Brazil and Portugal Brasil e Portugal

One language. Brazil and Portugal speak the same language, with the same grammar at its core. Since the 1990 spelling agreement, which both countries use, almost every word is written the same way. Neither is more correct: they're two standards, a bit like British and American English. On this sheet, BR is Brazil and PT is Portugal.

At a glance

	BR Brazil	PT Portugal
How it sounds unstressed vowels	pequeno **peh-KAY-noo** Every vowel said clearly.	pequeno **puh-KAY-noo** Vowels away from the stress shrink, so speech sounds faster.
You, to a friend page 3	Você fala inglês? Do you speak English?	Falas inglês? Do you speak English?
Right now page 4	Estou falando. I'm talking.	Estou a falar. I'm talking.
me and te page 4	Me chamo Ana. My name is Ana.	Chamo-me Ana. My name is Ana.
Everyday words page 5	o ônibus bus	o autocarro bus
A few spellings page 5	econômico economical	económico economical

Do they understand each other?

Yes. People from Brazil and Portugal talk to each other and read each other's writing without a translator. Brazilian TV and music are popular in Portugal, so the Brazilian accent sounds familiar there. Brazilians hear the Portuguese accent less often, so it can take a little while to tune in, mostly because of the quiet vowels on page 2.

Which one should I learn?

The one your shows use. Watching shows from Brazil? Follow the BR column. Shows from Portugal? The PT column. You'll understand the other one after some listening, and people in both countries will understand you.

Two tracks on streaming

Streaming services often have two Portuguese tracks, one from Brazil and one from Portugal, for subtitles and for dubbed audio. Check which one is on: cartoons and films are often dubbed twice, once for each country.

Accents inside each country

Neither country sounds the same everywhere. Rio's s sounds like sh, some parts of Brazil say tu, and the north of Portugal sounds different from Lisbon. This sheet shows the forms you'll hear most.

Sounds Os sons

Same word, two ways to say it. The orange hints spell the sound in English letters, the same way as the Kitsumi pronunciation guide. Words are written the same in both countries; only the sound changes.

CAPS the stressed part · **uh** a in about · **ee · oo** see · food · **ch · j** as in English
sh · zh ship · measure · **h** a throaty h · **rr** the strong r of Portugal · **r** a quick tap

	BR Brazil	PT Portugal
Unstressed vowels the vowels away from the stress	Said clearly: e like eh, o like oh. pequeno **peh-KAY-noo** semana **seh-MUH-nuh** morar **moh-RAHR**	Short and quiet: a and e like a quick uh, o like oo. pequeno **puh-KAY-noo** semana **suh-MUH-nuh** morar **moo-RAHR**
Final -e and -o the last vowel, unstressed	e sounds like ee, o like oo. noite **NOY-chee** cidade **see-DAH-jee** gato **GAH-too**	o sounds like oo too, but a final e is often not said at all. noite **NOYT** cidade **see-DAHD** gato **GAH-too**
t and d before an ee sound di, ti, and de, te at the end	ch and j in most of Brazil. Some regions keep a plain t and d. dia **JEE-uh** tipo **CHEE-poo** tarde **TAHR-jee**	Always a plain t and d. dia **DEE-uh** tipo **TEE-poo** tarde **TAHRD**
s and z at the end of a syllable before a consonant or a pause	s, or z before b, d, g, l, m, n, r, v. luz **loos** festa **FEHS-tuh** mesmo **MAYZ-moo**	sh, or zh before those. Rio de Janeiro in Brazil says sh too. luz **loosh** festa **FEHSH-tuh** mesmo **MAYZH-moo**
The r sounds strong r: at the start and as rr	Strong r: a throaty h in most of Brazil. At the end of a word it varies by region, and it's often dropped from verbs. rato **HAH-too** carro **KAH-hoo** falar **fah-LAHR**	Strong r: at the back of the throat, like the French r, or rolled in some regions. At the end: a quick tap. rato **RRAH-too** carro **KAH-rroo** falar **fuh-LAHR**
l at the end of a syllable before a consonant or a pause	Sounds like w, so mau and mal sound the same. Brasil **brah-ZEEW** alto **OW-too** Portugal **pohr-too-GOW**	A dark l, as in full. Brasil **bruh-ZEEL** alto **AHL-too** Portugal **poor-too-GAHL**

Why Portugal sounds faster: the quiet vowels take whole beats away. cidade is BR **see-DAH-jee**, 3 beats, and PT **see-DAHD**, 2 beats; noite is BR **NOY-chee**, 2 beats, and PT **NOYT**, 1 beat. Same words, fewer clear vowels.

