

Português para Todos

A visual journey into
Brazilian Portuguese



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Bem-vindo! (Welcome!)

Welcome to **Português para Todos**! This book is designed to help you learn Brazilian Portuguese in a fun, engaging, and visual way. Instead of overwhelming you with dense grammar rules from the start, we mix clear explanations, beautiful illustrations, and short bilingual stories to build your intuition naturally.

How to use this book:

- Take your time exploring the vocabulary and grammar tables.
- Study the beautiful watercolor illustrations to get a feel for the Brazilian culture and context.
- Read the short stories out loud to practice your pronunciation.

Colour Coding: Throughout this book, we use a subtle colour-coding system to help you quickly distinguish between languages without needing constant labels.

This soft blue box will always contain the **Portuguese** text. Your goal is to focus here first!

This light grey box will always contain the **English** translation to guide you when you get stuck.

Practise online – for free: This book has a companion website. At the end of every chapter you will find a **QR code** and a short **reference code** (like *EP10*). Scan the code with your phone – or type the address printed beside it – and you will land on a set of free, interactive exercises that drill exactly what that chapter taught: dialogues, fill-in-the-blanks, verb practice, and more. No account is needed to start. It is the perfect way to turn what you have read into something you can actually **say**.

Capítulo 1: Primeiros Passos (First Steps)

◆ **After this chapter you will be able to:**

- Recognise Brazilian Portuguese personal pronouns
- Conjugate *Ser*, *Estar*, and *Ter* in the present tense
- Distinguish when to use *Ser* vs. *Estar*

Lição 1: O Básico (The Basics)

Welcome to your Portuguese journey! Let's start with the most important building blocks: personal pronouns. In Brazil, the way people address each other is quite straightforward but has a few unique quirks compared to other Portuguese-speaking countries.



Portuguese

English

Notes

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eu | I | |
| Você | You (singular) | The most common way to say “you” in Brazil. “Tu” is also used in some regions, but “Você” is safe everywhere. |
| Ele / Ela | He / She | Also used for “it”. |
| Nós / A gente | We | “A gente” literally means “the people” but is heavily used in spoken Brazilian Portuguese to mean “we”. |
| Vocês | You (plural) | Used to address a group of people. |
| Eles / Elas | They | Use “Eles” for a mixed group or all-male group. Use “Elas” only for an all-female group. |

História 1: O Encontro (The Meeting)

Let’s see these pronouns in action. Read the story side-by-side in Portuguese and English.



**Português**

Eu estou no café. O café é no Rio de Janeiro.

Você também está aqui.

Ela é a Luana. Ela é minha amiga.

Nós estamos felizes.

Eles estão bebendo café.

**English**

I am at the café. The café is in Rio de Janeiro.

You are here too.

She is Luana. She is my friend.

We are happy.

They are drinking coffee.

Lição 2: Verbos Essenciais (Lesson 2: Essential Verbs)

In Portuguese, there are two verbs for “to be”: **Ser** and **Estar**.

- Use **Ser** for permanent states (who you are, where you are from).
- Use **Estar** for temporary states (how you are feeling, where you are right now).

We also need the verb **Ter** (to have). Let’s look at the present tense conjugations.

| Pronoun | Ser (<i>permanent</i>) | Estar (<i>temporary</i>) | Ter (<i>to have</i>) |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eu | sou | estou | tenho |
| Você / Ele / Ela | é | está | tem |
| Nós | somos | estamos | temos |
| Vocês / Eles / Elas | são | estão | têm |

Examples:

- Eu **sou** do Brasil. (I am from Brazil - permanent)
- Eu **estou** no Brasil. (I am in Brazil - temporary)
- Eu **tenho** um cachorro. (I have a dog)

História 2: A Casa (The House)

Let's combine our new verbs (**ser**, **estar**, **ter**) with the pronouns.



Português

Olá! Eu sou o Marcos. Eu tenho uma casa azul.

A casa é muito bonita. Ela tem um jardim.

Você está na minha casa agora.

Nós somos amigos. Nós temos tempo para conversar.

Eles estão no jardim com o cachorro. O cachorro é muito feliz.

English

Hello! I am Marcos. I have a blue house.

The house is very beautiful. It has a garden.

You are at my house now.

We are friends. We have time to talk.

They are in the garden with the dog. The dog is very happy.



