

Brazilian Portuguese from English speaking people (Hand-out #1)

Topics:

- 1- Graphical accents and tonal system
- 2- Persons and flexion of verbs
- 3- Verbs modes, tenses and conjugations

Grammar:

- 1- Portuguese is not a tonal language. This means that the way one pronounces the vowels (high/low) is irrelevant. There are only a few exceptions around, e.g. avó (acute) / avô (grave) {grandmother / grandfather}.
- 2- There are some graphical accents in Portuguese: acute, grave, tilde, and umlaut {agudo, grave, til, trema}. They always change the sounds of vowels into: high, low, nasal, vibrating. Note that some vowels are mute in Portuguese.
- 3- The list of letters that accept graphic accent is as follows: **âããÀÁÃ ÊÊÊÊ Í í ÓôõÓÔÕ úüÜÜ çÇ**. Note this last exemption, which is not a vowel.
- 4- The Persons in Portuguese are:
 - 1) Eu 2) Tu 3) Ele / Ela 4) Nós 5) Vós 6) Eles
- 5- Verbs in Portuguese always flexion for each person, mode, and tense. However, be happy, they do not flexion for gender!
- 6- Regarding verbs there two major modes: indicative and subjunctive modes. Example: [Future of indicative] I will play the guitar {Eu tocarei violão}. [Future of subjunctive] When I play the guitar {Quando eu tocar violão}.
- 7- Verb names are said with out the 'to'. Example: To be, To be, To Play, To Play {Ser, Estar, Brincar, Tocar}. They are always refereed to be in the infinitive, i.e. present, non flexioned to any of the persons.
- 8- There are many tenses in Portuguese: a) Present, b1) Future(present), b2) Future(past), c1) Past(imperfect), c2) Past(perfect), c3) Past("super-perfect"). Example with the verb To go for the first person: a) I go {Eu vou}; b1) I will go {Eu irei}; b2) I would go {Eu iria}; c1) I used to go {Eu ia}; c2) I went {Eu fui};

- c3) I have gone {Eu havia ido}; - Bad news some of this can have subjunctive forms as well, which mean this lot times two! Of course all this was to the first person, there are only the other five.
- 9- It is common to omit the subject within a phrase in Portuguese. The author (person) of the action can be inferred by the verb flexion!
- 10- There are 3 conjugations in Portuguese. (1) Verbs finished in – ar, (2) –er or –or, and (3) –ir. All the new verbs, and the majority of the Portuguese verbs are in the –ar conjugation.
- 11- The rule of a thumb for the first conjugation (present of indicative!) is: Eu: -o / Ele: -a / Nós: -amos / Eles: -am. Exemplo: [to play (kids)] {Brincar} eu brinco / ele brinca / nós brincamos / eles brincam. [to play (music)] {Tocar} eu toco / ele toca / nós tocamos / eles tocam.

General comments/Hints:

- 1- The Portuguese spoken in Portugal and Brazil has almost the same grammar. A difference is that the Portuguese people do not use the gerund form. Example: The kids are playing. {BR: As crianças estão brincando/ PT: As crianças estão a brincar}
- 2- Be careful when using the verb to be. Remember it has two slightly (but important) different meanings. One could say the same differences as (What/Who) or (Permanent/Temporary).

Assumptions/Decisions:

- 1- From now on let's use only the 1st, 3rd, 1st (plural) and 3rd (plural).
- 2- From now on let's use study the 1st conjugation. Verbs ended in –ar.
- 3- Let's use only the indicative mode, and avoid the subjunctive.
- 4- Let's use only the present, past(perfect) and future(present) in order to simplify the learning.

(All these assumption do not imply bad Portuguese, and are enough for a good quality conversational Portuguese).