

Contents

Nouns

Singular and Plural Nouns

Gender of Nouns

Verbs

Stem-Changing Verbs

Verbs with Orthographic Changes

Verb Tenses

Negatives

Formal and Familiar Address

Active and Passive Voice

Reflexive Verbs

Impersonal Verbs

Infinitives

Gerunds

Participles

Adjectives

Comparative and Superlative

Absolute Superlative

Adverbs

Pronouns

Subject Pronouns

Direct Object Pronouns

Indirect Object Pronouns

Prepositional (Stressed) Pronouns

Reflexive Pronouns

Possessive Pronouns

Interrogatives and Exclamations

Indefinite Pronouns and Adjectives

Relative Pronouns

Demonstrative Pronouns and Adjectives

Passive Reflexive Constructions with "Se"

Impersonal Constructions with "Se"

Prepositions

Articles

Conjunctions

Interjections

Numbers

Prefixes and Suffixes


Phrases

Sentences and Clauses

Grammar Pages

Appendix of Irregular Verbs

For Help on Help for Windows, press F1.

For Help on Help for Macintosh, select Help with Quick Help from the  menu.

Nouns

A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing or idea.

João (João), **casa** (house), **amizade** (friendship).

See also:

Singular and Plural Nouns

Gender of Nouns

Proper Nouns

A proper noun is the name of a particular person, place or entity.

Afonso I, **Luís Váz de Camões**, **o Brasil**, **Rio de Janeiro**, **o Natal** (Christmas)

Common Nouns

All nouns other than **proper nouns** are called common. Common nouns are subdivided into **count** and **noncount** nouns.

Count nouns have both singular and plural forms. They can be used to answer the question, 'How many...?'

Collective nouns refer to a class or a group:

a reunião (the meeting), **o público** (the audience)

Abstract nouns refer to qualities and ideas:

a bondade (goodness), **a justiça** (justice), **a beleza** (beauty)

Noncount Nouns

Noncount nouns refer to things that cannot be counted. In English, they do not usually take a definite article, but in Portuguese they often do. Noncount nouns include substances, abstract nouns, games and activities, and natural phenomena:

o leite (milk), **a saúde** (health), **a natação** (swimming), **o calor** (heat)

Singular and Plural Forms of Nouns

There are two grammatical forms to show **number**: singular and plural. The singular for count nouns indicates that there is one, the plural that there are two or more. The plural of nouns and adjectives is regularly formed by adding **-s** to a words ending.

Nouns ending in a vowel (the majority) add **-s**.

a casa (the house) / **as casas** (the houses)
a lei (the law) / **as leis** (the laws)

Nouns ending in **-r** or **-z** add **-es**.

a flor (the flower) / **as flores** (the flowers)
a mulher (the woman) / **as mulheres** (the women)
a voz (the voice) / **as vozes** (the voices)

Nouns ending in the letter **-m** change it to **-ns** when forming the plural.

a homem (the man) / **os homens** (the men)

Nouns ending in **-s** add **-es** to the singular form if the last syllable is stressed.

Nouns ending in **-s** do not change to form the plural if the last syllable is not stressed.

o mês (the month) / **os meses** (the months)
o país (the country) / **os países** (the countries)
o lápis (the pencil) / **os lápis** (the pencils)

Nouns ending with **-al**, **-el**, **-ol** and **-ul** replace the ending **-l** with **-is** to form the plural.

o animal (the animal) / **os animais** (the animals)
o papel (the paper) / **os papéis** (the papers)

Nouns ending in **-il** change the **-il** to **-eis** if the last syllable is not stressed.

o fóssil (the fossil) / **os fósseis** (the fossils)

Nouns ending in **-ão** form the plural by:

Changing the ending **-ão** to **-ões**. This rule encompasses the majority of nouns ending in **-ão**. As a rule of thumb, when in doubt, change nouns ending in **-ão** to **-ões** to form the plural.

a lição (the lesson) / **as lições** (the lessons)

Changing the ending **-ão** to **-ãos**.

o irmão (the brother) / **os irmãos** (the brothers)

Changing the ending **-ão** to **-ães**. There are only a few nouns to which this rule applies.

o pão (the bread) / **os pães** (the breads)

(The following word is used in Portugal only. The more common term in Brazil is **chachorro**.)

o cão (the dog) / **os cães** (the dogs)

Gender of Nouns

Nouns have two genders in Portuguese: **masculine** and **feminine**.

The ending of a noun often indicates its gender. Nouns ending in **-o** are usually masculine, while nouns ending in **-a** are usually feminine,

o touro (the bull)

a vaca (the cow)

However, there are many exceptions.

You need to memorize the **article**, either definite or indefinite, together with noun in order to be able to identify the gender of a noun.

Adjective

Adjectives are words that qualify the meaning of a noun or pronoun.

um livro **interessante** (an **interesting** book)
uma casa **nova** (a **new** house)

Adjectives answer the questions

what kind?, how many?, whose?, which one?

Portuguese adjectives agree in gender (masculine or feminine) and number (singular or plural) with the nouns they qualify.

um livro **vermelho** (a **red** book)
uns livros **vermelhos** (some **red** books)
a casa **vermelhas** (a **red** book)
as casas **vermelhas** (the **red** houses)

Adjectives can be used as nouns, in which case they take a definite article.

os ricos (rich people), **os pobres** (the poor)

Comparative and Superlative
Absolute Superlative

Types of Adjectives

Descriptive adjectives refer to some quality or physical state of a noun in such a way as to distinguish it from others in its class. These adjectives usually follow the nouns they qualify.

uma mulher inteligente (a clever woman)

Limiting adjectives include adjectives of quantity, cardinal numbers, possessive adjectives, demonstrative adjectives, and articles (definite and indefinite). They usually precede the nouns they qualify.

Adjectives of **quantity** answer the question 'How much?'

muitos livros (a lot of books)
demasiado calor (too much heat)

Possessive adjectives answer the question 'Whose?' They agree in gender and number with the thing possessed, NOT with the possessor.