-em at the end: bem is BR **bayng** in Brazil and PT **byng** in Lisbon and much of Portugal, like the ãe of mãe.

You Você e tu

The biggest everyday difference. Brazil's everyday you is BR você, and Portugal's is PT tu. Both are friendly and normal; they just take different verb forms.

	BR Brazil	PT Portugal
One friend family, friends, people your age	você, with the ele form of the verb **Você fala inglês?** Do you speak English? **Onde você mora?** Where do you live?	tu, with the -s form. tu itself is often left out **Falas inglês?** Do you speak English? **Onde moras?** Where do you live?
A stranger in a shop, in the street	você is fine, or o senhor, a senhora **Você sabe onde fica a estação?** Do you know where the station is?	just the verb, in the ele form, or o senhor, a senhora **Sabe onde fica a estação?** Do you know where the station is?
Polite older people, bosses, formal moments	o senhor for a man, a senhora for a woman, with the ele form, in both countries **O senhor quer um café?** Would you like a coffee?	
You all more than one person	vocês in both countries, with the eles form. vós is rare: old texts, and some speech in the north of Portugal **Vocês querem jantar?** Do you all want dinner?	
We two ways, both countries	nós, and the casual a gente, which takes the ele form. a gente is very common in Brazilian speech **Nós vamos sair.** We are going out. **A gente vai sair.** We are going out.	
Your to one friend	o seu, a sua **Esse é o seu celular?** Is this your phone?	o teu, a tua **Este é o teu telemóvel?** Is this your phone?
With you, for you after a little word	**Vou com você.** I'll go with you. **É para você.** It's for you.	**Vou contigo.** I'll go with you. **É para ti.** It's for you.
How are you? the everyday you, again	**Você está bem?** Are you OK?	**Estás bem?** Are you OK?

BR tu in Brazil

You'll also hear tu in some parts of Brazil, especially in the south and parts of the north and northeast. In casual speech it often takes the você form of the verb: BR tu vai. Portugal says PT tu vais.

PT você in Portugal

Portugal uses você too, but said to someone's face it can sound distant. Many people use just the verb, or o senhor and a senhora, instead. With friends, it's tu.

Not sure? with older people and strangers, start with o senhor or a senhora, and switch when they do. In Brazil, young people say você to each other straight away; in Portugal, they say tu.

Grammar A gramática

The grammar is the same, with a handful of everyday differences. You'll hear these in almost every scene.

	BR Brazil	PT Portugal
Right now the -ing form	estar + the -ndo form: drop the r, add -ndo **Estou falando.** I'm talking. **O que você está fazendo?** What are you doing? **Está chovendo.** It's raining.	estar a + the infinitive, nothing to change. Parts of the south of Portugal use -ndo too **Estou a falar.** I'm talking. **O que estás a fazer?** What are you doing? **Está a chover.** It's raining.
me, te, se little words for me, you, yourself	before the verb **Me chamo Ana.** My name is Ana. **Te amo.** I love you. **Te ligo amanhã.** I'll call you tomorrow. **Pode me ajudar?** Can you help me?	after the verb, with a hyphen **Chamo-me Ana.** My name is Ana. **Amo-te.** I love you. **Ligo-te amanhã.** I'll call you tomorrow. **Pode ajudar-me?** Can you help me?
Him, her, it after the verb	ele and ela, the words for he and she *everyday speech* **Eu vi ele.** I saw him. **Conheço ela.** I know her. Very common in shows. In writing, Brazil uses o and a: BR Eu o vi.	o and a, joined with a hyphen **Vi-o.** I saw him. **Conheço-a.** I know her.
my, your the o or a before it	often left out **Minha mãe é professora.** My mum is a teacher.	nearly always there **A minha mãe é professora.** My mum is a teacher.
We, in the past -ar verbs	the same as the present **Ontem falamos com ela.** We spoke to her yesterday.	usually written with an accent, to tell it from the present **Ontem falámos com ela.** We spoke to her yesterday.

