



Fonética

(Phonetics)



LEARNING PRONUNCIATION

Learning about phonetics will enable you to pronounce the words better and be understood easily. Keep your ears tuned to the sounds and rhythms of the Portuguese language. You will find how to pronounce the language less difficult. Listen to the sounds, words, sentences and dialogues and repeat them until you have internalized all the points, but don't try to learn everything at once. How much time is spent on each type of exercise will depend on the needs of individual students. The CD includes all of the lessons drills, dialogues, texts, vocabulary, some grammar points and listening comprehension exercises.



Note:

Brazilian pronunciation is quite uniform across the country, but there are regional differences, which, though comparatively small, must be taken into account in teaching and learning Brazilian Portuguese.



Scan to listen to the audios



Vogais e Sons Consonantais

(Vowel and Consonant Sounds)

O ALFABETO (The Alphabet)



A a	F éfe	K ká	P pê	U u
B bê	G gê	L éle	Q quê	V vê
C cê	H agá	M ême	R érre	W dábliu
D dê	I i	N êne	S ésse	X xis
E é	J jóta	O ó	T tê	Y ípsilon
				Z zê

As letras **K** (ká), **W** (dábliu) e **Y** (ípsilon) só são usadas em casos especiais, palavras estrangeiras e abreviaturas.
(The letters K, W and Y are only used in special cases, foreign words and abbreviations.)

	Português	Inglês
a	The Portuguese 'A' sounds similar to the English in the word <i>father</i> .	
	mata	forest, wood
	casa amiga	house friend (fem.)
e	Is pronounced like the English 'E' in the word <i>best</i> .	
	Eva	a woman's name
	era	was
	cheque	check
	Approximates modified 'A' as in <i>case</i> .	
	cabelo	hair
	dedo	finger
	prometer	to promise
	promover	to promote
i	The Portuguese 'I' has a sound similar to the English 'I' in the word <i>machine</i> .	
	Rio	river, Rio de Janeiro City
	prima	cousin (fem.)
	amigo	friend (masc.)
	sair	to exit, to leave
	vida	life

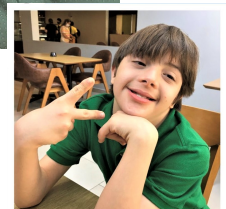
	Português	Inglês
O	Open, as in <i>off</i> .	
	porta	door
	morte	death
	sorte	good luck
	Closed, as in <i>rose</i> .	
	aeroporto	airport
	porto	port
	depois	after
	oi	hi
	Approximates 'U' in <i>rule</i> when placed at the end of a word.	
	carro	car
	quadro	picture
	menino	boy
	novo	new (masc.)
	velho	old (masc.)
u	Approximates 'U' in <i>rule</i> .	
	rua	street
	sua	your (fem.)
	causa	cause
	aula	class

Pratique!

READ ALOUD THE FOLLOWING PAIRS OF WORDS:

carro velho (old car)
sua aula (your class)
velho amigo (old friend)
aeroporto novo (new airport)
carro novo (new car)
quadro novo (new picture)
morte e vida (death and life)

oi menino (hi boy)
sua casa (your house)
prometer sair (to promise to leave)
era amigo (he was a friend)
prima Eva (cousin Eva)



	Português	Inglês		Português	Inglês	
b	As in <i>ball</i>.			Before 'A', 'O' or 'U', sounds like 'D' in <i>day</i>.		
	bala aberto bomba belo	candy, bullet open bomb beautiful, handsome		d (cont.)	dança doce dupla	dance sweet pair
ch	As 'CH' in <i>machine</i>.			As in English <i>face</i>.		
	chapéu chave chuva	hat key rain		f	fazenda fazer fila	farm to do line
C	Before 'A', 'O', and 'U', and before any other consonant (except 'H') is like 'C' in <i>catch, cut</i>.			Before 'E' and 'I' is like the 'S' in <i>measure</i>.		
	casa cantar cor copo cura	house to sing colour glass healing		g	gente gema girafa gíria	people yolk giraffe slang
	Before 'E' and 'I', is like the 'C' in <i>central</i>.				Before 'A', 'O' and 'U' is like 'G' in <i>gone</i>.	
	centro cem céu cigarro	center one hundred sky cigarette			gato garoto gota guri	cat boy drop little boy
Ç	Before 'A', 'O' or 'U' is like the 'C' in <i>face</i>.			Is silent in the initial position.		
	faça çaça açúcar moço maçã	do it hunt sugar young man apple		h	hoje homem haver hora	today man there is / there are hour
d	Approximates the 'J' in <i>justice</i> before 'I' or 'E' (when at the end of the word).			Is pronounced in a manner similar to the English S in <i>measure</i>.		
	dia dívida liberdade depende cidade	day debt freedom depends city		j	jogo jantar junto José	game, play dinner together Joseph
				As in <i>Kite</i>.		
				k	Kátia Kelly Kit	Kate Kelly Kit
			l	Like the L in <i>love</i>.		
				livro palavra paletó	book word jacket	