The forms are as follows:

MASC. SING.	FEM. SING	TRANSLATION
meu	minha	(my, mine)
teu	tua	(your, yours; fam.)
seu	sua	(his, her, your; polite)
nosso	nossa	(our, ours)

vosso	vossa	(your, yours)
seu	sua	(their, theirs, your; polite)
MASC. PLURAL	FEM. PLURAL	
meus	minhas	(my, mine)
teus	tuas	(your, yours; fam.)
seus	suas	(his, her, your; polite)
nossos	nossas	(our, ours)
vossos	vossas	(your, yours)
seus	suas	(their, theirs, your; polite)

meu livro (my book)
meus livros (my books)
sua casa (their house)
suas casas (their houses)

See also **Possessive Pronouns**

Demonstrative adjectives answer the question 'Which one?'

este livro (this book)
aquelas montanhas (those mountains)

See also

Demonstrative Pronouns

Cardinal numbers answer the question 'How many?'

duas meninas (two girls)
cinquenta dólares (fifty dollars)

Ordinal numbers identify the position a noun occupies in a sequence.

a primeira página (the first page)
o segundo andar (the second floor)

See also **Numbers**

Comparative and Superlative Forms of Adjectives
Absolute Superlative

Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

See also

Coordinate Conjunctions

There are three degrees of comparison for an adjective.

POSITIVE:	alto (tall)
COMPARATIVE:	mais alto (taller) menos alto (less tall)
SUPERLATIVE:	o... mais alto (the tallest) o... menos alto (the least tall)

A few adjectives are compared irregularly.

POSITIVE	COMPARATIVE	SUPERLATIVE
bom (good)	melhor (better)	o melhor (best)
mau (bad)	pior (worse)	o pior (worst)
grande (great)	maior (greater)	o maior (greatest)
pequeno (small)	menor (lesser)	o menor (least)

The **relative superlative** is formed by placing the **definite article** in front of the noun or pronoun being compared.

Rachel é a menos vaidosa de todas.
(Rachel is the least conceited of all.)

Absolute Superlative

The absolute superlative indicates a high degree of some quality, rather than a comparison. It is formed by adding the suffix **-íssimo** (feminine **-íssima**), **-érrimo** (feminine **-érrima**) or **-ílmo** (feminine **-ílma**) to the adjective:

uma mulher linda (a pretty woman)
uma mulher lindíssima (a very pretty woman)

A number of adjectives have two absolute superlatives:

Adjective	Absolute Superlative forms	
bom (good)	boníssimo	ótimo (optimum)
gentil (gentle)	gentilíssimo	gentílico (most gentle)
pobre (poor)	pobríssimo	paupérrimo (very poor)

Adverbs

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives or other adverbs. Many adverbs are formed from adjectives by adding the suffix **-mente** to the feminine singular form. This suffix corresponds to **-ly** in English.

Escreve correctamente.

(He writes clearly.)

Some adverbs are also formed with the suffix **-o**, the adjectival ending. In these cases, both adverbial endings are correct.

Escreve rápido e correcto.

(He writes quickly and correctly.)

Escreve rapidamente e correctamente.

(He writes quickly and correctly.)

Comparative and Superlative Degrees of Adverbs

Adverbs are compared by preceding them with **mais** or **menos**.

facilmente (easily) / **mais facilmente** (more easily)

correctamente (correctly) / **menos correctamente** (less correctly)

The superlative of an adverb is expressed by adding the suffix **-mente** to the absolute superlative of the adjective to be used adverbially or to place the adverb **muito** before an adverb ending with the suffix **-mente**.

A rainha sentou-se elegantíssimamente no trono.

(The queen sat very elegantly on the throne.)

Irregular Forms of Comparison

Adverb	Comparative Adverb
bem (well)	melhor (better)
mal (badly)	pior (worse)
muito (a lot)	mais (more)
pouco (a little)	menos (less)

See also [Comparative and Superlative Adjectives](#)

Articles

There are two types of articles: **definite** articles (English 'the') and **indefinite** articles (English 'a').

DEFINITE ARTICLES

Singular	Plural
o (the)	os (the)
a (the)	as (the)

INDEFINITE ARTICLES

Singular	Plural
um (a)	uns (some)
uma (a)	umas (some)

Articles always agree in gender and number with the noun they modify.

o homem (the man - masculine s.)
a mulher (the woman - feminine s.)
os homens (the men - masculine pl.)
as mulheres (the women - feminine pl.)

Contraction of Prepositions and Articles

There are contractions of prepositions with the definite articles in Portuguese:

	o	a	os	as
a (to, at)	ao	à	aos	às
de (of, from)	do	da	dos	das
em (in, on)	no	na	nos	nas
por (by, for)	pelo	pela	pelos	pelas

There are contractions of prepositions with the indefinite articles in Portuguese:

	um	uma	uns	umas
de (of, from)	dum	duma	duns	dumas
em (in, on)	num	numa	nuns	numas

Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefixes

Some common prefixes with their meanings include:

ante-	(before)	anteontem (the day before yesterday)
con-	(with)	conjurar (to conspire)
contra-	(against)	contrapeso (counterweight)
de-	(from)	decaer (to decline)
en-	(in, on)	encerrar (to shut in)
entre-	(among)	entretempo (between-season)
sin-	(without)	sinvergonha (shameless)
sobre-	(over)	sobreexcitar (overexcite)

The following prefixes are derived from Latin prepositions:

bi-	(two)	bigamia (bigamy)
circun-	(around)	circunvoar (to fly around)
im-	(not)	impar (uneven)
inter-	(between)	interpôr (to interpose)
pos-	(after)	pospôr (to put behind)
pro-	(forward)	propôr (to put forward)
re-	(again)	recortar (to cut again)
retro-	(backward)	retroceder (to go back)
semi-	(half)	semisólido (semisolid)
sub-	(up, under)	subir (to go up)
super-	(over, extra)	superemprego (overemployment)
trans-	(across)	transbordar (to ferry across)
ultra-	(beyond)	ultramarino (overseas)

Suffixes

Here is a list of some common suffixes. Many of them derive from Latin.

Portuguese	English	Examples
-ancia	-ance	abundancia (abundance)
-ção	-tion	operação (operation)
-dade	-ty	utilidade (utility)
-dor	-man	pescador (fisherman)
-encia	-ence	omnipotencia (omnipotence)
-ero	-er	cartero (mail carrier)
-ez	-ness	redondez (roundness)
-ia	-y	gloria (glory)
-ível	-ible	deduzível (deducible)
-ismo	-ism	feminismo (feminism)
-ista	-ist	socialista (socialist)
-iz	-ess	atriz (actress)
-or	-or	vencedor (conqueror)
-orio	-ory	migratorio (migratory)

-oso

-ous

geloso (jealous)

Diminutives

Portuguese uses the diminutive suffixes **-zinho** (f. **-zinha**), **-inho** (f. **-inha**), and **-acho**:

um café (a cup of coffee)

um cafezinho (a little cup of coffee)

uma porta (a door)

uma portinha (a small door)

um rio (a river)

um riacho (a creek, brook)

Augmentative Suffixes

The augmentative suffix **-ão** is added to a noun to indicate large size or exaggeration of a quality. The suffixes **-aço** (f. **-aça**) adds a derogatory or slang connotation.

um carro (a car)

um carrão (a big car)

rico (a rich man)

ricaço (a very rich man)

The term productive is applied to simple processes for creating word forms.

