How Portuguese sounds A pronúncia

The trick: this sheet follows Brazil. Portuguese is mostly written the way it sounds, but unstressed vowels shrink: a final e sounds like ee, a final o like oo. Some vowels go through the nose, marked by a tilde (ã, õ) or a final m. Learn these, and you can read most words aloud.

Letters	Sounds like	Example
é, ó / ê, ô	open, like bed and pot / closed, like ay and oh	**avó / avô** grandma / grandpa
final -e	ee in Brazil, nearly silent in Portugal	**leite** milk
final -o	a short oo	**obrigado** thank you
ão	ow, said through the nose	**não** no, not
ãe, õe	eye and oy, said through the nose	**mãe / limões** mother / lemons
final -m	not said as m: it makes the vowel nasal	**bem / bom** well / good
lh	lli in million	**filho** son
nh	ny in canyon	**vinho** wine
ç, c + e, i	s	**almoço / cidade** lunch / city
ch	sh in shoe	**chave** key
j, g + e, i	s in measure	**janela / gente** window / people
s, ss	s between vowels is z; ss is always s	**casa / passo** house / step
r at the start, rr	h in Brazil; a throaty or rolled r in Portugal	**rua / carro** street / car
r between vowels	one quick tap, like tt in American butter	**caro** expensive, dear
t, d + ee sound	ch in cheese and j in jeans, in most of Brazil	**tia / dia** aunt / day
l at the end	w in Brazil	**Brasil** Brazil
x	usually sh, but also z, ks or s	**peixe / exame / táxi** fish / exam / taxi
qu, gu + e, i	k and g, the u is silent	**queijo** cheese
stress	usually on the second to last syllable; on the last after -l, -r, -z, -i, -u	**falar** to speak
á é ó â ê ô	an accent mark: stress it there	**café / você** coffee / you

o · os

masculine, one or more

o pai, o livro, os pais

a · as

feminine, one or more

a mãe, a casa, as casas

o or a: every noun is one or the other. Words ending in -o are usually o, words ending in -a usually a, and -ção and -dade are always a. A few break the rule (o dia, o mapa, a foto), so learn each noun with its article; the colours on the next pages help.

The first 222 words As primeiras palavras

How: learn five a day, then hunt for them in Kitsumi subtitles. *Pink italics* say how a word is used, not what it means.

Greetings and survival

Oi
hi *(casual)*

Olá
hello

Bom dia
good morning

Boa tarde
good afternoon

Boa noite
good evening, good night

Tchau
bye

Até logo
see you later

Até amanhã
see you tomorrow

Obrigado / obrigada
thanks *(a man says -o, a woman -a)*

De nada
you're welcome

Por favor
please

Desculpa
sorry *(casual)*

Desculpe
sorry, excuse me *(polite)*

Com licença
excuse me *(to get past)*

Sim
yes

Não
no

Tudo bem?
how's it going? *(all good?)*

Tudo bem
all good, fine

Prazer
nice to meet you

Não entendi
I didn't get that

Não sei
I don't know

Valeu!
thanks! cheers! *(casual, Brazil)*

Saúde!
cheers! bless you!

Bom apetite
enjoy your meal

Question words

o que
what

quem
who

onde
where

de onde
where from

quando
when

por que / porque
why / because

como
how

quanto
how much

qual
which

Me and you

eu
I

você
you *(Brazil; tu in Portugal)*

ele
he

ela
she

nós
we

a gente
we *(casual, takes the ele verb)*

vocês
you all

eles / elas
they *(m / f)*

meu / minha
my *(o word / a word)*

seu / sua
your *(with você)*

este / aquele
this / that

Little words

e
and

mas
but

ou
or

também
also, too

muito
very, a lot

só
only

já
already

ainda
still, yet

aqui
here

lá
there

com
with

sem
without

para
for, to

mais
more

menos
less

você or tu: in most of Brazil, você is the everyday you, and o senhor or a senhora is for older people and formal moments. In Portugal, tu is for friends and family, and o senhor or a senhora is polite. You'll hear tu in parts of Brazil too.

People and time As pessoas e o tempo

Family

a mãe
mother

o pai
father

a mamãe
mom *(Brazil)*

o papai
dad *(Brazil)*

o irmão
brother

a irmã
sister

o filho
son

a filha
daughter

a avó
grandmother

o avô
grandfather

o tio
uncle

os pais
parents *(plural)*

a família
family

People

a pessoa
person

as pessoas
people

o homem
man

a mulher
woman, wife

a criança
child *(always a, even a boy)*

o menino
boy

a menina
girl

o amigo
friend *(m)*

a amiga
friend *(f)*

o namorado
boyfriend

a namorada
girlfriend

o professor
teacher

When

hoje
today

amanhã
tomorrow

ontem
yesterday

agora
now

a manhã
morning

a tarde
afternoon

a noite
evening, night

o tempo
time, weather

a hora
hour, the time

a semana
week

o fim de semana
weekend

o ano
year

Days of the week

segunda-feira
Monday

terça-feira
Tuesday

quarta-feira
Wednesday

quinta-feira
Thursday

sexta-feira
Friday

sábado
Saturday

domingo
Sunday

Days by number: Monday is segunda-feira, the second day, counting from Sunday. People often drop the -feira: segunda, sexta. Days and months have no capital letter.

Watch the article: amanhã is tomorrow, a manhã is the morning. Até amanhã, see you tomorrow.