	Português	Inglês		Português	Inglês	
l (cont.)	Final 'L' is very soft, like 'U'.		p	As in English, <i>pay, pet, pie</i> .		
	Brasil fácil mal	Brazil easy evil, badly		palavra pequeno pular	word small to jump	
	'L' not followed by a vowel is also very soft, like 'U'.			q	Before 'UA' is like 'QU' in <i>quota</i> .	
algo alto alguém	something tall somebody	quarta quarenta	Wednesday forty			
		Before 'UE' or 'UI' is usually like 'K'.				
lh	Is pronounced like the English 'LLI' in <i>billion</i> .		r	At the beginning and at the end of a syllable, as in English, <i>hospital, heat</i> .		
	milho julho filho velho olho	corn July son old eye		rato revista reto rio rua rosto valor comer partir	mouse magazine straight river street face value to eat to go away / to leave	
	At the beginning of a syllable, as in <i>mom and nothing</i> .			Between vowels is pronounced like the English 'R' in <i>ratio</i> .		
	mala fama mito	suitcase fame myth		caro careca puro duro	dear, expensive bald pure hard	
				Is identical in sound to the English 'H' in <i>heat</i> .		
m			rr	carro corrida morro		car race hill
n	nada neto nervoso	nothing grandson nervous	s	Between vowels as 'Z', or as 'S' in <i>nose</i> .		
	At the end of a syllable, 'M' and 'N' are not pronounced as consonants. They indicate the nasalization of the preceding vowel as in <i>santo</i> (saint), <i>canto</i> (chant), <i>campo</i> (field), <i>falam</i> (they talk), <i>mente</i> (mind), <i>também</i> (also), <i>bem</i> (well), <i>mim</i> (myself), <i>sim</i> (yes). There are a few proper nouns that end in 'N'.			rosa casa mesa peso	rose house table weight	
nh	Between vowels, similar to 'NY' in <i>canyon</i> or like nasal sounding 'Y'. Important: the preceding vowel is also nasal sounding.					
	tenho amanhã ponho vinho	I have tomorrow I put wine				

S (cont.)	cansado	tired
	manso	gentle
SS	ganso	goose
	sábado	Saturday
t	salada	salad
	Sérgio	a proper name (masc.)
V	santo	saint
	Has a sound similar to 'SS' in <i>lesson</i>.	
SS	missão	mission
	passar	to pass
t	passivo	passive
	Is pronounced similar to the English 'T' in the word <i>time</i>.	
t	tabela	table
	tamanho	size
t	televisão	television
	telefone	telephone
t	topo	top
	tudo	everything
t	contudo	however
	Before 'E' (at the end of the word) or 'I' it is pronounced like the CH in <i>chalk</i>.	
t	tia	aunt
	tinta	ink, paint
t	tirar	to take away
	partir	to go away / to leave
t	mentira	lie
	dente	tooth
t	pente	comb
	assistente	assistant
t	parente	relative
	quente	hot
t	detergente	detergent
	As in <i>victory</i>.	
V	vitória	victory
	vida	life
V	viver	to live
	valor	value
W	Pronounced as 'V'.	
	Walter	a proper name (masc.)
W	Wanderley	a proper name (masc.)
	Like 'Z' in words beginning in 'EX' + vowel.	
X	exame	exam
	êxito	success
X	exato	exact
	exemplo	example
X	Like 'SH' in some words.	
	caixa	box
X	baixa	low / short (fem.)
	xarope	syrup
X	xadrez	chess
	Like 'S' in some words.	
X	máximo	maximum
	próximo	next (masc.)
X	Like 'KS' in <i>wax</i> in some words.	
	táxi	taxi
X	tórax	chest
	As in <i>free, see, bee</i>.	
y	Yara	a proper name (fem.)
	Yemanjá*	an african goddess
y	Lucy	a proper name (fem.)
	Is generally like in <i>zebra</i>; however, in the final position, is more like the Portuguese 'S'.	
Z	zebra	zebra
	zero	zero
Z	vez	time, turn
	voz	voice
Z	luz	light
	arroz	rice

Cultural Note

*Yemanjá is a famous goddess in the Afro-Brazilian Candomblé religion. She's worshiped as one of the seven orixás (say 'oreeshahs') of the African Pantheon. Orixás are spirits or deities that reflect one of the manifestations of God in the Yoruba spiritual or religious system. Yemanjá is the Queen of the Ocean, the patron deity of the fishermen and survivors of shipwrecks.