Appendix of Irregular Verbs

Many verbs are irregularly conjugated in some or all of the tenses. Here are sixteen of the most common ones.

Infinitive	Present and Past Participle	Present Indicative	Present Subjunctive	Preterite Indicative	Polite Command
crer (to believe)	crendo, crido	creio crês crê cremos credes crêem	creia creias creia creiamos creiais creiam	cri creste creu cremos crestes creram	creia, creiam
dar (to give)	dando, dado	dou dás dá damos dais dão	dê dês dê dêmos deis dêem	dei deste deu demos destes deram	dê, dêem
dizer (to say)	dizendo, dito	digo dizes diz dizemos dizeis dizem	diga digas diga digamos digais digam	disse disseste disse dissemos dissestes disseram	diga. digam
estar (to be) This verb expresses temporary being, as in Como esta? (How are you?) See also Ser .	estando, estado	estou estás está estamos estais estão	esteja estejas esteja estejamos estejais estejam	estive estiveste estive estivemos estivestes estiveram	esteja, estejam
fazer (to do)	fazendo, feito	faço fazes faz fazemos fazeis fazem	faça faças faça façamos façais façam	fiz fizeste fez fizemos fizestes fizeram	faça, façam
haver (to have)	havendo, havido	hei hás há havemos haveis hão	haja hajas haja hajamos hajais hajam	houve houveste houve houvemos houvestes houveram	haja, hajam
ir (to go)	indo, ido	vou vais vai vamos ides vão	vá vás vá vamos vades vão	fui foste foi fomos fostes foram	vá, vão
poder	podendo,	posso	possa	pude	possa,

(may, can, to be able to)	podido	podes pode podemos podeis podem	possas possa possamos possais possam	pudeste pôde pudemos pudestes puderam	possam
pôr (to put)	pondo, pôsto	ponho pões põe pomos pondes põem	ponha ponhas ponha ponhamos ponhais ponham	pus puseste pôs pusemos pusestes puseram	ponha, ponham
querer (to want)	querendo, querido	quero queres quer queremos quereis querem	queira queiras queira queiramos queirais queiram	quis quiseste quis quisemos quisestes quiseram	queira, queiram
saber (to know)	sabendo, sabido	sei sabes sabe sabemos sabeis sabem	saiba saibas saiba saibamos saibais saibam	soube soubeste soube soubemos soubestes souberam	saiba, saibam
ser (to be) This verb expresses permanent being. See also, Estar.	sendo, sido	sou és é somos sois são	seja sejas seja sejamos sejais sejam	fui foste foi fomos fostes foram	seja, sejam
ter (to have)	tendo, tido	tenho tens tem temos tendes têm	tenha tenhas tenha tenhamos tenhais tenham	tive tiveste teve tivemos tivestes tiveram	tenha, tenham
trazer (to bring)	trazendo, trazido	trago trazes traz trazemos trazeis trazem	traga tragas traga tragamos tragais tragam	trouxe trouxeste trouxe trouxemos trouxestes trouxeram	traga, tragam
ver (to see)	vendo, visto	vejo vês vê vemos vedes vêem	veja veja veja vejamos vejais vejam	vi viste viu vimos vistes viram	veja, vejam
vir (to come)	vindo, vindo	venho vens vem vimos vindes	venha venhas venha venhamos venhais	vim vieste veio viemos viestes	venha, venham

vêm

venham

vieram

Phrases

A phrase is a group of words functioning as a single part of speech (noun, verb, adverb, etc.).

Noun Phrases

Nouns are qualified by articles and adjectives. A noun phrase consists of a noun and the words that serve to qualify it.

NOUN: **livro** (book)

NOUN PHRASE: **um livro interessante** (an interesting book)

um livro de música (a music book)

uma casa de campo (a country house)

Appositive Noun and Adjective Phrases

An appositive phrase renames the noun or pronoun to which it is in apposition. Appositive phrases are set off by commas.

Articles are not used in an appositive phrase unless it involves a superlative or is qualified by a following adjective or **adjective clause**.

Luis de Camões, poeta de Portugal

(Luis de Camões, the Portuguese poet)

Malhõa, o melhor pintor

(Malhõa, the best painter)

Camões, o grande poeta que escreveu Os Lusíadas

(Camões, the great poet who wrote The Lusiad)

Infinitive Phrases

See also **Infinitives**

An infinitive phrase may function in the following ways.

As an adverb:

Ao chegar no destino êle encontrou dois guias locais.

(**Upon arriving** at his destination, he met two local guides.)

As the object of a verb:

Quero ver os quadros de Malhõa.

(**I want to see** the paintings of Malhõa.)

As the subject of a sentence:

Aprender português é difícil.
(**Learning** Portuguese is difficult.)

Gerund Phrases

Phrases with a **gerund** (which is equivalent to the English present participle) function adverbially. They indicate an action simultaneous with the action of the main verb.

Devemos nos preparar para uma viagem tentando tirar o máximo da mesma.
(We should prepare for a trip, seeking to get the most out of it.)

Phrases with a past participle function adjectivally.

Luís Váz de Camões, nacido em 1524, é o imortal poeta de Portugal.
(Luís Váz de Camões, born in 1524, is the immortal poet of Portugal.)

Prepositions

Prepositions are placed before pronouns and nouns (or infinitives used as nouns) in order to form a prepositional phrase qualifying another word in the sentence. The noun or pronoun in the phrase is called the object of the preposition.

Prepositional phrases may function adjectivally or adverbially.

As ilhas dos Açores, no Atlântico, são relativamente inacessíveis.

(The Açores Islands, in the Atlantic, are relatively inaccessible.)

Here the word **ilhas** (islands) is qualified by two prepositional phrases, **dos Açores** (of the Açores) and **no Atlântico** (in the Atlantic).

Durante o último decénio, ilusionistas portugueses têm sido objecto de uma grande atenção mundial.

