

Naiara                Is everything well?  
Michael                Yes, everything.  
Naiara                My name is Naiara. And you, what is your name?  
Michael                My name is Michael. Pleasure to meet you, Naiara.  
Naiara                The pleasure was mine.

(Informal)

Naiara                Hi, how are you?  
Michael                I'm fine.  
Naiara                My name is Naiara. What's yours?  
Michael                My name is Michael. Nice to meet you.  
Naiara                Nice to meet you!

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
oi	hello	interjection

e	and	conjunction
tudo	everything	noun
bem	well	adjective
prazer	pleasure	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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Oi Dona Rita!

"Hi, Miss Rita!"

Oi Andréia!

"Hello, Andréia!"

E o seu?

"And yours?"

Ele bebeu tudo.

"He drank everything."

Tudo bem?

"How are you?"

Tudo Bem.

"I'm fine."

Ela canta bem.

"She sings well."

Prazer em te conhecer.

"Pleasure to meet you."

Foi um grande prazer.

"It was a great pleasure."

Eu sou Sarah Jones. Prazer em conhecê-lo.

"I am Sarah Jones. Nice to meet you."

Eu sou João Ferreira. Prazer em conhecê-la.

"I am John Ferreira. Nice to meet you."

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## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

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### Como se chama? ("What's your name?")

Como se chama? is a slightly more formal way of asking someone's name. It translates roughly to "What do you call yourself?" You could say Qual seu nome? which literally means "What's your name?" but Brazilians often prefer Como se chama? because it's less direct, and therefore, more polite.

## Grammar Points

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### The Focus of This Lesson Is Portuguese Greetings

Oi, Tudo bem?

"Hi, everything's well!"

"Hi!" (Oi) is the easiest and most common Portuguese greeting. People use it to say "hi," "hello," or just to get someone's attention. We can use this phrase with anyone at any time of the day or night. It can also serve as a response. If someone calls your name to get your attention, you can respond with Oi. That way they know they have your attention.

*Tudo bem* literally means "Everything well," and you can also use it with anybody at anytime of the day or night. It's probably the most versatile phrase in Portuguese. It can mean "How are you," "I'm fine," "Everything is okay," or "No, thank you," and you can use it if you are meeting the person for the first time in your life or the first time that day. Also, if you're asking someone if they are okay, then you raise your voice intonation toward the end of the sentence. That makes it a question.

### Examples:

Portuguese	"English"	Exact Translation	Class
<i>Oi tudo bem?</i>	"Hi, how are you?"	"Hi, everything well?"	Question
<i>Tudo bem.</i>	"I'm fine."	"Everything well."	Response

### Cultural Insight

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#### To Shake or to Kiss in Brazil?

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Brazilians normally greet each other by shaking hands. There is an old custom of kissing each other on the cheek, but today only women do it, and usually even then only with friends. To be safe, just shake hands.

## Absolute Beginner S1

Portuguese Greetings Can Go a Long Way for You Too!

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## Formal Portuguese

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(Formal)

Michael            Como vai?  
Naiara            Vou bem. E você, como vai?  
Michael            Também.  
Naiara            Que bom!

(Informal)

Michael            Como tá?  
Naiara            Tô bem. Você?  
Michael            Também.  
Naiara            Que bom!

## English

---

(Formal)

Michael            How are you?  
Naiara            I'm well. And you, how are you?  
Michael            I am also well.  
Naiara            That's great!

(Informal)

Michael            How ya doin'?  
Naiara            I'm good. You?  
Michael            Me too.  
Naiara            Oh, good!

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
também	also, too	adverb
você	you	pronoun
bom	good	adjective
vai	go	verb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Você também?*

"You too?"

*Você é meu melhor amigo.*

"You are my best friend."

*De onde você é?*

"Where are you from?"

*Bom dia!*

"Good morning!"

*Que bom!*

"That's great!"

*Como vai?*

"How are you?"

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

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*Como vai?* is the formal way to ask how someone is doing in Portuguese. It literally translates to "How goes?" but it means "How are you?" The "you" is inferred because of the context. You almost always use *Como vai* the first time you meet someone. If you've met them before, you can say *Como está?* This also means "How are you?" but is less formal than *Como vai?* Native Brazilians often shorten *Como está?* to *Como tá?* This is a very casual way to speak and probably not appropriate for the workplace, but among friends and family, it's very normal.

## Grammar Points

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### The Focus of This Lesson is the Word *Também*

***Também.***

**"I am also well." / "Me, too!"**

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*Também* is the Portuguese word for "also" or "too," and for the most part, we use it in the same ways as English. We can also use it like *Você também?* which translates to "You too?" or *Eu também estou cansado*, which is "I also am tired." Always remember that the accent mark on the -e (é) means that syllable is the tonic syllable.

*Também* often has additional or inferred meaning. In English, we would say "Me too," which in Portuguese is *Eu também*. In the dialogue, Michael responded to Naiara with just *Também*. This is because of the context. Naiara directed the question at Michael, and therefore, the "me" is unnecessary.

## Cultural Insight

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### Greeting in Portuguese

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It is important to ask a Brazilian how they are doing. It's part of the etiquette to inquire about them straight away. *Tudo bem* is great because it serves as both a greeting like "Hi," or "Hello" and is kindly asking about how someone is doing.

After greeting you with *Tudo bem*, many Brazilians will then ask you *Como vai?* *Tudo bem* is more of a general inquiry about your life and how things are going. *Como vai?* on the other hand, is more specific. "How are YOU doing?"



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### Portuguese Party Conversations

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## Formal Portuguese

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Michael De onde você é, Naiara?  
Naiara Sou de São Paulo. E você, onde você mora?  
Michael Em Seattle.  
Naiara Mmm, onde fica?  
Michael Washington.  
Naiara A capital?  
Michael Não, o estado.

## English

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Michael Where are you from, Naiara?  
Naiara I was born in São Paulo. And you, where do you live?  
Michael I live in Seattle.  
Naiara Mmm, where's that?  
Michael In Washington.  
Naiara The capital?  
Michael No, the state.

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
onde	where	adverb
de	of	preposition
ficar	to stay	verb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Para onde você vai nas férias?*  
*Onde está meu livro?*  
*Este é meu livro de receitas.*  
*De onde você é?*  
*Eu vou ficar em casa amanhã.*

"Where are you going on vacation?"  
"Where is my book?"  
"This is my recipe book."  
"Where are you from?"  
"I will stay home tomorrow."

*Onde fica Alemanha?*

"Where is Germany located?"

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

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In Portuguese, *De onde você é?* means "Where are you from?" Using this phrase to ask where someone is from in Portuguese is specifically asking them where they were born, not where they currently live. This is an important distinction to Brazilians and is very deep in the language.

## Grammar Points

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### The Focus of This Lesson Origins and the Word *De*

*Sou de São Paulo. E você, de onde você é?*

**"I was born in São Paulo. And you, where do you live?"**

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*De* is the Portuguese word for "of" and is a frequently used word in Portuguese. When we follow the verb *ser* with the preposition *de*, it can mean origin, ownership, or composition.

In the dialogue, Naiara said *Sou de São Paulo*, which means "I was born in São Paulo," but the exact translation is "I'm from São Paulo."

### Things to Remember

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1. *Sou* is a conjugated form of the verb *ser* and means "I am" or "I'm."
2. *De* can mean both "of" or "from," depending on context.
3. *São Paulo* is the largest city in Brazil and the name of the respective state.

## Cultural Insight

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### **Brazilian Location, Location, Location**

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*Onde fica?* literally translates to "Where stays?" but should be interpreted as "Where is that?" or "Where is it located?" We use *Onde fica?* for non-movable things like buildings, cities, monuments, or

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even countries. In the dialogue, Naiara asks Michael where Seattle is located by saying *Onde fica?* because cities aren't movable things. We can also use this phrase when looking at a map.

For smaller, movable things like books and people, use *Onde está?* which means "Where is it?"



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Brazilian Reading Difficulties

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## Formal Portuguese

Naiara	Eu sou brasileira. E você?
Michael	Não, não sou brasileiro, sou americano.
Michael	(virando para Alessio) E você?
Alessio	Não, eu sou italiano.
Naiara	Vou para Salvador com meu namorado.
Michael	Você tem namorado?
Naiara	Sim, eu tenho um namorado. É ele. (apontanto para Alessio)
Michael	Foi um prazer conhecê-la.
Naiara	O prazer foi nosso!

## English

Naiara	I am Brazilian. And you?
Michael	No, I'm not Brazilian. I'm American.
Michael	(turning to Alessio) And you?
Alessio	No, I'm Italian.
Naiara	I'm going to Salvador with my boyfriend.
Michael	You have a boyfriend?
Naiara	I do. It's him. (pointing to Alessio)
Michael	It was a pleasure meeting you.
Naiara	The pleasure was ours!

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
brasileiro	Brazilian	noun
americano	American	noun
italiano	Italian	noun
namorado	boyfriend	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Eles são brasileiros.*

*Ela é brasileira.*

*Meu amigo é americano.*

*Eu não sou americano.*

*Sou americana.*

*No Brasil poucas pessoas falam italiano.*

*Aonde vão aqueles italianos?*

*Eu tenho namorado.*

"They are Brazilian."

"She is Brazilian."

"My friend is American."

"I am not an American."

"I'm American."

"In Brazil, few people speak Italian."

"Where are those Italians going?"

"I have a boyfriend."

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

The words we'll learn today are nationality words. The dialogue contained the words *americano*, *brasileira*, and *italiano*. These mean "American" (man), "Brazilian" (woman), and "Italian" (man), respectively.

<b>"English"</b>	<b>Portuguese (male)</b>	<b>Portuguese (female)</b>
"American"	<i>americano</i>	<i>americana</i>
"Brazilian"	<i>brasileiro</i>	<i>brasileira</i>
"Italian"	<i>italiano</i>	<i>italiana</i>

Some other examples are *japonês*, which means "Japanese," *chinês*, which means "Chinese," and *alemão*, which means "German." We can pluralize all nationalities, and we do so by adding an -s or an -es at the end of the word.

<b>"English"</b>	<b>Portuguese (male)</b>	<b>Portuguese (female)</b>

"Americans"	<i>americanos</i>	<i>americanas</i>
"Brazilians"	<i>brasileiros</i>	<i>brasileiras</i>
"Italians"	<i>italianos</i>	<i>italianas</i>

Also, most change according to gender. If a Chinese man were speaking, he would say *sou chinês*. If a woman were speaking, she would say *sou chinêsa*.

<b>"English"</b>	<b>Portuguese (male)</b>	<b>Portuguese (female)</b>
"Chinese"	<i>chinês</i>	<i>chinesa</i>
"Canadian"	<i>canadense or canadiano</i>	<i>canadiana</i>
"Japanese"	<i>japonês</i>	<i>japonesa</i>

## Grammar Points

### The Focus of This Lesson is Asking about Nationality

*Oi, você é japonês?*

**"Hello, are you Japanese?"**

In the dialogue, we heard how to ask about someone's nationality. To ask the question, you simply state *Você é Americano*, which means "You are American," with a rising tone at the end. That rising tone is how you ask questions in Portuguese. The rising tone changes the simple statement, *você é americano*, into a question: *Você é americano?*

To respond to an inquiry about your nationality, you say *Não, não sou japonês*. To negate a verb, as in "go" versus "not go," you simply place the word *não* in front of the verb. In Portuguese, double and even triple negatives are normal and do not cancel each other out as they do in Standard English.

