

17 Minute Languages

Portuguese grammar in a nutshell!



Article in Portuguese

In Portuguese grammar there are **two genders**.

Therefore, there are two articles that must be distinguished from one another: **masculine** and **feminine** articles.

Overview: articles in Portuguese

	singular		plural	
	definite	indefinite	definite	indefinite
male	o (the)	um (a, an)	os (the)	uns *
female	a (the)	uma (a, an)	as (the)	umas *

* There are no plural forms of the indefinite article in the English language. In English, you can use the words: “some”, “any” or “a few” to indicate plural forms of the indefinite article.

☞ e.g.

o filho – the son

um filho – a son

os filhos – the sons

uns filhos – (some) sons

a filha – the daughter

uma filha – a daughter

as filhas – the daughters
umas filhas – (a few) daughters

In Portuguese, the definite article can merge with a preposition and a new word is formed:

Overview: merging of articles with prepositions

	a	de	em	por
definite	ao/aos	do/dos	no/nos	pelo/pelos
	á/ás	da/das	na/nas	pela/pelas
nums	-	dum/duns*	num/nums	-
numas	-	duma/dumas*	numa/numas	-

* Used only in written Portuguese.

... e.g.

ao [a + o] quarto – in the room

das [de + as] meninas – from the girls

na [em + a] praia – on the beach

pela [por + a] internet – over the internet

Use of the definite article

In Portuguese, the definite article is used together with names, titles and when addressing a person indirectly.

... e.g.

Este é **o** Pedro. – This is Pedro.

Por favor, passe-me **o** Doutor de Melo. – Please connect me to Doctor de Melo.

O senhor/ **a** senhora gostaria dum café? – Would you (m/f) like a coffee?

The definite article is also used together with geographical indications, languages, days of the week, seasons and holidays.

... e.g.

A Ásia é um continente fascinante. – Asia is a fascinating continent.

Encontramos **no** [em+o] sábado. – We meet on Saturday.

No [em+o] verão é bastante quente no Algarve. – In summer it is quite hot in the Algarve.

The definite article also appears before possessive pronouns in Portuguese.

... e.g.

Este é **o** meu pai. – This is my father.

Esta é **a** minha avó. – This is my grandmother.

Use of the indefinite article

In Portuguese, there are four indefinite articles: “um” and “uns” for masculine nouns, singular and plural “and “uma” and “umas” for feminine nouns, singular and plural.

In English, there are two indefinite articles “a” and “an” for singular nouns, this corresponds to “um” and “uma” singular nouns in Portuguese.

“Uns” and “umas” correspond to “any/some” for plural noun forms.

In general the indefinite article in Portuguese is used when introducing a noun for the first time or refers to a noun without specifying it.

... e.g.

O Luís tem **um** portátil. – Luís has a laptop.

Hoje está **um** dia bonito. – Today is a beautiful day.

Estamos prontos dentro de **umas** duas horas. – We will be ready in about two hours.

There are **exceptions** to this rule.

Exception no. 1

There is no indefinite article with job titles and nationalities.

... e.g.

Sou mecânico. – I am a mechanic.

Eu sou português. – I am Portuguese.

Exception no. 2

The indefinite article is not used with the following words: meio (half, middle), cem (hundred), mil (thousand), outro (other, another), certo (some, correct, sure), tal (such, so).

... e.g.

Quero **meia** dose, por favor. – I'll have half a portion, please.

Tem **outra** oferta? – Do you have another offer?

There is also no indefinite article together with the exclamation “que!”.

... e.g.

Que carro porreiro! – What a cool car!

Exception no. 3

The indefinite article is not used within some fixed expressions and idioms.

... e.g.

fazer boa/má figura – to make a good/bad impression

dar bom resultado – achieve a good result

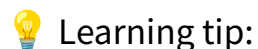
fazer sinal a alguém – to signal to someone

ter fim – come to an end

pôr fim a alguma coisa – put an end to something

Portuguese nouns

In Portuguese, nouns have a grammatical gender: there are **masculine** or **feminine** nouns.



Learning tip:
Learn the grammatical gender of each new noun right from the start.