(During the past decade, Portuguese magicians have been the object of a great deal of attention around the world.)

Here the compound verb form **têm sido** (have been) is qualified by the prepositional phrase **durante o último decénio** (during the past decade).

See also

Prepositional (Disjunctive) Pronouns

Conjunctions

Conjunctions join words, phrases and clauses together.

Coordinate Conjunctions

Coordinate conjunctions join clauses that are capable of functioning independently.

Commonly used coordinate conjunctions include:

e (and), **ou** (or), **nem** (nor), **pois** (so, then), **que** (that), **porém** (however), **portanto** (therefore), **mas** (but), **todavia** (nevertheless), **contudo** (however),

Correlative conjunctions function in pairs.

ou... ou (either... or)

já... já (now... now)

ora... ora (now... now)

seja... seja (be... or)

quer... quer (either... or)

nem... nem (neither... nor)

nem chove, **nem** faz sol (it neither rains or shines)

seja menino, **seja** menina... (be it a boy or a girl...)

Subordinate Conjunctions

Unlike **coordinate conjunctions**, which join independent clauses, **subordinate** conjunctions join a dependent clause to the main clause of the sentence. They also indicate the relationship of the dependent clause to the main clause.

Here are some common subordinate conjunctions:

quando (when), **até que** (until), **enquanto** (as), **porque** (because)

Conjunctions Requiring Subjunctive Verb

Certain subordinate conjunctions require a subjunctive verb in the dependent clause.

antes que	(before)
assim que	(as soon as)
posto que	(even if, although)
para que	(in order that)
a menos que	(unless)

Antes de comer a maçã, **deixa**-me lavá-la.

(**Before** you eat the apple, **let** me wash it.)

Assim que lhe encontrar, lhe **darei** as notícias.

(**As soon as** I find him, **I'll give** him the news.)

Interjections

Interjections are words or expressions stuck in at random to express the speaker's emotions. They are usually set off from the rest of the sentence by an exclamation mark or a comma.

Interjections

Ah! (Oh! Ouch!)

Ai! ui!

Upa!

Eia! Sus! Força!

Expressing

admiration, pain, happiness

pain, surprise

to make one stand up

encouragement

Pronouns

A pronoun is a word that stands for a previously mentioned (or understood) noun. That noun is called the **antecedent** of the pronoun.

Subject Pronouns

Direct Object Pronouns

Indirect Object Pronouns

Prepositional (Stressed) Pronouns

Reflexive Pronouns

Passive Reflexive Constructions with "Se"

Impersonal Constructions with "Se"

Possessive Pronouns

Interrogatives and Exclamations

Indefinite Pronouns and Adjectives

Relative Pronouns

Demonstrative Pronouns and Adjectives

Demonstrative Pronouns and Adjectives

Demonstratives identify or point to nouns. They are used as both pronouns and adjectives.

The demonstrative **adjectives** are as follows.

SINGULAR		
Masculine	Feminine	
este	esta	(this)
esse	essa	(that)
aquele	aquela	(that)
PLURAL		
Masculine	Feminine	
estes	estas	(these)
esses	essas	(those)
aqueles	aquelas	(those)

Este/a refers to something near the speaker; **esse/a** refers to something at a distance from the speaker but in the vicinity of the person spoken to; **aquele/a** refers to something at a distance from both the speaker and the listener.

Demonstrative **pronouns** agree in gender and number with the nouns they represent.

Não quero esta mesa; prefiro **aquela**.
(I don't want this table; I prefer **that one**.)

The neuter demonstrative pronouns are **isto**, **isso** and **aquilo**. They do not have written accents since there are no corresponding adjectives to confuse them with.

Isso me preocupa. (**That** worries me.)
Isso é certo. (**That** is true.)

Indefinite Pronouns and Adjectives

Indefinite pronouns and adjectives refer to people or things that are not specific.

The following indefinite **adjectives** change their form to agree in gender and number with the nouns they qualify:

algum (some), **certo** (a certain), **demasiado** (too much, too many), **muito** (much, many), **nenhum** (not any), **outro** (another), **pouco** (a little, few), **tanto** (much, many), **todo** (all)

The indefinite **pronouns** are:

algo (something, anything), **nada** (nothing), **alguém** (somebody, anybody), **ninguém** (nobody), **quem/quer** (whoever/whosoever)

Possessive Pronouns

The possessive pronouns are formed by adding the appropriate definite article to the long forms of possessive adjectives.

ADJECTIVE

umas coisas minhas (some things of mine)

um carro seu (a car of yours)

uns amigos seus (some friends of hers, his, yours)

umas amigas suas (some friends of hers, his, yours)

um amigo nosso (a friend of ours)

uma amiga vossa (a girlfriend of yours)

uma casa sua (a house of theirs, yours)

PRONOUN

as minhas (mine)

o seu (yours)

os seus (hers, his, yours)

as suas (hers, his, yours)

o nosso (ours)

a vossa (yours)

a sua (theirs, yours)

Possessive pronouns, like possessive adjectives, agree with the thing possessed rather than with the possessor:

Tenho as suas cartas e as minhas.

(I have your letters and mine.)

Note: The 3rd person forms (**ele**, **ela**) are often used with the preposition **de** to avoid ambiguity instead of the possessive pronoun **seu**.

Tenho o livro dele, não o dela.

(I have his book, not hers.)

Also:

Comprei o meu bilhete e o do senhor.

(I bought my ticket and yours. Literally, and the sirs.)

Prepositional (Disjunctive) Pronouns

Prepositional pronouns are the object of the preposition that they follow.

The prepositional pronouns are as follows:

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1st person	mim (me)	nos (us)
2nd (familiar)	ti (you)	vos (you)
3rd (masculine)	ele (him)	eles (them)
3rd (feminine)	ela (her)	elas (them)
3rd (polite)	o senhor (you)	os senhores (them)
3rd (polite)	a senhora (you)	as senhoras (them)
3rd (familiar)	você (you)	vocês (you - plural)

Deu o livro **a mim**.
(He gave the book **to me**.)

Deu o livro **a ela**.
(He gave the book **to her**.)

Direct Object Pronouns

Direct object pronouns stand for the persons or things that receive the action of the verb. When a direct object pronoun follows the verb it is preceded by a hyphen.

Eu vi-o na rua.

(I saw him / it / you in the street.)