Always remember that when talking about nationalities, Brazilians do not use capital letters. In English, you write "Italian," but in Portuguese you write *italiano*, all in lowercase.

## Cultural Insight

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### Restarting Old Portuguese Writing

Recently, the official Portuguese orthography changed. Or better, it's changing.

Orthography is the writing system of a language. Over the past fifty years or so, Brazil and other countries have altered their writing system a number of times in an attempt to have a universal Portuguese writing system. Reading a book published more than fifty years ago can be very difficult. Even if you learned Portuguese long ago, it's a good idea to restart here with the Absolute Beginner series because we will answer many of your questions.

## Absolute Beginner S1

### Brazilian Beauty

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## Formal Portuguese

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Natalie                    Oi! Tudo bem?  
Davi                      Oi! Tudo bem. Você fala português?  
Natalie                  Sim, eu falo português. Você é brasileiro?  
Davi                      Sim, eu sou. Meu amigo, Ben ali, ele é da Inglaterra.  
Natalie                  Ele fala português?  
Davi                      Fluenteamente.

## English

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Natalie                  Hi! How are you?  
Davi                      Hi! I'm fine. Do you speak Portuguese?  
Natalie                  Yes, I speak Portuguese. Are you Brazilian?  
Davi                      Yes, I am. My friend Ben over there, he is from England.  
Natalie                  Does he speak Portuguese?  
Davi                      Fluently.

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
eu	I	pronoun
você	you	pronoun
ele	he	pronoun
ela	she	pronoun
tudo	everything	noun
bem	well	adjective
português	Portuguese	noun
amigo	friend	noun
fluenteamente	fluently	adverb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Eu sou feliz.*

"I am happy."

*Eu sou de São Paulo.*

"I'm from São Paulo."

*Eu te amo.*

"I love you."

*Você é meu melhor amigo.*

"You are my best friend."

*De onde você é?*

"Where are you from?"

*Ele é chinês.*

"He is Chinese."

*Ela canta bem.*

"She sings well."

*Ele bebeu tudo.*

"He drank everything."

*Tudo bem?*

"How are you?"

*Tudo Bem.*

"I'm fine."

*Ela canta bem.*

"She sings well."

*Eu falo português.*

"I speak Portuguese."

*Você fala português?*

"Do you speak Portuguese?"

*Eu amo português!*

"I love Portuguese!"

*Eles são amigos.*

"They are friends."

*Elas são minhas amigas.*

"They are my friends."

*Eu quero falar Portuguese fluentemente.*

"I want to speak Portuguese fluently."

*Ele fala japonês fluentemente.*

"He speaks Japanese fluently."

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

Cognates are words of a similar nature, appearance, and meaning that are shared between two languages. English and Portuguese share many cognates. English words ending in "-ly" are usually cognates with Portuguese words ending in *-mente*. Sometimes the words are easy and obvious cognates, and sometimes the connection can be a little stretched, but the pattern is solid.

<b>"English"</b>	<b>Portuguese</b>	<b>"English"</b>	<b>Portuguese</b>
"finally"	<i>finalmente</i>	"happily"	<i>felizmente</i>
"mentally"	<i>mentalmente</i>	"silently"	<i>silenciosamente</i>

"frequently"	<i>frequentemente</i>	"generally"	<i>geralmente</i>

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson is *Eu*, *Você*, *Ele*, and *Ela*.**

*Sim, eu sou. Meu amigo, Ben, ele é da Inglaterra.*

**"Yes, I am. My friend, Ben, he is from England."**

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You already know the words *eu* and *você*, which mean "I" and "you," respectively. In this lesson, we'll introduce "he" and "she."

*Ele* is the Portuguese word for "he" and we use it in the same way as in English. *Ele está feliz* means "He is happy."

*Ela* is the Portuguese word for "she" and we use it in the same way as in English. *Ela é bonita* means "She is pretty."

For the grammatically inclined, *eu*, *você*, *ele*, and *ela* are subject pronouns.

<b>"English"</b>	<b>Portuguese</b>
"I"	<i>Eu</i>
"You"	<i>Você</i>
"He"	<i>Ele</i>
"She"	<i>Ela</i>

## Cultural Insight

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### Sílaba Tónica – Tonic Syllables

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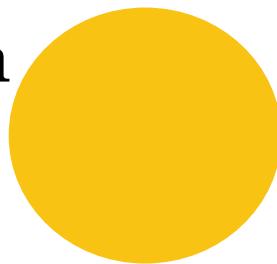
In Portuguese, *Você* means "you," and we use it in the same way. Remember there is an *acento*

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*circunflexo* on the *-e*, so the tonic syllable is on that *-e*, which is the last syllable of the word.





## Absolute Beginner S1

Are You in Possession of this Portuguese Potable?

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## Portuguese

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Natalie            Quem são eles?  
Davi               Eles são amigos de Tiago.  
Natalie            E elas ali?  
Davi               São minha esposa e minha filha.  
Natalie            Sério?! Vocês moram aqui?  
Davi               Não, nós moramos em Vitória.

## English

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Natalie            Who are they?  
Davi               They are Tiago's friends.  
Natalie            And those girls there?  
Davi               They are my wife and my daughter.  
Natalie            Really?! Do you live here?  
Davi               No, we live in Vitória.

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
nós	we	pronoun
de	of	preposition
eles	they	pronoun
elas	they	pronoun
amigo	friend	noun
vocês	you all	pronoun
não	no	adverb
esposa	wife	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Nós somos da Bahia.*

We are from Bahia.

*Este é meu livro de receitas.*

"This is my recipe book."

*De onde você é?*

"Where are you from?"

*Eles estão na praia.*

They are at the beach.

*Elas são minhas amigas.*

"They are my friends."

*Eles são amigos.*

"They are friends."

*Elas são minhas amigas.*

"They are my friends."

*Vocês são brasileiros?*

Are all of you (y'all) Brazilian?

*Eu não vou sair hoje.*

"I am not going out today."

*Posso falar com sua esposa?*

May I speak with your wife?

*Estou esperando por minha esposa.*

I waiting for my wife.

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

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### ***eu, você, ele, and ela.***

These mean "I," "'you," "he," and "she," respectively. In this lesson, we'll go over the plural forms of these words, which are *nós*, *vocês*, *eles*, and *elas*. Plural means there are more than one.

*Nós* is the Portuguese word for "we" and we use it in exactly the same ways.

In English, the word "you" can be both singular and plural but in Portuguese, *você* is the singular form and *vocês* is the plural form. We sometimes translate *vocês* as "y'all" to emphasize it's plurality.

*Eles* is the plural form of *ele*, and means "they" or "them." By default, it refers to a group of men but can also mean a mixed group of men and women.

*Elas* is the plural form *ela*. It means "they" or "them," but is specific to women. It's often more clear to simply translate this word as "those girls" or "those women." We cannot use *elas* even if there are one hundred women and one guy. *Elas* is for groups of only women or feminine only things.

## Grammar Points

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### **The Focus of This Lesson is Showing Possession with *de*.**

### ***Amigos de Tiago***

"Tiago's friends."

Portuguese does not have an apostrophe -s ('s) like English does to show possession as in "Brazil's beaches." To show possession in Portuguese, you must say "the beaches of Vitória" (as Praias de Vitória), using the preposition *de*.

*De* is probably the most frequently used word in Portuguese. We can translate *de* either as "of" in the sense of possession, or "from" in the sense of direction or origin, but in Portuguese, it is the same word. (less vocabulary!)

Portuguese	"English"
<i>Esta é a casa de Sara.</i>	"This is Sara's house." (This is the house of Sara.)
<i>O computador é de Alex.</i>	"The computer is Alex's." (The computer is of Alex.)

## Dialogue Expansion: Whose Letters are Those?

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To ask "whose?" use the phrase *de quem?* which means "of whom."

Portuguese	"English"
<i>De quem é a casa?</i>	"Whose house is this?"
<i>Esses papéis são de quem?</i>	"These papers are whose?"

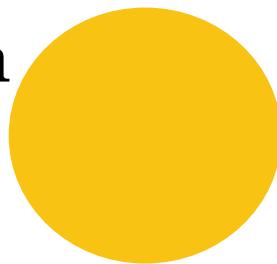
## Cultural Insight

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### Vitória, Espírito Santo

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Vitória is the capital city of the Espírito Santo state. On the northern border of the state of Rio de Janeiro, Espírito Santo is one of Brazil's major growers of coffee and cacao beans in Brazil. Vitória was founded in 1551 and water completely surrounds it as one of Brazil's three island capitals.



## Absolute Beginner S1

Portuguese: Girl or Boy Language?

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## Portuguese

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Davi                    Como está a sua família?  
Natalie                A minha família está bem, obrigada.  
Davi                    E seu irmão, Alex?  
Natalie                Você lembra de Ana Paula, nossa amiga? Eles vão se casar.

## English

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Davi                    How is your family?  
Natalie                My family is well, thank you.  
Davi                    And your brother, Alex?  
Natalie                Do you remember Ana Paula, our friend? They are getting married.

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
meu	my, mine	possessive
seu	your, yours	possessive
minha	my, mine	possessive
sua	your, yours	possessive
nossa	our, ours	possessive
nosso	our, ours	possessive
família	family	noun
obrigado	thank you	adjective

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

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*Este é meu carro.*

"This is my car."

*meu amigo*

"my friend"

*Meu amigo é americano.*

"My friend is American."

*Esses são meus sapatos.*

"Those are my shoes."

<i>Meu nome é Ricardo.</i>	"My name is Ricardo."
<i>Meu nome é Carol.</i>	"My name is Carol."
<i>Seus irmãos são mecânicos.</i>	"Your brothers are mechanics."
<i>Esse é seu prédio.</i>	"That is your building."
<i>E o seu?</i>	"And yours?"
<i>Ali estão minhas caixas.</i>	"Just over there are my boxes."
<i>É minha casa.</i>	"It's my house."
<i>Essa laranja é minha.</i>	"That orange is mine."
<i>Suas amigas são americanas?</i>	"Are your friends Americans?"
<i>Ela é sua esposa?</i>	"Is she your wife?"
<i>Nossas casas são pequenas.</i>	"Our houses are small."
<i>Esta cidade é nossa.</i>	"This city is ours."
<i>Esta é nossa cozinha.</i>	"This is our kitchen."
<i>Nossos pés estão sujos.</i>	"Our feet are dirty."
<i>Cadê nosso táxi?</i>	"Where's our taxi?"
<i>Na minha família somos cinco irmãos.</i>	"In my family, there are five siblings."
<i>Eu quero uma família grande.</i>	"I want a big family."
<i>Obrigado pela sua ajuda.</i>	"Thank you for your help."