The **general rules to determine the gender** of a noun are as follows:

How do I identify the grammatical gender of Portuguese nouns?

male nouns determined by sex / gender	female nouns determined by sex / gender
💬 e.g. - o homem – the man - o leão – the lion by belonging to one of these groups: ★ numbers, letters um b – a B um cinco – a five ★ colours	💬 e.g. - a mulher – the woman - a leoa – the lioness by belonging to one of these groups: ★ sciences, arts a canção – singing a física – physics

- o azul – (the) blue
 - ★ waterbodies, mountain ranges, cardinal points
- o canal de Bristol – the Bristol channel
- os Alpes – the Alps
- o sul – the South
 - ★ names of months, seasons
- o agosto – August
- o inverno – winter
 - ★ languages
- o português – Portuguese
 - ★ wine, car brands
- o vinho do Porto – port wine

Generally masculine nouns end in:

-á	-me
-ama	-o
-az	-or
-ema	-r
-i	-s
-im/-om/-um	-u
-l	-z

- ★ fruits, trees
- a maçã – the apple
- a pêra – the pear
- a cerejeira – the cherry tree
- ★ week days
- a segunda-feira – Monday
- a terça-feira – Tuesday
- a quarta-feira – Wednesday

Generally feminine nouns end in:

-a
-ã
-ade
-ção
-gem
-ice

⚠ Please note: there are exceptions!

How do I form the plural of Portuguese nouns?

💡 The general rule when forming the **plural** of a Portuguese noun is to **add an 's' to the end** of the word.

🗨 e.g.
 cidade – city → cidades – cities
 rua – street → ruas – streets

There are **exceptions** to this rule.
 Here are simple ways to remember them:

Overview of the exceptions to forming plural nouns

Nouns ending in -ão form their plural with **-ões**.

a	the	as	the
informação	information	informações	information

Nouns ending in -r, -s or -z form their plural by adding **-es**.

o mar	the sea	os mares	the seas
a dor	the pain	as dores	the pains
o país	the land	os países	the countries
o noz	the nut	os nozes	the nuts

Nouns ending in -al, -el, -ol and -ul change the ending to **-is** to form their plural.

When ending in unstressed -el or -ol → put an accent on the -é or -ó.

o canal	the canal	os canais	the canals
o anel	the ring	os anéis	the rings
o hotel	the hotel	os hotéis	the hotels

Nouns ending in -m change the -m to -ns to form their plural.

o fim	the ending	os fins	the endings
a paragem	the stop, the station	as paragens	the stops, the stations

The “cases” in Portuguese

There are **no cases** in the Portuguese language.
Unlike English where there are three cases: subjective, objective and possessive, otherwise known as nominative, accusative and genitive.
Case indicates the role of the nouns.

But how can I recognise the case of a noun?

You can tell by the sentence structure.
Portuguese sentences follow this order:
subject (nominative) – predicate – object (dative/accusative)

The use of prepositions in Portuguese and English differ.
When you become familiar with whole phrases you will understand how prepositions work in Portuguese.
Portuguese uses prepositions to mark cases.
For example, the genitive is built by using the preposition “de” (of) to mark belongings.

☞ e.g.
a casa **do** [de+o] João – the house of João
o pai **da** [de+a] Amália – Amália’s father

Following the preposition “a” (at, on, in, after, around, to), you will find the dative.

☞ e.g.
Eu dou a CD **a Amália**. – I give the CD to Amália.
Podes trazer o livro para **a Catherine**? – Could you take the book to Catherine?



Adjectives in Portuguese

Do Portuguese adjectives have a grammatical gender?

Yes, you have to match the noun's gender and number when assigning it an adjective.

☞ e.g.
bonito (m) – beautiful
bonita (f) – beautiful

Adjectives that have to agree with the gender of nouns and whether they are singular or plural are called “**adjetivos biformes**”.

Some adjectives don't inflect in gender and some don't inflect in number either, because they have one form they are called “**adjetivos uniformes**”.

☞ e.g.
feliz (m/f) – happy
verde (m/f) – green

Do I have to pay attention to gender, singular and plural when I include an adjective in a Portuguese sentence?

Yes, contrary to English, you have to match the noun's gender and number when assigning it an adjective.