Numbers and food Os números e a comida

Numbers

zero
0

um / uma
1 *(o word / a word)*

dois / duas
2 *(o word / a word)*

três
3

quatro
4

cinco
5

seis
6

sete
7

oito
8

nove
9

dez
10

onze
11

doze
12

vinte
20

trinta
30

cem
100

mil
1,000

Food and drink

a água
water

o café
coffee

o chá
tea

o leite
milk

a cerveja
beer

o vinho
wine

o pão
bread

o queijo
cheese

a carne
meat

o frango
chicken *(to eat)*

o peixe
fish

o arroz
rice

o feijão
beans

a fruta
fruit

o açúcar
sugar

o café da manhã
breakfast *(Brazil)*

o almoço
lunch

o jantar
dinner

gostoso
tasty

Estou com fome
I'm hungry *(I am with hunger)*

A conta, por favor
the bill, please

Joining numbers: from 21 on, numbers join with e, and: vinte e um, trinta e dois. One and two match the noun: um livro, uma casa; dois livros, duas casas.

Phone numbers: Brazilians often say meia for six (from meia dúzia, half a dozen), so it doesn't sound like três.

Places, things, verbs Lugares, coisas, verbos

Two verbs for be: ser is for what something is: sou a Ana, sou professor. estar is for where it is and how it feels: estou em casa, estou cansado.

Places

a casa
house, home

em casa
at home

a escola
school

o trabalho
work, job

o escritório
office

o restaurante
restaurant

o hospital
hospital

o banheiro
bathroom, toilet *(Brazil)*

a estação
station

a loja
shop

a cidade
town, city

a rua
street

o Brasil
Brazil

Portugal
Portugal *(no article)*

Things

o livro
book

o celular
mobile phone *(Brazil)*

o dinheiro
money

a chave
key

o carro
car

a mochila
backpack

Verbs: dictionary / eu form

ser / sou
be *(who or what)*

estar / estou
be *(where or how)*

ter / tenho
have

ir / vou
go

vir / venho
come

comer / como
eat

beber / bebo
drink

ver / vejo
see, watch

fazer / faço
do, make

dormir / durmo
sleep

falar / falo
speak

aprender / aprendo
learn

gostar / gosto
like *(gosto de café)*

querer / quero
want

saber / sei
know *(a fact)*

conhecer / conheço
know *(a person, a place)*

precisar / preciso
need

poder / posso
can

Describing words

bom / ruim
good / bad

grande / pequeno
big / small

quente / frio
hot / cold

novo / velho
new / old

rápido / lento
fast / slow

bonito / feio
pretty / ugly

fácil / difícil
easy / hard

cansado
tired

Brazil or Portugal: this sheet uses Brazilian words. Both are correct Portuguese, and both sides understand each other, but some everyday words differ:

	Brazil	Portugal
you	você	tu (friends)
bus	o ônibus	o autocarro
train	o trem	o comboio
breakfast	o café da manhã	o pequeno-almoço
mobile phone	o celular	o telemóvel
bathroom	o banheiro	a casa de banho

Words every Brazilian show uses Palavras das séries

Reactions

Sério?
really?

Nossa!
wow! *(Brazil)*

Que legal!
how cool! *(Brazil)*

Exatamente
exactly

Tá bom
OK, fine *(casual)*

Beleza
cool, OK *(casual, Brazil)*

Sei lá
dunno, who knows

Então
so, well then

Pois é
yeah, right, exactly

Cadê?
where is it? *(casual, Brazil)*

Não faço ideia
no idea

Vamos!
let's go!

Socorro!
help!

Para!
stop!

Te amo
I love you *(Brazil; Portugal says amo-te)*

Que saudade!
I miss it *(or you)* so much!

Me deixa em paz
leave me alone *(Brazil)*

Rude: on screen only

Caramba!
wow! darn! *(mild)*

Droga!
damn! *(mild)*

Merda!
shit!

Porra!
f*** *(very common, strong)*

Cala a boca!
shut up!

Tá louco?
are you crazy?

What to call people

senhor
Mr, sir

senhora
Mrs, madam

cara
dude *(Brazil; also: face)*

querido / querida
dear, darling

mano
bro *(slang, Brazil)*

Don't copy these: merda and porra are everywhere on screen, but rude. Caramba and droga are the ones you can say in front of anyone.

Little words move: Brazil puts me and te before the verb: te amo, me deixa. Portugal puts them after, with a hyphen: amo-te, deixa-me.

Practice Prática

How: cover the grey lines with a strip of paper. Read the Portuguese out loud, then slide it down to check. Can you read every line without peeking? You've got it.

Through the nose: ão, ãe and a final m are said with air through the nose, and they change the word: lã is wool, lá is there; vim is I came, vi is I saw.

Questions by voice: a question looks just like a statement. Raise your voice at the end: Você vem? Are you coming?

Read these sentences

1. Oi, meu nome é Ana.
   Hi, my name is Ana.

2. Como você se chama?
   What's your name?

3. Onde fica o banheiro?
   Where is the bathroom?

4. Quanto custa?
   How much is it?

5. Um café, por favor.
   A coffee, please.

6. Eu gosto de pizza.
   I like pizza.

7. Hoje está muito quente.
   It's very hot today.

8. Amanhã vou ver meu amigo.
   Tomorrow I'm going to see my friend.

9. Está uma delícia!
   It's delicious!

10. Vamos para a praia!
    Let's go to the beach!