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

In Portuguese, there are several ways to express possession. In this lesson, we will learn how to express possession using the words *meu/minha*, *nossa/nossa*, and *seu/sua*.

We briefly discussed grammatical gender in All About Series Lesson 3 and a detailed explanation of grammatical gender is offered in the Absolute Beginner Series lesson titled "Gender." Please refer to those lessons if you have any questions regarding gender.

*Meu* and *minha* both mean "my" but have different functions in Portuguese. *Meu* is for words of masculine gender, and *minha* is for words of feminine gender. *Nossa* and *nossa* both mean "our" but *nossa* is the masculine word and *nossa* is the feminine word. *Seu* and *sua* are very versatile words. Either one could mean, "your," "his," "her," or "their" depending on the context.

In this lesson, we'll explain how to use it to mean "your." We'll cover the other meanings in future lessons.

"English" "	<i>Portuguese</i> (masculine)	Examples	<i>Portuguese</i> (feminine)	Examples
"my"	<i>Meu</i>	<i>Meu livro</i>	<i>Minha</i>	<i>Minha caneta</i>
"our"	<i>Nosso</i>	<i>Nosso carro</i>	<i>Nossa</i>	<i>Nossa casa</i>
"your"	<i>Seu</i>	<i>Seu amigo</i>	<i>Sua</i>	<i>Sua bolsa</i>

## Grammar Points

---

The Focus of This Lesson is Possessive Adjectives

*Como está a sua família?*

"How is your family?"

*Nossa amiga?*

"Our friend?"

---

In English, the words "my," "your," and "our" are called possessive adjectives. Portuguese has more of these than English does, but for the most part, we use them the same way. Just as in English, the possessive comes first.

<i>Portuguese</i>	"English"
<i>Meu sapato</i>	"my shoe"

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<i>Minha gravata</i>	"my tie"
<i>Sua mãe</i>	"your mother"
<i>Seu pai</i>	"your father"
<i>Nosso quarto</i>	"our room"
<i>Nossa professora</i>	"our (female) teacher"

## Dialogue Expansion: Articles Before Possessive Words

---

The dialogue contains the phrase *a sua família*, which literally translates to "the your family," but means just "your family." The word *a* at the beginning of the phrase means "the." In Portuguese, we can use words like "the," "a," and "an," often before possessive words with little change in meaning, but they typically give a slight increase in formality.

Using articles before possessive words is beyond the scope of these lessons and we will cover them in the Beginner series.

<i>Portuguese</i>	<i>Portuguese</i>	"English"
<i>Meu irmão</i>	<i>O meu irmão</i>	"my brother"
<i>Nossa mesa</i>	<i>A nossa mesa</i>	"our table"
<i>Seus copos</i>	<i>Os seus copos</i>	"your cups"

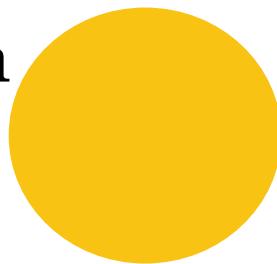
## Cultural Insight

---

### The Difference between Men and Women in Portuguese

---

In the dialogue, Natalie used the word *obrigada*. In Portuguese, *obrigado* means "thank you," but because of grammatical gender, we pronounce this word differently depending on the gender of the speaker. If you are a man, then you say *obrigado*. If you are a woman, then you say *obrigada*.



## Absolute Beginner S1

Brazilian Bargaining?

8

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## Portuguese

---

Vendedor      Você gostaria de experimentar nossos perfumes?

Natalie        Quais são seus perfumes?

Vendedor       Tenho Chanel, Lancôme, Dolce e Gabana, Dior...

Natalie        Oh! Obrigada, são muito caros.

## English

---

Vendor        Would you like to try our perfumes?

Natalie        Which ones are your perfumes?

Vendor        I have Chanel, Lancôme, Dolce and Gabana, Dior...

Natalie        Oh! No thank you, they are very expensive.

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
sua	your, yours	possessive
experimentar	to try, to try out, test	verb
Dolce e Gabbana	Dolce and Gabbana	noun
Dior	Dior	noun
caro	expensive	adjective
seu	your, yours	possessive

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Suas amigas são americanas?*

"Are your friends Americans?"

*Ela é sua esposa?*

"Is she your wife?"

*A cozinheira experimentou a sopa.*

The cook tried the soup.

*As campanhas publicitárias de Dolce & Gabbana  
são memoráveis.*

The publicity campaigns of Dolce & Gabbana are memorable.

*Christian Dior autorizou a produção de suas  
roupas no Brasil.*

Christian Dior authorized production of his clothes in Brazil.

*Aquele hotel é muito caro.*

"That hotel is very expensive."

*Seus irmãos são mecânicos.*

"Your brothers are mechanics."

*Esse é seu prédio.*

"That is your building."

*E o seu?*

"And yours?"

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

---

Portuguese is different from English in the way that Portuguese shows possession. In the last lesson, we talked about the possessive words "my," "your," and "our," and their singular forms in Portuguese. The singular Portuguese words for "my" are *meu* and *minha*. The words for "your" are *seu* and *sua*. The words for "our" are *nossa* and *nossa*.

Portuguese also has plural forms of these words. You create the plural by simply adding an -s at the end of the word. For example, *seu* becomes *seus* and *nossa* becomes *nossas*.

## Grammar Points

---

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Plural Possessive Adjectives.**

*Quais são seus perfumes?*

"Which ones are your perfumes?"

*Meus Perfumes or Seus Perfumes?*

("My perfumes or your perfumes?")

---

The vocabulary words in this lesson are the same words from the last lesson. They have the same meaning and the same word order and usage patterns. The one difference is in the plurality. English doesn't have plural possessive adjectives, which means you are learning something completely new.

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We make plural possessive adjectives by simply adding an -s to the end of the possessive adjective. The pronoun becomes plural only if the noun is also plural.

One item		2 or more	
<i>Portuguese</i>	"English"	<i>Portuguese</i>	"English"
<i>meu dedo</i>	"my finger"	<i>meus dedos</i>	"my fingers"
<i>minha camisa</i>	"my shirt"	<i>minhas camisas</i>	"my shirts"
<i>nossa casa</i>	"our house"	<i>nossas casas</i>	"our houses"
<i>sua amiga</i>	"your (female) friend"	<i>suas amigas</i>	"your (female) friends"

Plurality and gender are the two most distinct aspects of Portuguese and are the main reasons we consider Portuguese difficult to learn. Don't worry about this too much as we'll review these concepts many times. The reality is that neither gender nor plurality is very difficult, but because they are so extensive, it can often be overwhelming. This lesson is just an introduction to the concept. You don't have to be perfect at this right away. And if you have questions or want more clarification you can always post it in the blog.

## Cultural Insight

### Street Markets in Brazil

Every street market in Brazil is unique. For the most part, there are small booths or tents where people sell their products. The location is typically very safe but you should always be ready to bargain. There are no set prices at most street markets, so if they think you have money, they'll raise the price. You need to know how to bargain.

If you're not very good at bargaining, you could have a Brazilian friend go to the shop owner and do the negotiations for you. Natives have years of practice at this.

## Absolute Beginner S1

### Brazilian Bag Mix-Up

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## Formal Portuguese

---

- Natalie            Essa pipoca é sua?
- Sara                Não. Eu acho que é dele. (aponta para Alexandre)
- Natalie            (Pergunta a Alexandre) Essa pipoca é sua?
- Alexandre         Não. Eu acho que é dela. (aponta para Sara)
- Natalie            É de quem então?

## English

---

- Natalie            Is that popcorn yours?
- Sara                No. I think it's his. (points at Alexandre)
- Natalie            (Asks Alexandre) Is this popcorn yours?
- Alexandre         No. I think it's hers. (Points at Sara)
- Natalie            Whose is it then?

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
dele	of him, his	Possessive
pipoca	popcorn	Noun
dela	of her, her, hers	Possessive
então	then	Adverb
quem	who, whom	Indefinite Pronoun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

A caneta dele é preta.  
Eu gosto de pipoca.  
O carro dela está na garagem.  
Onde estou então?  
Esse livro é de quem?  
Quem é você?  
Quem inventou o número zero?

His pen is black.  
I like popcorn.  
Her car is in the garage.  
Where am I then?  
"Whose's is this book?"  
"Who are you?"  
Who invented number zero?

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

In previous lessons, we learned the words *seu* and *sua*, which both mean "your." In the dialogue, we hear the word *sua* used in a slightly different way to mean "yours." In English, "your" and "yours" mean the same thing but you use them in different ways depending on the way you structure your sentence. You can say "This house is yours," but you can't say "This house is your." You can also say "This is your house," but you can't say "This is yours house."

In Portuguese, it's much simpler as it doesn't make this distinction. You can use either *seu* or *sua* in either situation. Remember to match the gender and use *sua* with feminine words and *seu* with masculine words.

"English"	<i>Portuguese</i>
"This house is yours."	<i>Esta casa é sua.</i>
"This is your house."	<i>Esta é sua casa.</i>
"This is your computer."	<i>Este é seu computador.</i>

"This computer is yours."

*Este computador é seu.*

## Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is the words **Dele** and **Dela**

*Eu acho que é dela.*

"I think it's hers."

In Portuguese, we often express possession using the word *de*. For example, the sentence *A bolsa de Maria* translates to "The bag of Maria." There is no -s in Portuguese.

The words *dele* and *dela* are contractions of the word *de* with the pronouns *ele* and *ela* and follow the same patterns.

Possessive	Contraction	"English"
<i>Dele</i>	<i>de + ele</i>	"of him (his)"
<i>Dela</i>	<i>de + ela</i>	"of her (her, or hers)"
<i>Deles</i>	<i>de + eles</i>	"of them (their)"
<i>Delas</i>	<i>de + elas</i>	"of them (their)" *Only used with groups made up of all women or words of the feminine grammatical gender.

For Example:

Portuguese	"English"
<i>O pai dele</i>	"his dad"
<i>O pai dela</i>	"her dad"
<i>Os amigos deles</i>	"their friends"

### Dialogue Expansion: Possessive Pronouns

To form a possessive pronoun (mine, yours, his, hers, theirs), just use the possessive word by itself.

**For Example:**

1. A minha familia está bem. Como esta a sua?

"My family is fine. How is yours?"

2. O livro é seu? sim, o livro é meu.

"Is this book yours? Yes, the book is mine."

## Cultural Insight

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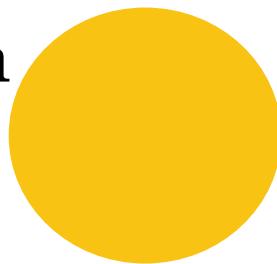
### Determining What is Whose in Portuguese

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5



Brazilians are very polite and will often ask questions of one another to clarify a confusing situation. Whether at the store, in the movie theater, or at the laundromat, simple misunderstandings are easily resolved through a quick interchange like the one in the dialogue.