☞ e.g.
o casaco bonito – the beautiful jacket
os casacos bonitos – the beautiful jackets
a blusa bonita – the beautiful blouse
as blusas bonitas – the beautiful blouses
o casaco verde – the green jacket
os casacos verdes – the green jackets
a blusa verde – the green blouse
as blusas verdes – the green blouses

When forming the plural, follow the rules you learned in the section about Portuguese nouns.

Where do I find the adjectives within a Portuguese sentence?

💡 Generally, you can remember:

The adjective comes after the word it refers to.

Attention:

This is completely different than in English.

💬 e.g.

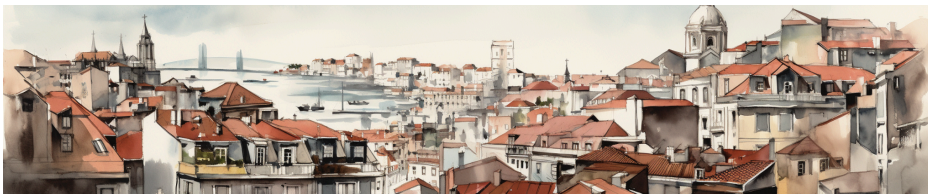
o amigo simpático – the nice friend (m)

a amiga simpática – the nice friend (f)

⚠ There are exceptions to this rule when adjectives are placed before their noun.

💬 e.g.

uma **boa** ideia – a **good** idea



How do I compare Portuguese adjectives?

Comparative (1st comparison)

more and less

mais/menos + adjective

The majority of comparatives in Portuguese grammar are made by placing the words “**mais**” (more) and “**menos**” (less) before the adjective, instead of adding a suffix as is often the case in English.

💬 e.g.

interessante – **mais** interessante
(interesting – more interesting)

interessante – **menos** interessante
(interesting – less interesting)

lindo – **mais** lindo
(beautiful – more beautiful)

There are two types of **superlatives** (2nd comparison)

Relative superlative

most and least

muito/bastante/extremamente + adjective

In Portuguese grammar, the majority of superlatives are also formed using the words **mais** and **menos**, unlike English where the words most or least are considered fairly basic components of the language.

These words do not have a direct equivalent in Portuguese, instead the phrases **o/a mais** and **o/a menos** are used, literally “the more” and “the less”.

The noun is placed between the article and the adjective as described previously.

... e.g.

muito interessante – very interesting

muito lindo – very beautiful

Absolute superlative

adjective + -íssimo

... e.g.

interessant**íssimo** – most interesting

lind**íssimo** – most beautiful

A Portuguese native speaker finds the absolute superlative (as the name suggests) stronger than a relative superlative.



As a rule of thumb for your own superlative formation, remember that an absolute superlative should express the "highest of feelings".

Irregular comparison of Portuguese adjectives

The most important irregular comparative and superlative adjectives that are used instead of **mais** or **menos** are:

Please memorise these irregular forms of comparison:

alto (high) – superior – supremo

baixo (low, deep) – inferior – ínfimo

bom (good) – melhor – ótimo

grande (large) – maior – máximo

mau, mal (bad) – pior – péssimo

muito (a lot) – mais – muitíssimo

pequeno (small) – menor – mínimo

pouco (little) – menos – pouquíssimo

The verb system – beating heart of the Portuguese language!

Impersonal infinitive (infinitivo impessoal)

The impersonal infinitive is used when there is no reference to a subject or when the infinitive verb is the subject itself.

Portuguese verbs end in -ar, -er and -ir in the infinitive form. The three verb classes are named after these endings:

a-classe / e-classe / i-classe

☞ e.g.

brincar – to play (a-classe)

comer – to eat (e-classe)

rir – to laugh (i-classe)

⚠ There is one **exception**:

pôr – to put, to place, to lay

This verb has no typical ending and also has irregular forms.

Personal infinitive (infinitivo pessoal)

Formation of the infinitivo pessoal

1 st pers. sg.	only infinitive	1 st pers. pl.	infinitive + -mos
2 nd pers. sg.	infinitive + -it		
3 rd pers. sg.	only infinitive	3 rd pers. pl.	infinitive + -em

The personal infinitive is used in sentences in which the subject in the main clause and in the subordinate clause is different.