Keep going – practise this chapter online

Scan the code, or visit <https://linguine.cloud/e/EP1>, for free interactive exercises. Reference code: **EP1**

Capítulo 2: Primeiras Palavras (First Words)

◆ After this chapter you will be able to:

- Understand Portuguese articles and noun gender (*o/a, um/uma*)
- Use common greetings and polite phrases
- Count from 1 to 20 and describe things with basic adjectives

Os Artigos (Articles and Gender)

In Portuguese, every noun has a gender — masculine or feminine. This changes the word for “the” and “a/an”. There is no shortcut: you need to learn the gender along with each new word. But there are helpful patterns!

| | Masculine | Feminine |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Definite (“the”) | o (o livro) | a (a casa) |
| Indefinite (“a/an”) | um (um café) | uma (uma rua) |
| Plural (“the”) | os (os livros) | as (as casas) |

Helpful patterns:

- Most words ending in **-o** are masculine: *o livro* (the book), *o gato* (the cat)
- Most words ending in **-a** are feminine: *a mesa* (the table), *a porta* (the door)
- Words ending in **-ção** are almost always feminine: *a nação* (the nation), *a ação* (the action)

Cumprimentos e Cortesia (Greetings and Courtesy)

These are the phrases you will use every single day. Brazilians are warm and expressive — a simple greeting goes a long way!

| Português | English | When to use |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Olá | Hello | General greeting, any time of day |
| Bom dia | Good morning | Until around noon |
| Boa tarde | Good afternoon | From noon until 6 PM |
| Boa noite | Good evening / night | From 6 PM onwards |
| Tudo bem? | How are you? | The most common Brazilian greeting |
| Tudo bem! / Tudo bom! | I'm good! | The standard reply |
| Obrigado / Obrigada | Thank you | Use <i>-o</i> if you are male, <i>-a</i> if female |
| De nada | You're welcome | |
| Por favor | Please | |
| Com licença | Excuse me | To get someone's attention politely |
| Desculpa | Sorry | Informal apology |
| Tchau | Bye | Informal, very common |

◆ **Cultural Note:** In Brazil, “Tudo bem?” works both as a greeting and a genuine question — and the answer is almost always “Tudo bem!” even if things are not perfectly fine. It is the Brazilian equivalent of “How are you?” / “Good, thanks!” Think of it as a warm ritual rather than a literal question.

Números de 1 a 20 (Numbers 1 to 20)

Numbers are essential for prices, addresses, phone numbers, and telling time. Here are the first twenty:

| | | | |
|------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1 – um | 2 – dois | 3 – três | 4 – quatro |
| 5 – cinco | 6 – seis | 7 – sete | 8 – oito |
| 9 – nove | 10 – dez | 11 – onze | 12 – doze |
| 13 – treze | 14 – catorze | 15 – quinze | 16 – dezesseis |

17 – dezessete

18 – dezoito

19 – dezenove

20 – vinte

Adjetivos Básicos (Basic Adjectives)

In Portuguese, adjectives change to match the gender of the noun they describe. Most adjectives ending in **-o** become **-a** for feminine nouns:

| English | Masculine | Feminine |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Beautiful | bonito | bonita |
| Big | grande | grande |
| Small | pequeno | pequena |
| New | novo | nova |
| Old | velho | velha |
| Good | bom | boa |
| Bad | mau | má |
| Happy | feliz | feliz |
| Delicious | delicioso | deliciosa |

Note: Some adjectives like **grande** and **feliz** don't change with gender — they stay the same for both masculine and feminine nouns.

◆ **Pronunciation Tip:** The letter **h** is always silent in Portuguese. So **hoje** (today) sounds like “OH-jee”, and **hora** (hour) sounds like “OH-rah”. This is very different from English or German!

História: O Jantar de Boas-Vindas (The Welcome Dinner)

Marina has just arrived in Rio de Janeiro. Marcos invited her and Luana for a welcome dinner at his house. Let's see how they greet each other and describe the evening.



Português

Boa noite! Eu sou a Marina. Tudo bem?

Tudo bem! Eu sou o Marcos. Bem-vinda! A casa é sua.

A casa é muito bonita! Ela é grande.

Obrigada, Marina! Este é o Bidu. Ele é um cachorro muito feliz.

Olá! Eu sou a Luana. Boa noite! A comida está deliciosa. Marcos é um bom cozinheiro.



English

Good evening! I am Marina. How are you?

I'm good! I am Marcos. Welcome! Make yourself at home.

The house is very beautiful! It is big.

Thank you, Marina! This is Bidu. He is a very happy dog.

Hello! I am Luana. Good evening! The food is delicious. Marcos is a good cook.

Obrigado! Nós temos arroz, feijão, e um bolo novo. Vocês querem suco?