## Absolute Beginner S1

It's All Brazilian History

10

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## Portuguese

---

Michael É este o lugar, Mariana?

Mariana Sim, é esta a lanchonete.

Michael Eu estou cansada e com sede. Você quer tomar um suco?

Mariana Michael, se diz, "eu estou cansado," porque você é homem. E sim, um suco seria ótimo.

## English

---

Michael Is this the place, Mariana?

Mariana Yes, this is the snack shop.

Michael I am tired and thirsty. Do you want some juice?

Mariana You should say "I am tired," because you are a man. And yes, a juice would be great.

2

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
descansar	to rest	verb
ótimo	great	adjective
casa	house	noun
cansado	tired	adjective
homem	man	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Eu quero descansar.*

"I want to rest."

*Viajar é ótimo!*

"Traveling is great!"

*Ótimo!*

"Great!"

*Essa casa é azul.*

"That house is blue."

*Eu estou cansada, e você?*

"I am tired, are you?"

*Você está cansado?*

"Are you tired?"

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

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

---

The phrase *Eu estou cansado* means "I am tired." And it's a phrase the heat of the Brazilian sun will make you want to say at about noon every day. As with the majority of Portuguese adjectives, there is both a masculine and feminine form of the word *cansado*. That means that if you are a man, you say *Eu estou cansado*, and if you are a woman, then you say *Eu estou cansada*. When you are talking about people, *-o* at the end of a word usually indicates a man, and *-a* at the end of a word usually indicates a woman.

In a very broad sense, an *-o* at the end of a word indicates that the word is masculine and if there is an *-a* at the end of the word then it is a feminine word. There are many, many exceptions to this, so it's good to check a dictionary. You can always ask one of your Brazilian friends; they'll know.

## Grammar Points

---

### The Focus of This Lesson is Grammatical Gender

*Esta é a casa.*

"This is the house."

---

Understanding always precedes learning. In this grammar point, we want to introduce the basic concepts of grammatical gender. The key thing you need to remember about grammatical gender is that it is an attribute of grammar and not necessarily a reflection of reality. For example, the word *livro* is a masculine word that means "book."

Grammatical gender is not the same thing as gender relations. Women use masculine words in the same way that men do and men use feminine words in the same way women do. To a Brazilian, grammatical gender is just grammar. In fact, until the 1980s English used the word gender almost exclusively in the grammatical sense and had no reference toward society whatsoever.

Grammatical gender is almost completely absent in English. We show this by the English translation being grammatically perfect while the original Portuguese is almost unintelligible.

### **Dialogue Expansion: A Story about the History of Grammatical Gender in Portuguese.**

Once upon a time, there were people who decided to organize their daily tasks according to who did what. Male tasks became masculine words and things that women did were feminine words. So women would work in the "house" (*casa* – feminine) with the "children" (*crianças* – feminine) at the "table" (*mesa* – feminine), often making "food" (*comida* – feminine), and cutting the food with "knives" (*faca* – feminine).

The men would work out in the "field" (*campo* – masculine), putting on their "shoes" (*sapatos* – masculine), working with the "animals" (*animais* – masculine), and reading "books" (*livros* – masculine) and taking care of the "government" (*governo* – masculine).

Then those people became the Romans and they called their language Latin. Their lives quickly became much more complicated. Women began reading books and men started making food, and the simple divisions they'd created no longer worked.

Now, over two thousand years later, Portuguese has many remnants of this now convoluted system of masculine and feminine. It probably made a lot of sense three thousand years ago but now it's just a relic of an ancient time, like spelling in English. We spell "enough" -e-n-o-u-g-h instead of -e-n-u-f. Why? Because we do.

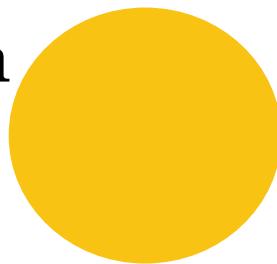
## Cultural Insight

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### Portuguese Grammatical Gender

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Grammatical gender is often one of the aspects of Portuguese that is most easily forgotten in the rush of the day—especially when you aren't sure about the gender of the words. It's very normal for Brazilian children to mess up on the gender of words when they are learning Portuguese. What makes gender hard is that there isn't really any pattern you can follow to know if a word is masculine or feminine. Sure, you can use a few guidelines and suggestions to guess, but nothing that you can really trust. Brazilians can feel the gender of their words. They're natives after all.



## Absolute Beginner S1

Here and There in Brazil

11

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## Portuguese

---

Natalie            Oi tudo bem?

Miguel & Tiago    Tudo bem!

Tiago            Natalie, este é meu amigo Miguel.

Natalie            Prazer em conhecê-lo, Miguel. Meu nome é Natalie.

Miguel            Muito prazer, Natalie. Aonde vamos?

Natalie            Vamos ao supermercado.

Miguel            Fica perto da casa do Tiago?

Natalie            Não, a casa do Tiago fica lá, bem longe.

Tiago            E o supermercado fica perto, logo ali.

## English

---

Natalie            Hi! How are you?

Miguel & Tiago    We're good!

Tiago            Natalie, this is my friend Miguel.

Natalie            Nice to meet you, Miguel. My name is Natalie.

Miguel            Nice to meet you, Natalie. Where are we going?

Natalie            We're going to the supermarket.

Tiago            Is it close to Tiago's house?

Natalie            No, Tiago's house is over there, quite far.

Tiago

And the supermarket is close, just over there.

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
aqui	here	adverb
ali	just there, right there	Adverb
lá	over there	Adverb
supermercado	supermarket	noun
longe	distant, far	adverb
perto	close, near	adverb
logo	soon	adverb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Eu vou esperar aqui.*

"I will wait here."

*Aqui está bem.*

"Here is good."

*O supermercado fica ali.*

"The supermarket is just over there."

*Minha irmã mora lá.*

"My sister lives there."

*Esse é o supermercado.*

"That is the supermarket."

*São Paulo é muito longe de Manaus.*

"São Paulo is very far from Manaus."

*A casa dela fica perto da farmácia.*

"Her house is close to the pharmacy."

*Logo ela vai chegar.*

"She'll arrive soon."

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

One thing Brazilians are well-known for is using their hands to talk. There are at least a hundred little hand gestures that all have specific meaning. But they don't point at people, just to indicate places.

In this kind of a dialogue, there would be several hand gestures. For example, when Natalie talks about Tiago's house she is probably extending her arm and waving her hand. And Tiago would probably point toward the location of the supermarket.

Note: Brazilians sometimes point at things and directions but never at people.

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson is the Words *Aqui*, *Alí*, and *Lá***

***Minha casa fica ali. Bem perto.***

"My house is there. Very close."

---

In English, we only have two basic words to indicate location: "here" and "there." The rules of English state that "here" is close to the speaker and that "there" is farther from the speaker. Exact distances are relative to perspective as someone could just as easily say "I'm here in the bathroom," as "I'm here in New York." In the first instance, "here" is the entire room where the speaker is located. In the second example, "here" is the entire city where the speaker is located.

Portuguese has the same flexibility of meaning. *Aqui* means "here," and *lá* means "there," and we use both words in almost identical ways. Portuguese also has the word *alí*, which is an intermediate distance between *aqui* and *lá*. We use *alí* for things that are close to you but out of reach, like a house on the other side of the street.

The quick tip is to think of *aqui* as things within your reach, *alí* is for things too far away to touch but easily visible, and anything *lá* is outside of your line-of-sight.

## Cultural Insight

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### Taking Care of Others

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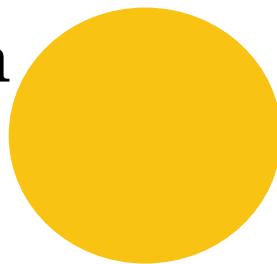
In the dialogue, Miguel didn't introduce himself. Miguel was Tiago's friend and a new acquaintance for Natalie. That means it's Tiago's responsibility to introduce Miguel. Many people tense up when they meet new people, but Brazilians are very welcoming. They will help you get to know new people and feel comfortable.

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When you are introduced to the friend of a friend, your new acquaintance typically becomes just as important to you as your friend.





## Absolute Beginner S1

Brazilian Victory Dance!

12

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## Portuguese

---

Brian Ana Carolina, o que você tem lá?

Ana Carolina Lá onde?

Brian Desculpa. O que você tem aí?

Ana Carolina Eu tenho algo azul aqui.

Brian É uma caderno?

Ana Carolina Não. Brian, o que você tem aí?

Brian Eu tenho algo branco.

Ana Carolina É loção?

Brian É sim.

Ana Carolina Oh, ganhei!

## English

---

Brian Ana Carolina, what do you have there?

Ana Carolina There where?

Brian Sorry. What do you have with you?

Ana Carolina I have something blue here.

Brian Is it a notebook?

Ana Carolina No. Brian, what do you have where you are?

Brian I have something white.

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Ana Carolina Is it lotion?

Brian Yes, it is!

Ana Carolina Oh, I won!

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
aí	there (where you are)	adverb
lá	over there	Adverb
ali	just there, right there	adverb
branco	white	adjective
azul	blue	noun
caderno	notebook	noun
ganhar	to win, to receive	verb
loção	lotion	noun
algo	something	indefinite pronoun

3

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Está aí.*

"It's over there near you."

*Minha irmã mora lá.*

"My sister lives there."

*O supermercado fica ali.*

"The supermarket is just over there."

*O prédio é branco.*

"The building is white."

*O céu é azul!*

"The sky is blue!"

*Esse caderno é azul.*

"That notebook is blue."

*Nós ganhamos o jogo.*

"We won the game."

*Esta loção é de romã.*

"This lotion is made from pomegranate."

*Você quer algo para comer?*

"Do you want something to eat?"

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

## Cognate Patterns

### -ção & -são

In the All About series, we talked about cognates, which are words in two different languages that share similar meanings and appearances. We gave some tips for being able to identify cognates and use them.

In the dialogue, Ana Carolina guessed that Natalie had some white lotion. The words "lotion" and *loção* are cognates. A pattern you can use to decipher such cognates is that words that end in "-tion" in English often have very similar structure and end in -ção. Also, words that end in "-sion" in English follow the same pattern and end in -são.

"English"	<i>Portuguese</i>	Pattern
"relation"	<i>relação</i>	-tion = -ção
"imagination"	<i>imaginação</i>	-tion = -ção
"extension"	<i>extensão</i>	-sion = -são
"mission"	<i>missão</i>	-sion = -são

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson is the word *Aí*.**

**O Que Você Tem Aí.**

## "What do you have where you are?"

---

In this lesson, we'll learn how to use the location word *aí*, which means "where you are." *Aí* is different from *alí* or *lá* because it is not relative to any particular distance or scale. *Aí* is very specific in referring to the immediate person or surroundings of the person you are talking to, whether they are on the other side of the table or the other side of the planet.

If you call your friend in Japan, you could ask them *Como estão as coisas por aí?* which means "How are things where you are?" Asking *Como estão as coisas por lá?* which means "How are things there?" is incorrect and would confuse your friend.