It expresses the idea of an action and it could be considered as the base form of the verb.

There are two types, personal and impersonal infinitives.

... e.g.

Se tu não **perceberes** (subj.: 2nd person singular) isto, eu não posso (subj.: 1st person singular) ajudar-te. – If you don't understand that, I can't help you.

Eles alugam um carro para **irem** até lá. – They rent a car to drive there.

Depois de **pintarmos** as paredes de todos os quartos, aspiramos o pó em todo o lado. – After painting the walls of all the rooms, we vacuum the dust everywhere.

Furthermore, the infinitivo pessoal is used for impersonal expressions.

... e.g.

É bom **saberes** a verdade. – It's good if you know the truth.

É lamentável não **ganharmos**. – It is a pity that we didn't win.

Compound infinitive (infinitivo composto)

This verb form is mainly found in literary texts.

This verb form is only used with reference to the past tense. Compound forms require the addition of one or more other verbs to make the meaning clear.



Rule for forming the infinitivo composto:

ter + past participle of the verb

... e.g.

ter falado – have spoken

How to find the stem of a verb

(impersonal) infinitive [MINUS] the ending -ar/-er or -ir

e.g.
brincar → “brinc”
comer → “com”

You will need this knowledge again and again if you want to add endings for different tenses to the verb stem.



Two important verbs: "ser" and "estar"

Present tense of "ser" (to be):
sou / es / é / somos / são

Present tense of "estar" (to be):
estou / estas / está / estamos / estão

Compare and contrast the use of "ser" and "estar"

"ser" – a permanent state

"estar" – a changing state

Raul **é** doente. Ele sofre de um defeito cardíaco.
Raul is sick (from birth). He suffers from a heart defect.

Raul **está** doente. Não está no escritório hoje.
Raul is sick. He's not in the office today.

"ser" – invariable location

"estar" – variable location

Sintra **é** em Portugal.
Sintra is in Portugal.

O meu carro **está** na garagem.
My car is in the garage.

"ser" – dates and times

"estar" – describing weather

É sete e meia.
It's 7:30 am.

Hoje **está** ventando muito.
It's very windy today.

Present indicative (present tense)

To inflect a Portuguese verb in the present tense, you have to know ...

1. Which verb class does this verb belong to?
2. How do I find the stem of this verb?

The following table illustrates how to build the verb form you need:

Present tense: Which personal ending do I have to add?

	ending -ar	ending -er	ending -ir	
1 st pers. sg.	esper o	com o	permit o	eu
2 nd pers. sg.	esper as	com es	permit es	tu
3 rd pers. sg.	esper a	com e	permit e	ele/ela/você
1 st pers. pl.	esper amos	com emos	permit imos	nós
3 rd pers. pl.	esper am	com em	permit em	eles/elas/vocês

Three important, irregular verbs in the present tense

- ★ ter (to have, to hold to possess)
tenho / tens / tem / temos / têm
- ★ fazer (to do)
faço / fazes / faz / fazemos / fazem
- ★ ir (to go, to drive)
vou / vais / vai / vamos / vão

Present participle (gerúndio)

	- ando (1 st verb class ending in -ar)
verb stem +	- endo (2 nd verb class ending in -er)
	- indo (3 rd verb class ending in -ir)

⚠ Please note the following **exceptions** in forming the “gerúndio”:

estar – estando (being)
pôr – pondo (placing, putting)
ser – sendo (being)
ter – tendo (having)

Pretérito Perfeito Simples (PPS) - past tense

The PPS is the past tense verb form that is used most frequently in Portuguese.

You can translate these tenses into English using the perfect.

So you have to rethink this a bit:

In English, the perfect tense is a compound tense (e.g. I have waited), in Portuguese it's a simple tense (e.g. esperei).