Sim, por favor! Você tem suco de laranja? É o meu favorito.

Tchau, gente! Boa noite! Foi uma noite muito boa.

Thank you! We have rice, beans, and a new cake. Do you want juice?

Yes, please! Do you have orange juice? It's my favorite.

Bye, everyone! Good night! It was a very good night.



Keep going – practise this chapter online

Scan the code, or visit <https://linguine.cloud/e/EP2>, for free interactive exercises. Reference code: **EP2**

Capítulo 3: Navegando pela Cidade (Navigating the City)

◆ After this chapter you will be able to:

- Conjugate regular *-ar* verbs in the present tense
- Name common places in a city and give basic directions

Verbos Regulares *-ar* (Regular *-ar* Verbs)

Most verbs in Portuguese end in *-ar*. To conjugate regular *-ar* verbs in the present tense, drop the *-ar* ending and add the correct suffix for each pronoun. Let's look at **Falar** (to speak), **Andar** (to walk), and **Comprar** (to buy).

| Pronoun | Falar (to speak) | Andar (to walk) | Comprar (to buy) |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Eu | falo | ando | compro |
| Você / Ele / Ela | fala | anda | compra |
| Nós | falamos | andamos | compramos |
| Vocês / Eles / Elas | falam | andam | compram |

Lugares e Direções (Places and Directions)

- **A rua** — *The street*
- **A livraria** — *The bookstore*
- **A padaria** — *The bakery*
- **A farmácia** — *The pharmacy*
- **A praia** — *The beach*
- **À direita** — *To the right*
- **À esquerda** — *To the left*
- **Em frente** — *Straight ahead*

◆ **Pronunciation Tip:** The letter **r** at the start of a word in Brazilian Portuguese sounds like an English “h”. So **Rio** sounds like “HEE-oo” and **rua** sounds like “HOO-ah”. Double **rr** in the middle of a word works the same way: **carro** = “KAH-hoo”.

◆ **Cultural Note:** Brazilians love giving directions using landmarks rather than street names. You will often hear things like “It’s next to the bakery” or “Turn left at the pharmacy” rather than “Go to Rua das Flores, number 42.”

História: Onde fica a livraria? (Where is the bookstore?)

Marina is visiting Rio and is looking for a specific bookstore. Let's see how she asks for directions using our new vocabulary.

New in this story: **procurar** – to search / to look for · **virar** – to turn · **perdida** – lost (f.)



Português

Olá! Com licença. Você fala inglês?

Eu não falo muito português. Eu ando pela cidade, mas estou perdida.

Eu procuro uma livraria. Vocês compram livros aqui?



English

Hello! Excuse me. Do you speak English?

I don't speak much Portuguese. I am walking through the city, but I am lost.

I am looking for a bookstore. Do you guys buy books here?

Ah, sim! A livraria é em frente.
Depois, vire à direita na padaria.

Muito obrigada! Nós andamos juntas com meus amigos depois.

Ah, yes! The bookstore is straight ahead. Then, turn right at the bakery.

Thank you very much! We are walking together with my friends later.



Keep going – practise this chapter online

Scan the code, or visit <https://linguine.cloud/e/EP3>, for free interactive exercises. Reference code: **EP3**

Capítulo 4: Comida e Cultura (Food and Culture)

◆ After this chapter you will be able to:

- Conjugate regular *-er* and *-ir* verbs in the present tense
- Order food and drinks using common restaurant phrases
- Understand the basics of Brazilian street food culture

Verbos Regulares *-er* e *-ir* (Regular *-er* and *-ir* Verbs)

Just like *-ar* verbs, Portuguese has two more families of regular verbs: those ending in *-er* and *-ir*. Each family follows its own pattern. Let's look at **Comer** (to eat), **Beber** (to drink), and **Abrir** (to open).

| Pronoun | Comer (<i>-er</i> : to eat) | Beber (<i>-er</i> : to drink) | Abrir (<i>-ir</i> : to open) |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Eu | como | bebo | abro |
| Você / Ele / Ela | come | bebe | abre |
| Nós | comemos | bebemos | abrimos |
| Vocês / Eles / Elas | comem | bebem | abrem |

Pattern summary:

- ***-er* verbs:** drop *-er*, add *-o*, *-e*, *-emos*, *-em*
- ***-ir* verbs:** drop *-ir*, add *-o*, *-e*, *-imos*, *-em*

Notice how similar they are! The only difference is in the **nós** form: *-emos* vs. *-imos*.