The forms of the direct object pronouns are as follows.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1st person	me (me)	nos (us)
2nd (familiar)	te (you)	vos (you)
3rd person (masculine)	o (him, it, you)	os (them, you)
3rd person (feminine)	a (her, it, you)	as (them, you)
3rd (familiar)	você (you)	vocês (you)
3rd (formal)	o senhor	os senhores
3rd (formal)	a senhora	as senhoras

Indirect Object Pronouns

Indirect object pronouns stand for persons or things indirectly affected by the action of the verb. They are usually associated with verbs of saying and giving.

Escrevi-lhe uma carta.
(I wrote a letter to her.)

The forms of the indirect object pronouns are as follows.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1st person	me (to me)	nos (to us)
2nd familiar	te (to you)	vos (to you)
3rd person	lhe (to him, her, you)	lhes (to him, her, you)
3rd (formal)	o senhor (to him)	os senhores (to you)
3rd (formal)	a senhora (to her)	as senhoras (to you)
3rd (familiar)	a você (to you)	a vocês (to you)

Subject Pronouns

The subject pronouns are as follows.

1st person:	eu (I)	nós (we)
2nd (familiar)	tu (you)	vós (you)
3rd (masculine)	ele (he)	eles (they)
3rd (feminine)	ela (she)	elas (they)
3rd (polite, masculine)	o senhor (you)	os senhores (you)
3rd (polite, feminine)	a senhora (you)	as senhoras (you)
3rd (familiar)	você (you)	vocês (you)

Subject pronouns are regularly omitted, since they can be deduced from the conjugated verb forms.

Trago os refrescos.

(I'm bringing the soft drinks.)

Reflexive Pronouns

The reflexive pronouns are as follows.

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1st person	me (myself)	nos (ourselves)
2nd (familiar)	te (yourself)	vos (yourselves)
2nd (polite)	se (yourself)	se (yourselves)
3rd	se (him/her/itself)	se (themselves)

Reflexive pronouns are always used with **reflexive verbs**. Sometimes the literal meaning of the reflexive pronouns ('myself,' etc.) can be translated into English, but usually they cannot be translated in isolation from the verb.

Como se chama?

(Whats your name?/How do you call yourself?)

Reflexive pronouns normally precede the conjugated verb, but are attached to the infinitive, the present participle, and affirmative commands.

Quero lavar-me. (I want to wash up.)

Passive Reflexive Constructions with "se"

Reflexive constructions are often used where the passive voice would be used in English.

Naquela cidade **se falam** muitas línguas.
(Many languages **are spoken** in that city.)

Impersonal Constructions with "Se"

Se is used in impersonal constructions as an indefinite pronoun similar to the English 'one' or impersonal 'you' and 'they'.

This construction should be easily translated as 'one,' 'you,' 'they', or people as the subject.

Como **se vai** ao teatro?

(How **do you get** to the theater?)

Interrogatives and Exclamations

Interrogatives ask a question. The most common interrogatives are:

Quem?	(Who?)
De quem?	(Whose?)
Que?	(What? Which?)
Qual?	(Which?)
Como?	(How?)
Quando?	(When?)
Quanto?	(How much?)
Quantos?	(How many?)
Onde?	(Where?)
Por que?	(Why?)
Para que?	(What for?)

The most common exclamatory word is **Que...!**, used in front of an adjective, adverb or noun.

Que casa! (What a house!)

Relative Pronouns

Relative pronouns introduce a subordinate clause and replace something mentioned earlier in the sentence. They can function as either subject or object pronouns without any change in form.

The most common relative pronoun is **que** (who, that, which, whom).

O senhor que mora neste casa é do Brasil.

(The gentleman who lives in this house is from Brazil.)

O livro que está na mesa é do meu pai.

(The book which is on the table is my fathers.)

The compound relative pronouns **o que, a que** (plural **os que, as que**) or **o qual, a qual** (pl. **os quais, as quais** used very rarely) are used interchangeably after prepositions of more than one syllable, or to avoid confusion and ambiguity.

Sabe o que ele disse?

(Do you know what he said?)

Estes livros são os que quero.

(These books are the ones I want.)

The relative pronoun **cujo, cuja** (plural **cujos, cujas**) usually functions as an adjective meaning 'whose' or 'of which.' It agrees in gender and number with the noun it modifies.

Os senhores **cuja chegada** esperamos estão atrasados.

(The gentlemen, **whose arrival** we are awaiting, are late.)

Numbers

There are two kinds of numbers, **cardinal** and **ordinal**.

Cardinal numbers are used for counting.

0	zero	9	nove	18	dezoito	60	sessenta	500	quinhentos
1	um	10	dez	19	dezenove	70	setenta	600	seiscentos
2	dois	11	onze	20	vinte	80	oitenta	700	setecentos
3	três	12	doze	21	vinte e um	90	noventa	800	oitocentos
4	quatro	13	treze	22	vinte e dois	100	cem	900	novecentos
5	cinco	14	catorze	30	trinta	101	cento e um	1.000	mil
6	seis	15	quinze	31	trinta e um	200	duzentos	1.500	mil quinhentos
7	sete	16	dezesseis	40	quarenta	300	trezentos	2.000	dois mil
8	oito	17	dezesete	50	cinquenta	400	quatrocentos	1.000.000	um milhão

1997 **mil novecentos noventa e sete**

The **Ordinal numbers** are used to establish a relative position:

primeiro, -a (first)
segundo, -a (second)
terceiro, -a (third)
quarto, -a (fourth)
quinto, -a (fifth)
sexto, -a (sixth)
sétimo, -a (seventh)
oitavo, -a (eighth)
nono, -a (ninth)
décimo, -a (tenth)

The ordinals are used only up to **décimo** (tenth). After ten, cardinal numbers are generally used to indicate the ordinals.

Manuel Segundo (Manual the Second)
Afonso Treze (Alphonse the Thirteenth)
Papa Pío Doze (Pope Pius the Twelfth)
o século vinte (the twentieth century).

Sentences and Clauses

The sentence is a group of words expressing a complete thought. It begins with a capital letter and closes with a punctuation mark. Usually a sentence consists of a subject and a predicate.

The **subject** is the topic of the sentence. The most common forms of subject are **nouns** and **pronouns**.

The **predicate** of the sentence is what is said about the **subject**. The predicate always contains a verb.

The most common form of a predicate is one consisting of the verb of action and direct or indirect object.