💡 Rule of thumb for building the PPS:

stem form of a verb + personal ending for the simple perfect

Pretérito Perfeito Simples

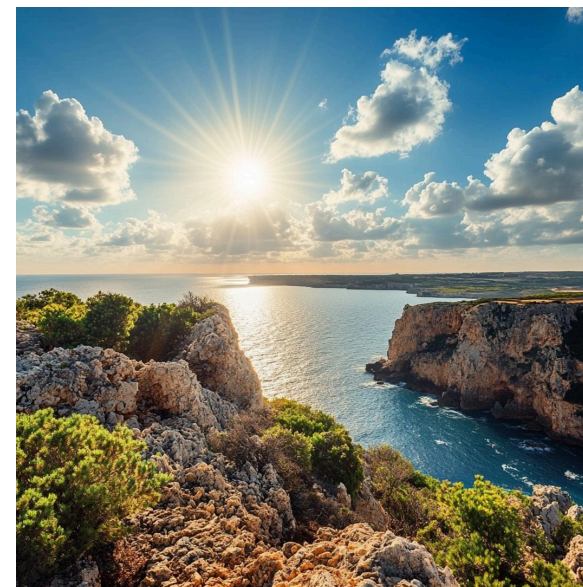
	ending -ar	ending -er	ending -ir	
1 st pers. sg.	esperei	comi	permiti	eu
2 nd pers. sg.	esperaste	comeste	permitiste	tu
3 rd pers. sg.	esperou	comeu	permitiu	ele/ela/você
1 st pers. pl.	esperamos	comemos	permitimos	nós
3 rd pers. pl.	esperaram	comeram	permitiram	eles/elas/vocês

PPS of “ser” and “ir” (please note that the forms are identical):

fui / foste / foi / fomos / foram

PPS of “estar”:

estive / estiveste / esteve / estivemos / estiveram



Pretérito Imperfeito - Imperfect

You can translate this tense with the simple past tense.

Pretérito Imperfeito

	ending -ar	ending -er	ending -ir	
1 st pers. sg.	esper ava	com ia	permit ia	eu
2 nd pers. sg.	esper avas	com ias	permit ias	tu
3 rd pers. sg.	esper ava	com ia	permit ia	ele/ela/você
1 st pers. pl.	esper ávamos	com íamos	permit íamos	nós
3 rd pers. pl.	esper avam	com iam	permit iam	eles/elas/vocês

Imperfeito of “ser”:

era /eras / era / eramos / eram

Imperfeito of “ter” (used to build the mais-que-perfeito):

tinha / tinhas / tinha / tínhamos / tinham

Particípio Passado

verb stem +

- **ado** (1st verb class ending in -ar)
- **ido** (2nd verb class ending in -er)
- **ido** (3rd verb class ending in -ir)

 Try it out now and form the particípio passado of the following verbs:

enviar
cantar
partir
saber
chegar
comer
estacionar
amar

 And here you will find the solution:

envi**ado**, cant**ado**, part**ido**, sab**ido**, cheg**ado**, com**ido**,
estacion**ado**, am**ado**

Pretérito Perfeito Composto (PPC)

This verb tense can be translated with “composite perfect” into English.

⚠ Please do not confuse this tense with the English perfect tense.

The English perfect (e.g. I have learned) is also a compound tense, but you must not use it to translate the pretérito perfeito composto!

💡 Rule for building the pretérito perfeito composto:

present tense of the auxiliary verb “ter” + **particípio passado** of the main verb

Signal words for using this time are:

até agora – until now

por algum tempo – for some time

recentemente – lately

ultimamente – lately

Pretérito Mais-Que-Perfeito

The pluperfect tense (pt. pretérito mais-que-perfeito) is used to show that one event in the past happened before another event in the past.

💡 Rule for building the pluperfect:

imperfeito of the auxiliary verb “ter” + **particípio passado** of the main verb

🇧🇷 In Brazil, the pluperfect is also used with the forms of the imperfeito of the auxiliary verb “haver” (to have). This is especially common in spoken language.

The forms of “haver” in the imperfeito are:
havia / havias / havia / havíamos / haviam

Future – formation of the near future using the infinitive

💡 Rule for building this verb tense:

verb form of “**ir**” in the **present** tense + **infinitive**

☞ e.g.

Eu **vou ligar** para o Pedro. – I will call Pedro.

Este comboio **vai chegar** atrasado. – This train will arrive late.

Futuro simples – expression of doubt and uncertainty**Futuro simples**

1 st pers. sg.	eu		-ei
2 nd pers. sg.	tu		-ás
3 rd pers. sg.	ele/ela/você	infinitive +	-á
1 st pers. pl.	nós		-emos
3 rd pers. pl.	eles/elas/vocês		-ão

☞ e.g.