### Dialogue Focus: Aí, Ali, and Lá

---

We often teach the words *aí*, *ali*, and *lá* in conjunction and many textbooks teach them as divisions within the English word "there." Because of this, we often simply translate these words as "there." Translations like these often cause a great deal of confusion because in Portuguese, these words are very specific, but "there" is not. It's best to think of them as completely different location words. That way you don't confuse your listeners.

Portuguese	"English"	Usage And Meaning
<i>O que você tem lá?</i>	"What do you have there?"	Only makes sense if some distant location has already been specified in the conversation.
<i>O que você tem ali?</i>	"What do you have there?"	When you are talking about something nearby but not in the person's hands.
<i>O que você tem aí?</i>	"What do you have there?"	What do you have with you?

## Cultural Insight

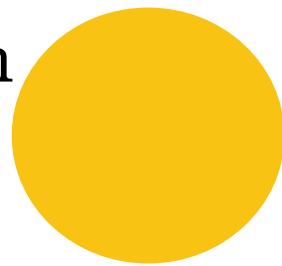
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### I won!

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*Ganhei!* It's always fun when you win. Brazilians love to celebrate winning and when any good thing happens in any sport. One thing they don't do is put others down because they won. Brazilians have no right way to celebrate winning, but happy exclamations, hugging, cheering, and even jumping are all common and acceptable.





## Absolute Beginner S1

### A Meaty Situation in Brazil

13

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## Portuguese

---

- Rita Este aqui, o que é?
- Garçom Este é carne com vegetais.
- Rita E estes aqui?
- Garçom Estes são pratos vegetarianos.
- Rita Oh...

## English

---

- Rita What is this?
- Waiter This is meat with vegetables.
- Rita And these here?
- Waiter These are vegetarian dishes.
- Rita Oh...

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
este	this	demonstrative
esta	this	demonstrative
garçom	waiter	noun
prato	plate, dish	noun
estes	these	demonstrative
estas	these	demonstrative

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Este é meu livro.*

"This is my book."

*Este jogo é brasileiro.*

"This game is Brazilian."

*Esta é nossa cozinha.*

"This is our kitchen."

*Essa casa é azul.*

"That house is blue."

*Onde está o garçom?*

"Where is the waiter?"

*Este prato é delicioso.*

"This dish is delicious."

*O elefante é um animal grande.*

"The elephant is a big animal."

*Estes sapatos são meus.*

"These are my shoes."

*Estas são minhas meias.*

"These are my socks."

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

---

### **Pratos vegetarianos ("Vegetarian Dishes")**

---

Adjectives specify or narrow the meaning of nouns. In English, we almost always put adjectives before the noun. In Portuguese, you almost always put the adjectives after the noun. This may seem very odd at first, as everything will feel backwards. "Green sign" makes perfect sense but "sign green" may blow some mental fuses at first. Don't worry, this starts making sense very quickly.

We need to pluralize adjectives in Portuguese just like the nouns. So, "one vegetarian dish" is *um prato vegetariano*, and "two vegetarian dishes" is *dois pratos vegetarianos*. This does not happen in English, so practicing will be very helpful. Also, if you listen carefully to the natives and copy the way they speak, pluralizing adjectives quickly becomes second nature.

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson is the Words *Este*, *Estes*, *Esta*, and *Estas*.**

***E estes aqui?***

"And these here?"

---

*Este* and *estes* are paired words just like "this" and "these," and the difference is plurality. We use *este*

when you have a single thing close to you, probably in your hands or within reach. For example, the phrase *Este relógio* translates to "This clock." *Estes* means "these," and the phrase *Estes sapatos* translates to "These shoes."

## Dialogue Expansion

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It's also important to remember that, because of grammatical gender, there are also feminine forms of *este* and *estes*. *Esta* means "this," and *estas* means "these." We use both exclusively with feminine nouns.

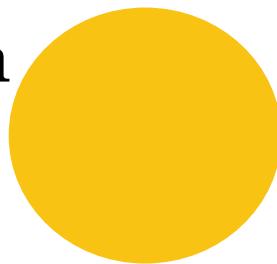
## Cultural Insight

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### Brazilians Love Meat

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It is a well-known fact that Brazilian's love beef; it's in their culture, it's in their history, it's in their hearts. Brazilians, therefore, have a keen eye and sensitive palate for good meat. The Brazilian style of barbecue is world famous, and according to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, there are more cows in Brazil than people.



## Absolute Beginner S1

### Brazilian Hospitality

14

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## Portuguese

---

- Rita            O que você vai comer?
- Jeff            Bem, esse prato com abacaxi parece muito bom.
- Rita            Ele parece gostoso.
- Jeff            Mas esses também parecem bons.
- Rita            É mesmo!

## English

---

- Rita            What are you going to eat?
- Jeff            Well, that dish with pineapple looks very good.
- Rita            It looks delicious.
- Jeff            But those also look good.
- Rita            Yes they do!

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
esse	that	pronoun
gostoso	tasty	adjective
esses	those	demonstrative
essa	that	demonstrative
essas	those	demonstrative
abacaxi	pineapple	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Esse filme é fantástico!*

"This movie is fantastic!"

*Esta comida é muito gostosa.*

"This food is very tasty."

*Esses meses são frios.*

"Those months are cold."

*Essa sandalha é confortável.*

"That sandal is comfortable."

*Essas bicicletas são verdes.*

"Those bicycles are green."

*Abacaxi é amarelo.*

"Pineapple is yellow."

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

---

### ***É Mesmo!***

---

A very common phrase in conversational Portuguese is *É mesmo*. Literally, this phrase translates to "Is same," but depending on context and tone of voice, it can have quite a variety of meanings. In the dialogue, Rita says *É mesmo* to mean something like "You're right." It's almost as if *É mesmo* means "What you said is the same as reality."

When we use *É mesmo* as a question, it has almost the same meaning as the English phrase "Really?"

3

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson is the Words *Esse*, *Esses*, *Essa*, and *Essas*.**

***Esses também parecem bons.* "These look good too."**

*Esse* and *esses* are paired words just like "that" and "those."

---

The difference is that *esse* is singular and *esses* is plural. You use *esse* and *esses* when you are talking about something that is just outside of arms reach but not very far away.

Dialogue Focus:

The difference between *este* and *esse* in Portuguese is the same as the difference between "this" and "that." It's distance: "this" is close to the speaker and "that" is just a little farther away.

## Dialogue Expansion:

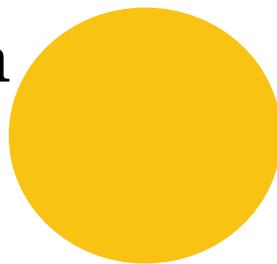
Just like in the previous lesson on *este* and *estes*, there are feminine forms for these words. *Esse* and *esses* are masculine and we use them with masculine nouns. *Essa* and *essas* are feminine and we use them with feminine nouns.

Portuguese	"English"	Plural Portuguese	"Plural English"
<i>este livro</i>	"this book"	estes livros	"these books"
<i>esta caneta</i>	"this pen"	estas canetas	"these pens"
<i>esse livro</i>	"that book"	esses livros	"those books"
<i>essa caneta</i>	"that pen"	essas canetas	"those pens"

## Cultural Insight

### Brazilians are Joyful

Brazilians often refer to themselves as *um povo alegre*, which translates to "a joyful people." They are relentlessly positive and encouraging even in the most benign situations. Of course, everyone has bad days, but in Brazil, there aren't so many and they're often not as bad.



## Absolute Beginner S1

### Getting Fresh in Brazil

15

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## Portuguese

---

- Rita            Aquele almoço foi muito gostoso.
- Jeff            Foi sim. Eu vou voltar aqui amanhã.
- Rita            Eu preciso pegar um ônibus. Onde fica o ponto?
- Jeff            (apontando) Alí, onde aquelas pessoas estão.

## English

---

- Rita            That lunch was very tasty.
- Jeff            Yes, it was. I will come back here tomorrow.
- Rita            I need to catch a bus. Where is the bus stop?
- Jeff            (pointing) There, where those people are.

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
aquele	that, that over there	demonstrative
aqueles	those, those over there	demonstrative
aquela	that, that over there	demonstrative
aquelas	those, those over there	demonstrative
almoço	lunch	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Aquele relógio é de ouro.*

"That watch is made of gold."

*Aqueles homens são músicos.*

"Those men over there are musicians."

Aquela montanha é muito alta.  
Aquelas moças são muito bonitas.  
Brasileiros comem muito no almoço.

"That mountain over there is very tall."  
"Those girls over there are very pretty."  
"Brazilians eat a lot at lunch."

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

### "pegar"

The Portuguese verb *pegar* means "to get," "to catch," or "to grab" depending on the context. *Pegar* is a very versatile word and has many comparable uses for English speakers.

English	Portuguese
"catch a bus"	<i>pegar ônibus</i>
"catch!"	<i>pega!</i>
"catch a cold"	<i>pegar gripe</i>
"grab the bag."	<i>pegar a bolsa</i>
"get that book."	<i>pega esse livro</i>

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson is the Words *Aquele*, *Aqueles*, *Aquela*, and *Aquelas*.**

***Aquele almoço foi muito gostoso.***

"That lunch was very tasty."

*Aquele* and *aqueles* are paired words just like "that" and "those." *Aquele* and *aqueles* are unique though because English has no equivalent for these words. One very good way to understand them though is this: if *este* is "close to you" and *esse* is "a little farther away," then *aquele* is "even farther away." We use *aquele* and *aqueles* when you are talking about something that is far away, out of reach, and probably out of sight. When compared to the *aqui*, *alí*, and *lá* continuum, the words *aquele* and *aqueles* fit in with *lá*.

Portuguese	"English"	Portuguese
<i>aqui</i>	"here"	<i>este, estes, esta, estas</i>
<i>alí</i>	"there"	<i>esse, esses, essa, essas</i>

<i>lá</i>	"over there"	<i>aquele, aqueles, aquela, aquelas</i>
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## Dialogue Expansion

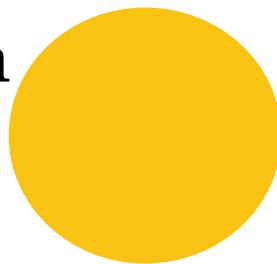
Just like in the previous lesson on *este* and *estes*, there are feminine forms for these words. *Esse* and *esses* are masculine and we use them with masculine nouns. *Essa* and *essas* are feminine and we use them with feminine nouns.

Portuguese	English
<i>Aquele mar.</i>	"That sea over there."
<i>Aqueles países.</i>	"Those countries over there."
<i>Aquela pedra.</i>	"That rock over there."
<i>Aquelas montanhas.</i>	"Those mountains over there."

## Cultural Insight

### Get the Brazilian Juice.

Brazilian food is amazing. Cooks typically spend anywhere from one to three hours on each meal every day. Most meals in Brazil have rice and beans with vegetables and meat side dishes. In Brazil, it's always best to ask for juice at a restaurant rather than water because the juice will almost always be fresh and the water will probably be more expensive than the juice.