Photo: Tuta Veloso

Pratique!

READ ALOUD THE FOLLOWING:

1. carro caro
2. José dança samba
3. milho duro
4. tenho um jogo amanhã
5. queijo quente
6. dia exato
7. telefone pequeno
8. Eva era assistente
9. topo tudo
10. Walter e Yara falam bem
11. ponho vinho
12. Sérgio caça ganso
13. exame fácil
14. quarta, sábado e amanhã também
15. casa rosa e baixa
16. Sérgio, José e Wanderley cantam bem
17. carro bomba
18. amanhã, tenho jogo, exame e jantar
19. homem careca
20. José e Kátia falam manso
21. alguém próximo
22. Ricardo joga mal
23. próximo táxi
24. faça uma fila
25. vida doce
26. sim, tenho um filho
27. tia Tereza



~	(til)	Indicates nasal sound, as in lã (wool), ação (action), mãe (mother).
^	(circunflexo)	Indicates stress and closed sound, as in bêbado (drunk), você (you), lâmpada (lamp), avô (grandfather).
,	(agudo)	Indicates stress and open sound, as in café (coffee), avó (grandmother), até (until/up to).
\	(grave)	Indicates contraction of preposition and article, as in Vou à Bahia (I will go to Bahia).

DITONGOS NASAIS (Nasal Diphthongs)



ão	São (they are), cão (dog), mão (hand), alemão (German), dão (they give), pão (bread), lição (lesson), coração (heart), canção (song), irmão (brother), não (no)
ãe	pães (breads), mãe (mother), cães (dogs), capitães (captains)
õe	lições (lessons), limões (limes), botões (buttons)

DITONGOS ORAIS (Oral Diphthongs)



ai	mais (more), sai (you/he/she leaves), vai (you/he/she goes)	iu	sorriu (you/he/she smiled), sumiu (you/he/she disappeared)
au	mau (bad), autor (author), aula* (class)	oi	boi (ox/bull), foi (you/he/she went), coitado (poor thing)
ei	enfeite (decoration), feira (market/fair), leite (milk)	ou	vou (I go), sou (I am), pouco (little/few/not much)
eu	meu (mine-masc.), seu (yours-masc.), morreu (you/he/she died)	ui	fui (I went), azuis (blue - in the plural form)

Pratique!

TRACK
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ORAL
EXERCISE
#1

- I. PRONUNCIE AS PALAVRAS EM PARES, DISTINGUINDO OS SONS ABERTOS E FECHADOS:
(Pronounce the following pairs of words, distinguishing the quality of the stress:)

OPEN (verbs) /é/		CLOSE (nouns) /ê/	
seca	you/he/she dries	seca	drought
governo	I govern	governo	government
começo	I start/I begin	começo	beginning/starting
peso	I weigh	peso	weight
desprezo	I disdain	desprezo	disdain
OPEN (verbs) /ó/		CLOSE (nouns) /ô/	
olho	I look	olho	eye
gosto	I like	gosto	taste
posso	I can	poço	well
toco	I play	toco	tree tump

- II. WWW NAVEGANDO NA NET (Surfing the net)



Practice pronunciation by exploring Brazilian magazine “Veja” website. Choose one of the videos and then use the *“shadowing” technique* explained on page 17.

Remember: this exercise is for pronunciation practice only not for listening comprehension!

Revista VEJA (videos): <http://veja.abril.com.br/mediacenter/>

- III. PRATIQUE, LENDO AS FRASES ABAIXO (TRAVA-LÍNGUAS):

(Practice by repeating the following tongue twisters:)

TRACK
10

1. O rato roeu a roupa do rei de Roma.
Rosa vai dizer à Rita que o rato roeu a roupa da rainha.
A rainha raivosa rasgou o resto.

TRACK
11

2. A aranha arranha a rã.
A rã arranha a aranha.
Nem a aranha arranha a rã.
Nem a rã arranha a aranha.

TRACK
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3. Bote a bota no bote e tire o pote do bote.

TRACK
13

4. Três tigres tristes para três pratos de trigo.
Três pratos de trigo para três tigres tristes.

TRACK
14

5. Tinha tanta tia tantã.
Tinha tanta anta antiga.
Tinha tanta anta que era tia.
Tinha tanta tia que era anta.



Anta (Tapir)