SUBJECT	PREDICATE
Eu (I	estou preparada para uma viagem. am prepared for a trip.)
João (João	não fala português. doesn't speak Portuguese.)
Eu (I	escrevi-lhe uma carta. wrote him a letter.)
O meu amigo (My friend	afirmou os resultados da Loteria Federal. affirmed the results of the Federal Lottery.)

Linking verbs are part of the predicate:

Ana (Ana	é médica. is a doctor.)
--------------------	-----------------------------------

Subject Predicate Agreement

In order to form a grammatically correct sentence, certain parts of speech (verbs, nouns, pronouns) have to agree with each other in **number** (singular or plural) and **person** (first, second, or third):

SUBJECT	PREDICATE
A estudante (The student	está pronta. is ready.)
Os estudantes (The students	estão prontos. are ready.)

Clauses

A clause is a structure containing a subject and predicate. **Independent** clauses can stand by themselves as a sentence. **Subordinate** clauses serve as part of a sentence but do not express a complete thought and cannot stand by themselves. They are subordinate to the main clause.

Interrogative Sentences (Questions)

Many questions begin with either interrogative pronouns or **interrogative adverbs**.

The most common interrogative **pronoun** is **que** (what). It is also used as an adjective. The interrogative pronoun **quem** (who) cannot be used adjectivally.

Que é isto?

(What is this?) (pronominal)

Que horas são?

(What time is it?) (adjectival)

Interrogative adverbs include the following:

como? (how?), **quando?** (when?), **quanto?** (how much?), **cujo?** (whose?), **aonde?** (whereto?), **donde?** (wherefrom?), **por que?** (why?)

Verb Tenses

Simple Tenses

Progressive Tenses

Perfect Tenses

Perfect Progressive Tenses

Simple Tenses

Portuguese has four **simple tenses**.

PRESENT:

falo (I speak, I am speaking)

FUTURE:

falarei (I will speak)

IMPERFECT:

falava (I was speaking, I used to speak)

PRETERITE:

falei (I spoke)

Present

The present tense of regular verbs is formed by removing the infinitive ending and adding personal endings to the verb stem. There is a different set of personal endings for each of the three conjugations.

1st Conjugation: **falar** (to speak)

fal-o (I speak)

fal-as (you speak)

fal-a (he, she, it speaks, you speak)

fal-amos (we speak)

fal-áis (you pl. speak)

fal-am (they, you pl. speak)

2nd Conjugation: **comer** (to eat)

com-o (I eat)

com-es (you eat)

com-e (he, she, it eats, you eat)

com-emos (we eat)

com-éis (you pl. eat)

com-em (they, you pl. eat)

3rd Conjugation: **partir** (to leave)

part-o (I leave)

part-es (you leave)

part-e (he, she, it leaves, you leave)

part-imos (we leave)

part-ís (you pl. leave)

part-em (they, you pl. leave)

Imperfect

The **imperfect** tense of regular verbs is formed by removing the infinitive ending (**-ar**, **-er** or **-ir**) and adding personal endings to the verb stem. There is one set of endings for the first (**-ar**) conjugation and a second set of endings shared by the second (**-er**) and third (**-ir**) conjugations.

The **imperfect** tense is used to express action or state in the past as continuing, repeated or habitual. It can be translated as was/were + participle, used + infinitive, or kept on + participle.

1st Conjugation: **falar** (to speak)

fal-ava (I was speaking)

fal-avas (you were speaking)

fal-ávamos (we were speaking)

fal-áveis (you all were speaking)

fal-ava (he, she, it was speaking, you were speaking) **fal-avam** (they, you were speaking)

2nd Conjugation: **comer** (to eat)

com-ia (I was eating)	com-íamos (we were eating)
com-ias (you were eating)	com-íeis (you all were eating)
com-ia (he, she, it was eating, you were eating)	com-iam (they, you were eating)

3rd Conjugation: **partir** (to leave)

part-ia (I used to leave)	part-íamos (we used to leave)
part-ias (you used to leave)	part-íeis (you all used to leave)
part-ia (he, she, it, you used to leave)	part-iam (they, you used to leave)

Preterite

The **preterite** tense of regular verbs is formed by removing the infinitive ending (**-ar**, **-er** or **-ir**) and adding personal endings to the verb stem. There is one set of endings for the first (**-ar**) conjugation and a second set of endings for the second (**-er**) and third set for the third (**-ir**) conjugations. The **preterite** tense is used to express simple narration in the past.

1st Conjugation: **falar** (to speak)

fal-ei (I spoke)	fal-ámos (we spoke)
fal-aste (you spoke)	fal-astes (you all spoke)
fal-ou (he, she, it, you spoke)	fal-aram (they, you spoke)

2nd Conjugation: **comer** (to eat)

com-i (I ate)	com-emos (we ate)
com-este (you ate)	com-estes (you pl. ate)
com-eu (he, she it, you ate)	com-eram (they, you ate)

3rd Conjugation: **partir** (to leave)

part-i (I left)	part-imos (we left)
part-iste (you left)	part-istes (you all left)
part-iu (he, she, it, you left)	part-iram (they, you left)

Future

The **future** tense of regular verbs is formed by adding personal endings to the entire infinitive form (rather than to the verb stem). The endings are the same for all three conjugations.

1st Conjugation: **falar** (to speak)

falar-ei (I will speak)	falar-emos (we will speak)
falar-ás (you will speak)	falar-eis (you all will speak)
falar-á (he, she, it will speak)	falar-ão (they will speak)

2nd Conjugation: **comer** (to eat)

comer-ei (I will eat)

comer-ás (you will eat)

comer-á (he, she, it will eat)

comer-emos (we will eat)

comer-eis (you all will eat)

comer-ão (they will eat)

3rd Conjugation: **partir** (to leave)

partir-ei (I will leave)

partir-ás (you will leave)

partir-á (he, she, it will leave)

partir-emos (we will leave)

partir-eis (you all will leave)

partir-ão (they will leave)

The verb **ir** (to go), followed by an infinitive is often used to express future action. The English equivalent is the progressive form of to go.

Vou aprender português.

(I am going to learn Portuguese.)

Ela não vai comer.

(She is not going to eat.)

Progressive Tenses

The gerund (the English present participle) is used with the verb **estar** to form the **progressive tenses**, which express an ongoing action.

Estou estudando português.
(I am studying Portuguese.)

Você estava lendo o jornal brasileiro.
(You were reading the Brazilian newspaper.)