## Absolute Beginner S1

Discreet Brazilians

16

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## Portuguese

---

Joseph                    Eu estão contente.

Luciana                 Você precisa falar, "Eu estou contente."

Joseph                 Por quê?

Luicana                Porque "estão" indica "eles" e "estou" indica "eu." Entendeu?

Joseph                 Sim. Então, eu estou contente.

Luciana                Sim, está correto.

## English

---

Joseph                 I are content.

Luciana                You should say "I am content."

Joseph                 Why?

Luicana                Because "are" indicates "they," and "am" indicates "I." Understood?

Joseph                 Yes. Then, I am content.

Luciana                Yes, that's right.

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
estou	I am	verb
estão	are, they are, you are	verb
por que	why, for why	adverb
porque	because	adverb

você	you	pronoun
falar	speak, talk	verb
Entendeu?	(Do you) Understand?	phrase

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Eu estou feliz.*

"I am happy."

*Eles estão ali.*

"They are just over there."

*Por que você quer?*

"Why do you want it?"

*Porque eu estou cansado.*

"Because I am tired."

*Você é meu melhor amigo.*

"You are my best friend."

*De onde você é?*

"Where are you from?"

*Você fala com as suas flores?*

"Do you talk with your flowers?"

*Você entendeu tudo?*

Did you understand everything?

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

### "Entendeu?"

This literally translates to "Understood?" but because Portuguese verbs have more meaning than English verbs, we should interpret it to mean "Did you understand?"

When someone asks you *Entendeu?* the standard ways to respond are *Sim, entendi* or *Não, não entendi*. Nodding or shaking your head is also common and usually used with *Sim, entendi* or *Não, não entendi*, respectively.

## Grammar Points

### **The Focus of This Lesson is Portuguese Verbs**

*Porque estão indica "eles" e estou indica "eu."*

"Because "are" indicates "they," and "am" indicates "I."

Portuguese verbs are not as hard as many textbooks make them out to be. Verbs in any language indicate action. In both Portuguese and English, verbs change to indicate tense, which is past, present, or future, and to indicate person, which is who is talking or being talked about. When verbs change

like this, it's called conjugation. The main difference between English verbs and Portuguese verbs is that Portuguese verbs conjugate more often than English verbs.

Conjugation does not change the base meaning of a verb but it does change how the verb interacts with the rest of the sentence. Like changing the combination on a lock, the lock itself is still the same. but if you ever want to use the lock then you need to put in the right numbers. You don't say "I are content" or "You am content" because it just isn't right. In the same way, saying *Eu estão contente* or *Você estou contente* just isn't right.

Don't worry about this, we know you can do it. If you can learn one language, you can learn two. Starting in the beginner series, we'll cover all the major conjugations very carefully so you'll know exactly how each verbs changes, what it means, and how and when to use it.

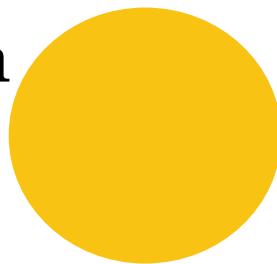
We have verb charts on the website where you can find which word to use in each situation.

## Cultural Insight

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### **Brazilians Won't Correct You**

Brazilians are some of the kindest, most understanding people on earth. They are welcoming, patient, positive, and always ready to help. But one thing they will not do is correct you when you say something wrong. It might be because they don't like conflict. It might be because they think it's rude. Whatever the reason, to learn Portuguese you must be attentive to all the details from sentence structure to vowel formation. If there is anything you just can't get an answer to, post it on the blog or send us an email and we'll put the answer in one of our future lessons.



## Absolute Beginner S1

Little House, Big Brazilian Plans

17

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## Portuguese

---

- Joseph            Luciana, você é paulistana?
- Luciana          Eu sou, mas minha família é do Maranhão.
- Joseph            Seus pais são de lá?
- Luciana          Sim. Mas eu nasci em São Paulo.
- Joseph            Legal.

## English

---

- Joseph            Luciana, are you Paulistana?
- Luciana          I am, but my family is from Maranhão.
- Joseph            Your parents are from there?
- Luciana          Yes. But I was born in São Paulo city.
- Joseph            Cool.

2

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
mas	but	conjunction
ser	to be	verb
família	family	noun
paulistano	from São Paulo city	pronoun
pais	parents, fathers	noun
legal	cool, legal	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Ele é alto, mas ela é mais alta.*

"He is tall, but she is taller."

*Eu quero ser mais alto.*

"I want to be taller."

*Na minha família somos cinco irmãos.*

"In my family, there are five siblings."

*Eu quero uma família grande.*

"I want a big family."

*Eles são Paulistanos.*

"They are from São Paulo city."

*Eles são bons pais.*

"They are good parents."

*Que bicicleta legal!*

"What a cool bike!"

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

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### Legal

---

("Literally") *Legal* means "literally" and we often use it that way. It's also an idiomatic expression that means almost the exact same thing as "cool" in English. In the dialogue, Joseph says, *legal* after learning a bit about Luciana's life. When someone uses the word *legal* in Brazil, more often than not, they're saying that it's "cool." There are many other ways to say "cool" in Portuguese, including *fera*, *massa*, and *chique*, but *legal* is by far the most versatile and most common.

## Grammar Points

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### **The Focus of This Lesson is the Verb Ser.**

*Eu sou. Minha família é do Maranhão.*

"I am. My family is from Maranhão."

*Sou*, *é*, and *são* are all conjugated forms of their root verb *ser*. The verb *ser* in Portuguese, means "to be." "To be" is the most fundamental form of verbs like "is," "are," and "am." The "to be" form is rarely taught in English classes but standard for studying foreign languages. We most often use *ser* in what we call 'equative' sentences. In other words, *ser* connects two (or more) ideas or describes what something is. We do not use *ser* to describe the condition of something or to tell the location of things.

*Ser* is the root, or infinitive, form. It is important to know the infinitive forms because Portuguese dictionaries only list verbs in their infinitive forms. Both English and Portuguese alter these infinitive or root forms of verbs according to specific patterns called conjugations.

*Ser* is considered a strong verb because its conjugated forms have more meaning embedded in them

than their English equivalent. A misconjugated *ser*, with all its added meaning, will not match with the other words in the sentence and will make the entire sentence very difficult, if not impossible, to understand.

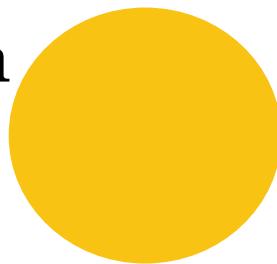
Ser	
Singular	Plural
sou	somos
é	são

## Cultural Insight

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### Brazilians Move Around a Lot

Brazil is divided into five regions and each region has its own culture, food, and dialect of Portuguese. These unique characteristics were caused by the relative isolation of each region over the past four hundred years. Brazilian culture is agriculturally based and throughout Brazilian history, most people lived their entire lives in the same town where they were born. During the past forty years, however, Brazilians have started moving around much more.



## Absolute Beginner S1

### The Brazilian Stare

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## Portuguese

---

Luciana            Há quanto tempo você tá aqui em São Paulo?

Joseph            Faz três horas que tô aqui.

Luciana            E onde estão seus amigos?

Joseph            Não sei. Atrasados como sempre.

## English

---

Luciana            How long have you been here in São Paulo?

Joseph            It's been three hours that I've been here.

Luciana            And where are your friends?

Joseph            I don't know. Late as always.

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
tempo	weather, time	noun
atrasado	late	adjective
estar	to be	verb
estão	are, they are, you are	verb
amigo	friend	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Você viu a previsão do tempo hoje?*

*Eu estou atrasado!*

Did you watch the weather forecast today?

"I'm late!"

*Aqui está bem.*

"Here is good."

*Eles estão alí.*

"They are just over there."

*Eles são amigos.*

"They are friends."

*Elas são minhas amigas.*

"They are my friends."

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

### ***"Tô - Tá"***

We used the words *tô* and *tá* in this lesson. You will not find these words in even the best dictionaries, but you will hear them in almost every conversation. In other lessons, we've learned that verbs change in time and person according to specific patterns. Changing verbs in this way is what we call conjugation. *Estou* and *está* are conjugated forms of the verb *estar*. *Eu estou* means "I am," and *Você está* means "you are." In conversation, Brazilians have shortened these two phrases to simply *tô* and *tá*. *Tá* is a commonly used, shortened form of *está*. Any time we could use the word *está* in casual conversation, we can substitute *tá* without any loss of meaning or understanding. In situations where you need to show more respect, like to your girlfriend's parents, it's better to say *está*.

	Portuguese	English
Formal	<i>Onde você está?</i>	"Where are you?"
Casual	<i>Onde tá?</i>	"Where are you?"

## Grammar Points

### **The Focus of This Lesson is the verb *estar***

#### ***E onde estão seu amigos?***

"And where are your friends?"

We use the *estar* verb in 'active' sentences and not in equative sentences. In other words, we use *estar* to describe the condition of something. For Example: *Ela está doente* "She is sick." Or to tell the location of things that can move. For Example: *Ele está em casa* "He is at home." This is telling his current location, but he could move at any time.

Further Examples: *O carro está na garagem* "The car is in the garage."

*Você está na escola* "You are at school."

Estar	
Singular	Plural
estou	estamos
está	estão

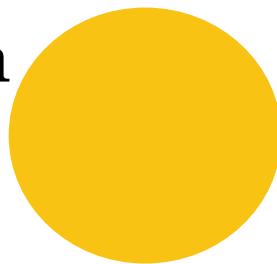
## Cultural Insight

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### **Look Them in the Eye.**

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When two English speakers talk together, usually the person who is listening looks away and the person who is talking looks at the listener. Brazilians often look in each other's eyes whether they are talking or listening. This can be a little unnerving at first, but it isn't an intense, direct stare. More like gentle paying attention.



## Absolute Beginner S1

### Brazilians Striking Problem

19

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## Portuguese

---

Julie            O ônibus está atrasado hoje.

Leonardo        Talvez os motoristas estejam de greve. Onde você mora?

Julie            Eu moro em Campo Grande.

Leonardo        Ah tá, eu moro lá perto. Vamos pegar um táxi?

## English

---

Julie            The bus is late today.

Leonardo        Maybe the bus drivers are on strike. Where do you live?

Julie            I live in Campo Grande.

Leonardo        Oh, okay, I live close to there. Shall we catch a taxi?

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
o	the	article
a	the	article
talvez	maybe	adverb
os	the	article
as	the	article
grande	big	adjective
de	of	preposition

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Aquele foi o melhor restaurante que eu já fui.*

"That was the best restaurant I have ever been to."

*A porta está quebrada.*

"The door is broken."

*Talvez amanhã.*

"Maybe tomorrow."

*Os gatos estão perdidos.*

"The cats are lost."

*As páginas estão rasgadas.*

"The pages are ripped."

*Ela tem olhos grandes.*

"She has big eyes."