Before the verb in Portugal too: after não, question words and little words like já and também, Portugal puts the pronoun first as well: PT Não me digas! PT Quem te disse? In formal writing, Brazil also avoids starting a sentence with me or te.

Talking to a friend: the verb forms

	falar	comer	ser	estar	ir	ter
BR **você**	você fala	você come	você é	você está	você vai	você tem
PT **tu**	tu falas	tu comes	tu és	tu estás	tu vais	tu tens

Easy to spot: the tu form is the você form plus s: fala, falas. Even short ones follow it: é and és, vai and vais.

Words Palavras

Most words are the same. A few everyday things have their own name in each country. Both sides know the other's word from TV, so you'll be understood either way.

Everyday words

	BR Brazil	PT Portugal
bus	o ônibus	o autocarro
breakfast	o café da manhã	o pequeno-almoço
bathroom, toilet	o banheiro	a casa de banho
ice cream	o sorvete	o gelado
cool! great!	Que legal!	Que fixe!
	legal also means legal, as in the law, in both.	
girl	a moça	a rapariga
	In Portugal, rapariga just means girl. In parts of Brazil it's a rude word, so say moça or menina there.	
team	a equipe	a equipa
lorry, truck	o caminhão	o camião

	BR Brazil	PT Portugal
train	o trem	o comboio
mobile phone	o celular	o telemóvel
fridge	a geladeira	o frigorífico
juice	o suco	o sumo
hi	oi	olá
screen	a tela	o ecrã
cup	a xícara	a chávena
surname	o sobrenome	o apelido
	In Brazil, an apelido is a nickname.	

Spellings that still differ

	BR Brazil	PT Portugal
economical	econômico	económico
tennis, trainers	tênis	ténis
fact	fato	facto
	In Portugal, fato is a suit.	
reception	recepção	receção

	BR Brazil	PT Portugal
baby	bebê	bebé
genre, gender	gênero	género
contact	contato	contacto

Why: each country writes what it says. Where the vowel sounds different, the accent differs: ê and ô in Brazil, é and ó in Portugal. Where a letter is said in one country only, only that country writes it: Portugal says the c in PT facto, Brazil the p in BR recepção. Letters nobody said went in the 1990 agreement, so both countries now write ação and ótimo.

Practice Prática

6 · twenty items · answers at the bottom

How: for 1 to 10, say whether you'd hear it in Brazil or in Portugal. For 11 to 20, give the other country's way of saying it. Say each one out loud, then check the answers in small print at the bottom.

Brazil or Portugal?

1 o autocarro — BR or PT?

2 Estou falando. — BR or PT?

3 Amo-te. — BR or PT?

4 o celular — BR or PT?

5 Que fixe! — BR or PT?

6 Vou contigo. — BR or PT?

7 o sorvete — BR or PT?

8 econômico — BR or PT?

9 o pequeno-almoço — BR or PT?

10 Eu vi ele. — BR or PT?

Give the other one

11 o trem — PT _____

12 o banheiro — PT _____

13 o frigorífico — BR _____

14 o suco — PT _____

15 Te ligo amanhã. — PT _____

16 Pode ajudar-me? — BR _____

17 Você fala inglês? — PT _____

18 É para ti. — BR _____

19 facto — BR _____

20 oi — PT _____

Answers

1 PT
2 BR
3 PT
4 BR
5 PT
6 PT
7 BR
8 BR
9 PT
10 BR
11 o comboio
12 a casa de banho
13 a geladeira
14 o sumo
15 Ligo-te amanhã.
16 Pode me ajudar?
17 Falas inglês?
18 É para você.
19 fato
20 olá

Meet a word you don't know? In Kitsumi, hover any word in subtitles to see what it means.