Eu acho que **ligarei** para o Pedro. – I think I will call Pedro.

Os novos colegas **irão** explicar-lhe o seu trabalho. – The new colleagues will explain the work to you.

Acho que **choverá** amanhã. – I think it will rain tomorrow.

Futuro perfeito – for events that will be completed in the future

💡 Rule for building the futuro perfeito:

auxiliary verb “**ter**” in the **future** tense + **particípio passado**

☞ e.g.

Amanhã à noite, eu **terei ligado** para Pedro. – I will have called Pedro by tomorrow evening.

No próximo mês **teremos terminado** este trabalho. – Next month we will have finished this work.

Passive in Portuguese

The formation of the passive (a voz passiva) in Portuguese is very much the same as in English, using a form of the verb ‘ser’ meaning ‘to be’ and a past participle.

The past participle agrees in gender and number with the subject.

What do you have to consider when changing a sentence from active to passive?

- The offender of a passive sentence is marked with “por” (from) or “de” (from).
 ... e.g.
 amada pelo [por + o] Luís – loved by Luís
- The particípio passado is used like an adjective.
 ... e.g.
 A Cristina é amada pelo Luís. – Cristina is loved by Luís.
- The irregular form of the particípio passado is always used to form the passive.
- If the perpetrator of the action is not named in a passive sentence, you can also construct this sentence with the reflexive form of the verb and thus avoid the passive as a tense.
 ... e.g.
 vendem-se casas – houses for sale

Subjuntivo in Portuguese

Basically, you can remember that the subjunctive (**subjuntivo**) is very often used in Portuguese.

You will find the subjuntivo in all sentences intended to express uncertainty.

Also when a speaker wants to mark a statement as his/her personal and subjective impression, he/she uses the subjunctive.

Subjuntivo presente

	ending -ar	ending -er	ending -ir	
1 st pers. sg.	espere	coma	permita	eu
2 nd pers. sg.	esperes	comas	permitas	tu
3 rd pers. sg.	espere	coma	permita	ele/ela/você
1 st pers. pl.	esperemos	comamos	permitamos	nós
3 rd pers. pl.	esperem	comam	permitam	eles/elas/vocês

Imperfeito do subjuntivo

	ending -ar	ending -er	ending -ir	
1 st pers. sg.	esperasse	comesse	permitisse	eu
2 nd pers. sg.	esperasses	comesse	permitisses	tu
3 rd pers. sg.	esperasse	comesse	permitisse	ele/ela/ você
1 st pers. pl.	esperássemos	comêssemos	permitíssemos	nós
3 rd pers. pl.	esperassem	comessem	permitissem	eles/elas/ você

Perfeito composto do subjuntivo

💡 Formation rule:

subjuntivo presente of the auxiliary verb “ter” + **particípio passado** of the main verb

Mais-Que-Perfeito do subjuntivo

💡 Formation rule:

imperfeito do conjuntivo of the auxiliary verb “ter” + **particípio passado** of the main verb

Futuro imperfeito do subjuntivo

	ending -ar	ending -er	ending -ir	
1 st pers. sg.	esperar	comer	permitir	eu
2 nd pers. sg.	esperares	comeres	permitires	tu
3 rd pers. sg.	esperar	comer	permitir	ele/ela/ você
1 st pers. pl.	esperarmos	comermos	permitirmos	nós
3 rd pers. pl.	esperarem	comerem	permitirem	eles/elas/ você

Use of the subjuntivo

The subjuntivo in Portuguese is used in the following settings:

- to express commands
... e.g.
Escutem-me! – Listen to me!
- Numerous verbs in Portuguese require that the verb in the associated dependent clause is in the subjunctive.
... e.g.
desejar, exigir, mandar, pedir, proibir, querer, recomendar
Pedimos-lhe que nos **ajude**. – We ask you to help us.
- Verbs expressing feelings and subjective sensations require the subjunctive.
... e.g.
esperar, gostar que, lamentar, sentir
Espero que **tenha ajudado** com esta informação. – I hope that I have helped with that information.
- The subjunctive follows after impersonal expressions.
... e.g.
É bom/melhor que + subjuntivo ... – It is good/better

that ...