*O elefante é um animal grande.*

"The elephant is a big animal."

*Este é meu livro de receitas.*

"This is my recipe book."

*De onde você é?*

"Where are you from?"

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

### ***ah tá!***

Another related but wholly different use of the word *tá* is to mean "okay." In the dialogue, Leonardo said *Ah tá* to mean "Oh, okay." Brazilians use *tá* like this every day.

Portuguese	English
<i>Ah tá, estão tá.</i>	"Oh, okay, then it's fine."
<i>Ah tá.</i>	"Oh, okay."
<i>Tá.</i>	"Okay."

## Grammar Points

**The Focus of This Lesson is the Words *O*, *A*, *Os*, and *As*.**

***O ônibus está atrasado hoje.***

**"The bus is late today."**

Portuguese uses articles much more often than English does. Grammatical articles are words like "the," "a," and "an," and shouldn't be confused with articles in a newspaper. Brazilians use articles so much that a list of nouns will often include the articles. Often, they'll make perfect sense but sometimes they won't, like in *os meus amigos* ("the my friends"), or in comparisons using *do que* ("of the that").

Because of grammatical gender, there are eight articles in Portuguese. In this lesson, we will cover the words *o*, *a*, *os*, and *as*. Articles are very important, and sometimes the article is the only way to identify grammatical gender. Two simplified rules are: Every noun must have an article in front of it. The article must match in gender and plurality with its noun. There are exceptions to this rule but they are very complex and vary from dialect to dialect. The best tip is to listen to how the people in your region say it and if they include the article, then you should; if they don't, then you don't.

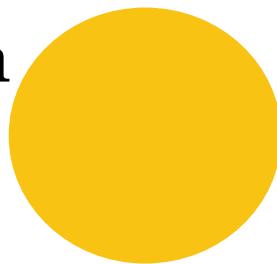
Portuguese Articles	English Translation
<i>o</i>	"the"
<i>a</i>	"the"
<i>os</i>	"the"
<i>as</i>	"the"

## Cultural Insight

---

### We're Going on Strike!

*Estar de greve* means "to be on strike," and is fairly common in Brazil these days. Three days after I arrived in São Paulo for the first time the entire "national mail system," called *Correios*, went on strike. Luckily, that was resolved in about a month, but I soon traveled to Brasília where all the banks around Brasília went on strike and I couldn't get any cash for almost two weeks. Then a year and a half later and still in Brasília, the entire bus system went on strike. Then a year after that while in Vitória, ES, all the workers at CST, a steel factory, went on strike. All of these strikes were caused by low wages.



## Absolute Beginner S1

Brazilian Accents

20

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## Portuguese

---

Austin                    Você é vendedora, não é?

Andréia                Sou sim.

Austin                    Você fala muito com as pessoas?

Andréia                Sim falo. E eles falam bastante também.

## English

---

Austin                    You are a vendor, right?

Andréia                Yes, I am.

Austin                    You talk with people a lot?

Andréia                Yes, I do. And they talk a lot, too.

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
falar	speak, talk	verb
vendedora	saleswoman	noun
muito	very, much, many	adverb
também	also, too	adverb
sim	yes	adverb
sou	am	verb
eles	they	pronoun
com	with	preposition

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

<i>Você fala com as suas flores?</i>	"Do you talk with your flowers?"
<i>Você é vendedora?</i>	"Are you a saleswoman?"
<i>Montanhas são muito altas.</i>	"Mountains are very tall."
<i>Hoje está muito quente.</i>	"Today is very hot."
<i>Há muita gente naquela loja.</i>	"There are many people in that store."
<i>Muito obrigado!</i>	"Thank you very much!"
<i>Você também?</i>	"You too?"
<i>Ele não disse nem sim nem não.</i>	"He did not say yes or no."
<i>Sou surfista.</i>	"I'm a surfer."
<i>Sou americana.</i>	"I'm American."
<i>Eles estão na praia.</i>	"They are at the beach."
<i>Posso ir com você?</i>	"May I go with you?"
<i>Com licença.</i>	"Excuse me."
<i>Com licença, posso passar?</i>	"Excuse me, may I pass by you?"

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

---

### ***"Sou sim."***

---

This literally translates to "am yes," but means "Yes, I am." We use this phrase to confirm something about you, usually a comment or question. If someone asked you *Você é Americano?*, you could respond with *Sou sim*, if of course, you were American. You could say *Sim, sou*, but Brazilians will typically say *Sou sim*.

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson is Regular Verbs Ending in -ar.**

***Sim falo. E eles falam bastante também.***

***"Yes, I do. And they talk a lot, also."***

The present tense in Portuguese is much like the present tense in English and we use it to say the following kinds of sentences:

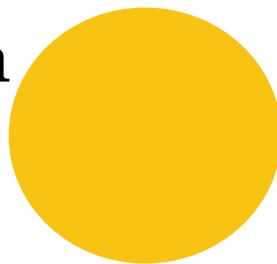
English	Portuguese
"you speak"	você fala
"you are speaking"	você fala
"You are speaking tomorrow."	Você fala amanhã.
"Do you speak?"	Você fala?
"You do speak."	Você fala.

To form the present tense of the infinitives ending in -ar, drop the final -ar and add the present tense endings below. Infinitive Singular Ending (Example) Plural Ending (Example) *falar* ("to speak") Drop -ar add: *o (falo)* *amos (falamos)* *a (fala)* *am (falam)* It's a good idea to write down the conjugation patterns for regular verbs and have it with you while you are learning. That way, you always have a quick reference.

## Cultural Insight

### Portuguese Word Final "-r"s

The pronunciation for the letter -r in Portuguese is probably the most variable of all the letters. Depending on the dialect, the -r can sound like an -h, like the American -r, like the Spanish rolled -r's, or any combination or variation of these. It's important to listen to the native speakers around you and pick an accent you like and copy that one. Often, foreigners make the mistake of learning certain words in one dialect and other words in another dialect. That can make you very difficult to understand.



## Absolute Beginner S1

### So Many Brazilian Firsts

21

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## Portuguese

---

- Austin            O que é isto no meu prato?
- Andréia        Só come. Você vai gostar.
- Austin        Pessoas comem isso?
- Andréia        Claro que comem.
- Austin        Então, eu como também. (come)
- Andréia        Gostou?
- Austin        Gostei sim!

## English

---

- Austin        What is this on my plate?
- Andréia       Just eat it. You'll like it.
- Austin        People eat that?
- Andréia       Of course, they eat it.
- Austin        Well then, I'll eat it, too. (eats)
- Andréia       Did you like it?
- Austin        Yes, I did!

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
comer	eat	verb

gostar	to like	verb
também	also, too	adverb
prato	plate, dish	noun
o que	what	pronoun
então	then	adverb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Ela come bem devagar.*

"She eats very slowly."

*Eu gosto do meu trabalho.*

"I like my job."

*A menininha realmente gosta de cachorrinhos.*

"The young girl really likes the puppies."

*Você também?*

"You too?"

*Este prato é delicioso.*

"This dish is delicious."

*O elefante é um animal grande.*

"The elephant is a big animal."

*Você entendeu o que eu falei?*

"Did you understand what I said?"

*Onde estou então?*

"Where am I then?"

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

---

### Isto, isso, and aquilo

---

*Isto, isso, and aquilo* mean "this," "that," and "that over there," respectively. In previous lessons, we talked about other words for "this," "that," and "that over there" that would change according to gender. Neither *isto, isso*, nor *aquilo* change according to gender. You only use these words when you don't know which gender to use. In the dialogue, Austin didn't know what was on his plate and therefore, couldn't know the correct gender of the word, so he used the words *isto* and *isso*. These words are not a shortcut for avoiding the gender sensitive forms of "this" and "that." At first, you will use these words a lot because you'll have a small vocabulary. As your vocabulary grows however, words like *isto, isso*, and *aquilo* should become less and less frequent in your speech.

## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson is Conjugating Verbs Ending in *-er*.**

**Pessoas comem isso?**

"People eat that?"

---

To form the present tense of the infinitives ending in *-er*, drop the final *-er* and add the present tense endings below. Infinitive Singular Ending (Example) Plural Ending (Example) *Comer*?("to eat") Drop *-er* and add: *o (como)* *emos (comemos)* *es (comes)* *eis (comeis)* *e (come)* *em (comem)* In English, all of these words translate to "eat."

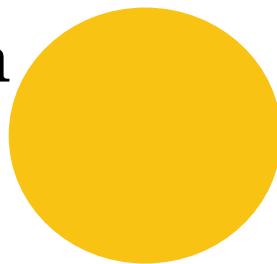
## Cultural Insight

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***Gostou/gostei!***

---

One of the most common exchanges in Portuguese is *Gostou? / Gostei*. Literally, both of these words translate to "liked," but Portuguese verbs have more meaning than English verbs so they actually mean "Did you like it?" and "Yes, I liked it," respectively. It's very normal to hear this exchange five times per day.



## Absolute Beginner S1

Brazil's Tasty Fruit

22

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## Portuguese

---

Austin Eu não consigo abrir esta lata.

Andréia Me deixa tentar. Eu abro.

Austin Você abre? Eu espero que sim.

Andréia Ha! Eu abri. Agora temos molho para o macarrão.

Austin Que benção!

## English

---

Austin I can't open this can.

Andréia Let me try. I'll open it.

Austin You open it? I hope so.

Andréia Ha! I opened it. Now we have salad dressing.

Austin What a blessing!

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
abrir	open	verb
deixar	leave	verb
macarrão	pasta	noun
molho	sauce, dressing	noun
agora	now	adverb
bênção	blessing	noun
lata	can	noun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*O homem está abrindo a janela.*

The man is opening the window.

*Você pode deixar os livros na mesa.*

You can leave the books on the table.

*Pode passar o molho para o macarrão?*

"Could you pass the pasta sauce?"

*Eu acho que a salada precisa de um molho.*

"I think the salad needs dressing."

*Eu estou usando o computador agora.*

"I am using the computer now."

*É uma bênção ter vocês aqui.*

"It's a blessing to have you here."

*Ele levanta às 8 da manhã todas as manhãs.*

"He gets up at 8 a.m. every morning."

*??*

*??*

*Onde está o abridor de lata?*

"Where's the can opener?"

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

---

### ***Que bênção!***

---

This means "what a blessing" and is a very common expression in Portuguese that means "oh good!" We use it to express happiness about something, like when you're very tired and the bus has an open seat for you. *Que bênção* is very similar to the phrase *Que bom!* which we learned earlier. For the most part, we can use these two phrases interchangeably, although *que bênção* is typically more sincere.



## Grammar Points

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**The Focus of This Lesson is Conjugating Regular Verbs that End in -ir.**

***Eu não consigo abrir esta lata.***

"I can't open this can."