Present Progressive

The present progressive tense is formed by the present tense of the verb **estar** and the gerund (English present participle) of the main verb.

eu	estou	falando (I am speaking)
tu	estás	falando (you are speaking)
ele/ela, você	está	falando (he, she, it is speaking, you are speaking)
nós	estamos	falando (we are speaking)
vós	estais	falando (you pl. are speaking)
eles/elas, vocês	estão	falando (they, you pl. are speaking)

Imperfect Progressive

The imperfect progressive tense is formed by the imperfect tense of the verb **estar** and the gerund (English present participle) of the main verb.

eu	estava	falando (I was speaking)
tu	estavas	falando (you were speaking)
ele/ela, você	estava	falando (he, she, it was speaking, you were speaking)
nós	estávamos	falando (we were speaking)
vós	estáveis	falando (you all were speaking)
eles/elas, vocês	estavam	falando (they, you pl. were speaking)

Preterite Progressive

The preterite progressive tense is formed by the preterite tense of the verb **estar** and the gerund (English present participle) of the main verb.

eu	estive	falando (I was speaking)
tu	estiveste	falando (you were speaking)
ele/ela, você	estive	falando (he, she, it was speaking, you were speaking)
nós	estivemos	falando (we were speaking)
vós	estivestes	falando (you pl. were speaking)
eles/elas, vocês	estiveram	falando (they were speaking)

Future Progressive

The future progressive tense is formed by the future tense of the verb **estar** and the gerund (English present participle) of the main verb.

eu	estarei	falando (I will be speaking)
tu	estarás	falando (you will be speaking)
ele/ela, você	estará	falando (he, she, it, you will be speaking)
nós	estaremos	falando (we will be speaking)
vós	estareis	falando (you pl. will be speaking)
eles/elas, vocês	estarão	falando (they, you will be speaking)

Perfect Tenses

The perfect tenses are **compound tenses** formed with the auxiliary verb **ter** (to have) (or **haver** in literary forms) and the past participle of the main verb. The past participle in compound tenses is invariable in form.

The **present perfect** uses the present tense of **ter** and the past participle of the verb.

The **future perfect** uses the future tense of **ter** and the past participle of the verb.

The **perfect infinitive** is composed of the infinitive of **ter** and the past participle of the verb.

The **perfect participle** is composed of the gerund (the English present participle) of **ter** and the past participle of the verb.

See also the [Appendix of Irregular Verbs](#) for the conjugation of the auxiliary verbs **ter** and **haver**.

Present Perfect

The **present perfect** is a compound tense formed with the present tense (indicative and subjunctive) of the auxiliary verb **ter** (or sometimes **haver**) and the past participle of the main verb. The past participle is invariable; it does not agree in gender and number with the subject.

eu	tenho	falado, comido, partido (I have spoken, eaten, left)
tu	tens	falado, comido, partido (you have spoken, eaten, left)
ele/ela, você	tem	falado, comido, partido (he, she, it has spoken, eaten, left)
nós	temos	falado, comido, partido (we have spoken, eaten, left)
vós	tendes	falado, comido, partido (you all have spoken, eaten, left)
eles/elas, vocês	têm	falado, comido, partido (they have spoken, eaten, left)

The present perfect tense denotes an action or state that started in the past and extends into the present. This tense is in contrast with the past tense, which denotes an action entirely in the past.

Tenho estado em Rio de Janeiro.
(**I have been** in Rio de Janeiro.)

In conversation, the present or preterit tense of **acabar de** followed by an infinitive is often used to express action which has just finished. The equivalent in English is just or have just.

Acabou de chegar.
(**I've just arrived.**)

Acabo de estudar a minha lição.
(I've just studied my lesson.)

Preterite Perfect

The **preterite perfect** or **past anterior** is not used in Portuguese as it may be the case in other languages. The preterite or pluperfect is used in its place.

Ele disse que **tinha tido** a mamorada no Brasil.
(He said that he **had had** a girlfriend in Brazil.)

Pluperfect

The **pluperfect** tense uses the imperfect tense of the verb **ter** (or **haver**) as the auxiliary.

eu	tinha	falado, comido, partido (I had spoken, eaten, left)
tu	tinhas	falado, comido, partido (you had spoken, eaten, left)
ele/ela, você	tinha	falado, comido, partido (he, she, it, you had spoken, eaten, left)
nós	tínhamos	falado, comido, partido (we had spoken, eaten, left)
vós	tínheis	falado, comido, partido (you pl. had spoken, eaten, left)
eles/elas, vocês	tinham	falado, comido, partido (they, you pl. had spoken, eaten, left)

The past perfect denotes an action occurring prior to another action in the past.

Quando chegaram à casa, **Ana tinha saído**.
(When they arrived home, **Ana had gone out**.)

Future Perfect

The **future perfect** uses the future tense (indicative and subjunctive) of the auxiliary verb **ter** or **haver** and the past participle of the main verb.

eu	terei	falado, comido, partido (I will have spoken, eaten, left)
tu	terás	falado, comido, partido (you will have spoken, eaten, left)
ele/ela, você	terá	falado, comido, partido (he/she/it, you will have spoken, eaten, left)
nós	teremos	falado, comido, partido (we will have spoken, eaten, left)
vós	tereis	falado, comido, partido (you pl. will have spoken, eaten, left)
eles/elas, vocês	terão	falado, comido, partido (they, you pl. will have spoken, eaten, left)

Perfect Progressive Tenses

Perfect progressive tenses combine characteristics of **perfect tenses** and **continuous tenses**. They are formed of three elements:

- 1) a conjugated tense of **ter** or **haver** (to have);
- 2) the past participle of **estar** (to be); and
- 3) the gerund (English present participle) of the main verb.

The perfect progressive tenses are seldom used.