- We find the subjunctive in conditional clauses.

... e.g.

Se eu **soubesse** disso, então eu **poderia** talvez te ajudar. – If I had known that, I might have been able to help you.

- Some conjunctions in Portuguese also require the subjunctive.

... e.g.

ainda que, caso, desde que, embora, para que

Pronouns in Portuguese

I, you, he, she, it... – Personal Pronouns

The personal pronouns in Portuguese are far from being used often.

When a Portuguese personal pronoun is the subject of a sentence, it is often omitted.

Portuguese personal pronouns

singular	plural
eu – I	nós – we
tu – you	
você/o senhor/a senhora (+ verb in 3 rd person) – you / you polite	vocês/os senhores/as senhoras (+ verb in 3 rd person) – you, polite
ele – he	eles – they (m)
ela – she	elas – they (f)

Personal pronouns as the object of a sentence

In Portuguese, you don't have to learn case endings for nouns, but with personal pronouns you have to choose between the dative and the accusative form.

Personal pronouns in the dative

singular	plural
me	me
te	you
lhe	him/ her/ it / you
	nos
	vos
	lhes
	us
	you
	them

Pronouns in the accusative

me	me	nos	us
te	you	vos	you
lo	him	los	them
la	her	las	them
lo / la	it	los / las	them

Possessive Pronouns

A Portuguese possessive pronoun has to be adjusted to its reference word.

Since there are no cases in Portuguese, you only have to make adjustments in terms of grammatical gender and number (singular or plural).



Important rule:

Please remember that the gender of the possessive pronoun **always** depends on its reference word (the possession itself) and never on the “owner”!



e.g.

Este é **o meu** telemóvel. – That's my mobile/cell phone.

Estes são **os meus** telemóveis. – These are my cell phones.

Vicente procura **a sua** irmã. – Vicente is looking for his sister.

Vicente procura **o seu** irmão. – Vicente is looking for his brother.

Demonstrative Pronouns

When there is no specific word being described, e.g. 'that's not it' or 'what's this', Portuguese uses another grammatical solution.

Objects are referred to with “isto” (**close** to the speaker), “isso” (**away** from the speaker), and “aquilo” (**far away** from the speaker).

“Isso” is used for referring to people.

Relative Pronoun “que”

“Que” is the relative pronoun most commonly used in Portuguese.

It is used in both colloquial and written language.



e.g.

Este é o homem **que** me ajudou. – This is the man who helped me.

Aqui está o livro **que** pedi. – Here is the book you ordered.

Prepositions “para” and “por” in Portuguese

For English native speakers who learn Portuguese, the following examples will demonstrate when to use “para” and “por”.

Most of the time ‘por’ and ‘para’ translate to the word ‘for’ in English.

‘**Para**’ expresses a final goal, destination or purpose, in other words what was done.

‘**Por**’ conveys a motion or an exchange, in other words who did something.

This overview will help you learn about the differences:

“para”	“por”
intention, goal, purpose or motive Chamo para ouvir a tua voz. – I’m calling to hear your voice.	cause & reason Isabel desistiu da sua carreira por amor. – Isabel gave up her career for love.
location & direction Eu vou para Lisboa. – I fly to Lisbon.	duration of a temporary relationship por um ano – for one year
verbs of movement ir para – to go/drive to	the perpetrator of an action in the passive Este erro foi feito pelo chefe. – This mistake was made by the boss.
reference to the future para sempre – forever	

Learning to count in Portuguese

With the table below you will learn the numbers from one to twenty in Portuguese.

Portuguese numbers from 1 to 20			
um/uma	one	onze	eleven
dois/duas	two	doze	twelve
três	three	treze	thirteen
quatro	four	catorze	fourteen
cinco	five	quinze	fifteen
seis	six	deza ss eis	sixteen
sete	seven	deza ss ete	seventeen
oito	eight	dezoito	eighteen
nove	nine	deza n ove	nineteen
dez	ten	vinte	twenty



⚠ Please note that in Portugal the numbers 16, 17 and 19 are written with an 'a'.

🇧🇷 In Brazil, you write them with an 'e' as indicated in bold above.