---

To form the present tense of the infinitives ending in *-ir*, drop the final *-ir* and add the present tense endings below. Infinitive Singular (Example) Plural (Example) *abrir* ("to open") Drop *-ir* and add: *o* (*abro*) *imos* (*abrimos*) *es* (*abres*) *is* (*abris*) *e* (*abre*) *em* (*abrem*)

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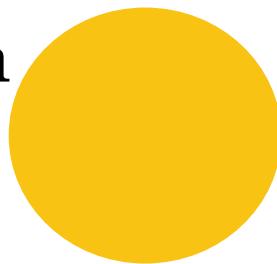
## Cultural Insight

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### **Fresh Fish!**

Most food in Brazil is fresh. Brazil doesn't have the manufacturing capability developed countries have, so fresh food is usually much cheaper than processed food. My favorite example is strawberries. Prices vary depending on location, but typically during strawberry season, you can buy a package of fresh, ripe strawberries for fifty-five US cents, but a four ounce jar of strawberry jam costs five dollars.





## Absolute Beginner S1

### Going Downtown in Brazil

23

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## Portuguese

---

Leonardo      Aonde você vai depois do trabalho?

Julie            Vou à livraria.

Leonardo      Você vai à livraria do centro?

Juile            Vou sim.

Leonardo      Vamos juntos então porque vou assistir um filme no cinema.

## English

---

Leonardo      Where are you going after work?

Julie            I'm going to the bookstore.

Leonardo      Are you going to the bookstore downtown?

Juile            Yes, I am.

Leonardo      Shall we go together then, because I'm going to watch a movie at the theater.

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
aonde	to what place; where	adverb
trabalho	work; job	noun
livraria	bookstore	noun
centro	center; downtown	noun
ir	go	verb
visitar	to visit	verb

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

<i>Aonde você vai?</i>	"Where are you going?"
<i>Eu gosto do meu trabalho.</i>	"I like my job."
<i>Aquela livraria é muito grande.</i>	"That bookstore is very big."
<i>Eu vou ao centro.</i>	"I'm going downtown."
<i>Aonde você quer ir?</i>	"Where do you want to go?"
<i>Posso ir com você?</i>	"May I go with you?"
<i>Amanhã, vou visitar minha tia.</i>	"Tomorrow, I'm going to visit my aunt."

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

### Prepositions

Whenever the prepositions *de* or *em* come before an article, the preposition and article form a contraction and become one word.

Preposition	Article	Contraction
-------------	---------	-------------

<i>de</i>	+	<i>o(s)</i>	=	<i>do(s)</i>
-----------	---	-------------	---	--------------

<i>a(s)</i>	=	<i>da(s)</i>
-------------	---	--------------

<i>em</i>	+	<i>o(s)</i>	=	<i>no(s)</i>
-----------	---	-------------	---	--------------

<i>a(s)</i>	=	<i>na(s)</i>
-------------	---	--------------

Several other contractions occur with articles and prepositions, and we will learn about those in later lessons.

## Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is the Present Tense of the Irregular Verb Ir.

*Vou à livraria.*

"I go to the bookstore." ("I'm going to the bookstore.")

The verb *ir* means "to go." We conjugate it in the present tense as follows:

"English"	<i>Portuguese</i>
"I go"	<i>Eu vou</i>
"you go"	<i>Você vai</i>
"he/she goes"	<i>Ele vai</i>
"we go"	<i>Nós vamos</i>
"they go"	<i>Eles/Elas vão</i>
"you go" (plural)	<i>Vocês vão</i>

When talking about going to a destination, we usually follow the conjugated form of *ir* by the preposition *a* ("to").

Subject + *Ir* + *a* + place = "to go to (place)"  
or  
"to be going to (place)"

*Portuguese*  
*Eu vou à Brasília.*  
*Você vai à aula?*  
*Vou ao centro.*

Translation  
"I go to Brasília."  
"You go to the class?"  
"Go to the center."

Meaning  
"I am going to Brasília."  
"Are you going to class?"  
"I'm going downtown."

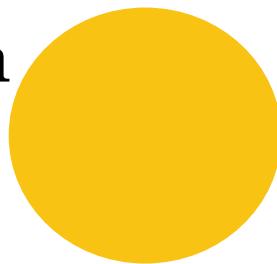
## Cultural Insight

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### Going Downtown

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The term *centro* translates to "center" but has several practical meanings. By itself, *centro* usually means "downtown" or the center of the city. We can also use it like *centro cultural* when talking about a "cultural center." And we can also use it as we do in English to denote the center of something, as in the *centro da página*, or "center of the page."



## Absolute Beginner S1

Brazilian Shopping Mall Movies

24

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## Portuguese

---

Leonardo O que vamos fazer hoje?

Julie Bem, primeiro vamos visitar Andréia.

Leonardo E vamos fazer o que depois?

Julie Depois vamos assistir um filme no cinema.

Leonardo Andréia vai conosco?

## English

---

Leonardo What will we do today?

Julie Well, first we're going to visit Andréia.

Leonardo And what will we do after?

Julie Afterward, we'll watch a movie at the cinema.

Leonardo Will Andréia come with us?

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
cinema	movie theater; cinema	noun
filme	film, movie	noun
assistir	to watch	verb
conosco	with us	pronoun
ir	go	verb
hoje	today	noun
fazer	make, do	verb

primeiro	first	ordinal number
----------	-------	----------------

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

---

*Vamos ao cinema.*

"Let's go to the movies."

*Eu gosto de filmes de ação.*

"I like action movies."

*Eu vou alugar filme para assistir à noite.*

I will rent a movie to watch at night.

*A família está assistindo televisão.*

The family is watching television.

*Vem conosco.*

"Come with us."

*Aonde você quer ir?*

"Where do you want to go?"

*Posso ir com você?*

"May I go with you?"

*Hoje é meu aniversário!*

"Today is my birthday!"

*Aquela menina faz um pedido à estrela.*

That girl makes a wish on a star.

*Você poderia me fazer um favor?*

"Would you do me a favor?"

*Amanhã é o primeiro dia do mês.*

"Tomorrow is the first day of the month."

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

---

### *Conosco ("With us")*

---

3

In the dialogue, Leonardo asks *Andréia vai conosco?* because he wanted to know if Andréia was going with them to the movies. *Conosco* is a kind of contraction of the words *com* ("with") and *nos* ("us"). There are three other words like this: *comigo* ("with me"), *contigo* ("with you"), and *consigo* ("with them"). We use the words *comigo*, *contigo*, and *conosco* every day and they are acceptable in both formal and informal situations. *Consigo*, on the other hand, is very abnormal. A rough comparison would be saying something like "cometh with thou" in a casual conversation.

## Grammar Points

---

**The Focus of This Lesson is Two-Word Future Construction in Brazilian Portuguese.**

***O que vamos fazer hoje?***

"What are we going to do today?"

---

We can form the verb *ir* in the future tense use it to express future actions. The two-word future consists of the conjugated form of the verb *ir* and an infinitive.

*Ir\** + Infinitive verb = "to be going to (do something)" or  
"will be (doing something)"

### For Example:

*Portuguese*

*Eu vou comer amanhã.*  
*Ela vai cantar no coro.*  
*Nós vamos assistir um filme.*  
*Eles vão estudar agora.*

"English"

"I'm going to eat tomorrow."  
"She is going to sing in the choir."  
"We are going to watch a movie."  
"They are going to study now."

### Cultural Insight

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#### To the Movies!

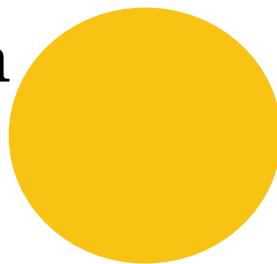
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In Brazil, movie theaters are often located in shopping malls because the elevated foot traffic helps increase sales. A movie ticket usually costs R\$10 or more per person. For most foreigners, that is a normal price, but to most Brazilians who have a much lower standard of living, R\$10 is a lot of money. For most Brazilians, going to the movie theater is quite a treat.

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## Absolute Beginner S1

Enough Brazilian Questions Already!

25

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## Portuguese

---

Leonardo Quando você vai voltar para Inglaterra?

Julie Em três dias.

Leonardo Quanto tempo você está aqui?

Julie Quatro meses.

Leonardo Onde você mora?

Julie Em Leeds.

Leonardo O que você faz lá?

Julie Tantas perguntas!

## English

---

Leonardo When will you go back to England?

Julie In three days.

Leonardo How long have you been here?

Julie Four months.

Leonardo Where do you live?

Julie In Cardiff.

Leonardo What do you do there?

Julie So many questions!

## Vocabulary

Portuguese	English	Class
quando	when	adverb
quanto	how much, how many	pronoun
onde	where	adverb
Inglaterra	England	noun
voltar	return, go back, come back	verb
o que	what	pronoun

## Vocabulary Sample Sentences

*Quando o filme vai começar?*

"When will the movie start?"

*Quando você vai viajar?*

"When will you travel?"

*Quanto custa?*

"How much does it cost?"

*Quantos irmãos você tem?*

"How many brothers do you have?"

*Para onde você vai nas férias?*

"Where are you going on vacation?"

*Onde está meu livro?*

"Where is my book?"

*Inglaterra é uma ilha.*

"England is an island."

*Ela sempre volta para casa depois da meia-noite.* She always returns home after midnight.

*Você entendeu o que eu falei?* "Did you understand what I said?"

3

## Vocabulary Phrase Usage

### Tantas Perguntas!

In the dialogue, Julie responds to Leonardo's last question with the phrase *Tantas perguntas!* The translation of this phrase is "So many questions!" When used like this, *tantas* means "so many." The dictionary form is *tanto*, which means that *tantas* is the plural feminine form. The first syllable is heavily nasalized.

## Grammar Points

The Focus of This Lesson is Question Words.

*Quando você vai voltar pra Inglaterra?*

"When are you going to go back to England?"

We form questions using the words "who," "what," "when," "where," "why," and "how," the same in Portuguese as we do in English.

Portuguese	"English"	Example ("English")
<i>Quem</i>	"who"	<i>Quem é aquele homem ali?</i> ("Who is that man over there?")
<i>Como</i>	"how"	<i>Como eu faço isso?</i> ("How do I do that?")
<i>Quando</i>	"when"	<i>Quando é a reunião?</i> ("When is the meeting?")
<i>Onde</i>	"where"	<i>Onde você mora?</i> ("Where do you live?")
<i>Por que</i>	"why"	<i>Porque você fez isso?</i> ("Why did you do that?")
<i>Que</i> or <i>O que</i> - <i>Que</i> is an adjective and we put it before the noun it refers to. <i>O que</i> is a pronoun and can stand by itself.	"what"	<i>Que:</i> <i>Que livro é esse?</i> ("What book is that?") <i>O que:</i> <i>O que significa página?</i> ("What does página mean?") (it means "page")

## Cultural Insight

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### The Letter -O

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The -o vowel in Brazilian Portuguese can be a bit tricky. Every dialect treats the -o a little different and English doesn't really have all the possible variations. English speakers typically have a hard time pronouncing the letter -o because it can be a difficult sound for English speakers to isolate.

Quick tip: It's almost as if the English -o was chopped in half and you just say the first half. Remember, there's no -u in the Portuguese -o.



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Thank You!

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