Present Perfect Progressive

The present perfect progressive tense is formed by the present tense of the auxiliary verb **ter**, the past participle of the verb **estar** and the gerund (English present participle) of the main verb.

eu	tenho estado	falando (I have been speaking)
tu	tens estado	falando (you have been speaking)
ele/ela, você	tem estado	falando (he, she, it has been speaking, you have been speaking)
nós	temos estado	falando (we have been speaking)
vós	tendes estado	falando (you pl. have been speaking)
eles/elas, vocês	têm estado	falando (they, you have been speaking)

Past Perfect Progressive

The past perfect progressive tense is formed by the imperfect form of the auxiliary verb **ter** the past participle of the verb **estar** and the gerund (English present participle) of the main verb.

eu	tinha estado	falando (I had been speaking)
tu	tinhas estado	falando (you had been speaking)
ele/ela, você	tinha estado	falando (he, she, it, you had been speaking)
nós	tínhamos estado	falando (we had been speaking)
vós	tínheis estado	falando (you pl. had been speaking)
eles/elas, vocês	tinham estado	falando (they, you pl. had been speaking)

Future Perfect Progressive

The future perfect progressive tense is formed by the future tense of the auxiliary verb **ter** the past participle of the verb **estar** and the gerund (English present participle) of the main verb.

eu	terei estado	falando (I will have been speaking)
tu	terás estado	falando (you will have been speaking)
ele/ela, você	terá estado	falando (he, she, it, you will have been speaking)
nós	teremos estado	falando (we will have been speaking)
vós	tereis estado	falando (you pl. will have been speaking)
eles/elas, vocês	terão estado	falando (they, you will have been speaking)

Verbs

Portuguese verbs belong to one of three **conjugations** which can be distinguished by the endings of the infinitive forms.

1st Conjugation (-ar): **falar** (to speak)

2nd Conjugation (-er): **comer** (to eat)

3rd Conjugation (-ir): **partir** (to leave)

There are four **simple tenses**: present, future, imperfect and preterite.

There are four **compound tenses**: present perfect, future perfect, pluperfect (past perfect), and preterite perfect (past anterior).

There are four **moods**: indicative (expressing a fact), subjunctive (expressing an emotional attitude), conditional (expressing the idea of "would"), and imperative (expressing a command).

There are two **numbers**: singular and plural.

There are three **persons**:

1st person: **eu** (I), **nós** (we)

2nd person: **tu**, **você** (you familiar, you formal) **vós**, **vocês** (you familiar plural, you plural formal) - familiar form used in Portugal only

3rd person **ele/ela/ele(a)**, **eles(as)** (he/she/it, they)

Note: The 2nd person forms are used in Portugal only when addressing family members or close friends (familiar 2nd person). In both Portugal and Brazil, the 3rd person is used in conversation as a show of respect (polite 2nd person).

See:

Formal and Familiar Address

A verb agrees in person and number with its subject (the doer of the action), even when the subject is understood without being expressed by a noun or pronoun.

See also:

Stem-Changing Verbs

Verbs with Orthographic Changes

Verb Tenses

Negatives

Active and Passive Voice

Reflexive Verbs

Impersonal Verbs

Infinitives

Participles

Gerunds

Negatives

The most common negatives are:

não (not, no)

nunca (never)

nada (nothing)

ninguém (no one)

jamais (never)

tampouco (neither, no more)

A verb is negated by placing **não** in front of it.

Não sei. (I don't know.)

Double negatives are standard in Portuguese.

Não vejo **ninguém** na rua.

(I don't see **nobody** [= anybody] in the street.)

Formal and Familiar Address

Você (plural **vocês**) is the second person pronoun (English "you"). This familiar form of address has traditionally been used when speaking to anyone with whom one is on a first-name basis: family members, close friends, children and pet animals, but it can also be used in formal address. It derives from the phrase **Vossa Mercê** (Your Grace), and is therefore abbreviated to **vo...+ ...cê = você**. Although it indicates the second person mode of address, **você** is conjugated with third person verb forms (English **he/she/it**).

Lhe sente bem, querida?

(Do you feel okay, dear?)

Vocês continuam estudando o português?

(Are you (plural) still studying Portuguese?).

(In Portugal, the informal **tu** can replace **você** as the singular pronoun used with loved ones and close friends. And **vós** can replace **vocês** as the plural pronoun.)

Like **você/vocês**, the polite **o senhor/a senhora/os senhores/as senhoras** style of address is 2nd person in English, but uses 3rd person verb forms in Portuguese.

O senhor fala inglês? (Do you speak English?, literally Does the gentleman speak English?)

Você fala português? (Do you speak Portuguese? Used among family and friends, or in writing when the writer is addressing the reader.)

Impersonal Verbs

Impersonal verbs do not take a personal subject. In English, they are used with the subject pronoun 'it.' The most commonly used impersonal verbs are **faz** (it makes/is) and **há** (there is/are).

Faz calor hoje.

(It's hot today.)

Há vinte pessoas na reunião.

(There are twenty people at the meeting.)

Reflexive Verbs

Reflexive verbs are those in which the subject acts upon itself in some way. They require the use of **reflexive pronouns**.

In indicative sentences the reflexive pronoun follows the conjugated verb. In interrogative and negative sentences it precedes the conjugated verb. When used with the infinitive, the present participle, and affirmative commands the reflexive pronoun is attached by a hyphen.

chamar-se (to be called)

Indicative sentence:

Chamo-me Marina.

(My name is Marina./I **call myself** Marina.)

Interrogative sentence:

Como **se chama**?

(Whats your name?/How do you **call yourself**?)

Negative sentence:

Eu não **me levanto** às 8 horas.

(I dont **get (myself) up** at 8 oclock.)

Reflexive sentence with infinitive:

Informar-se sobre a cultura e história do Brasil é essencial para o sucesso de uma viagem.

(**To inform (oneself)** about the culture and history of Brazil is essential for a successful trip.)

Participles

Gerund (Present Participle)

The **gerund** (the English **present participle**) is formed by adding the suffix **-ando** to the stem of first conjugation (**-ar**) verbs, the suffix **-endo** to the stem of second conjugation (**-er**) and the suffix **-indo** to the stem of the third conjugation (**-ir**) verbs. Unlike the present participle in English, the gerund in Portuguese is never used as a noun.

Infinitive	Gerund (Present Participle)
falar (to speak)	falando (speaking)
comer (to eat)	comendo (eating)
partir (to leave)	partindo (leaving)

The gerund (present participle) is used with the verb **estar** to form the progressive tenses, which express an ongoing action.

Eu estava lendo os jornais ontem.
(I **was reading** the newspapers yesterday.)

Past Participle

The **past participle** is formed by adding **-ado** to the stem of **-ar** verbs and **-ido** to the stem of **-er** and **-ir** verbs (or **ído** if the stem ends in a vowel).

Infinitive	Past Participle
falar (to speak)	falado (spoken)
fechar (to close)	fechado (closed)
perder (to lose)	perdido (lost)
receber (to receive)	recebido (received)
cair (to fall)	caído (fallen)

When used with the auxiliary verb **ter** (to have) to form compound tenses, the past participle ending does not change.

Temos falado muito ultimamente.
(We **have talked** a lot lately.)

When used adjectivally, however, past participles agree in gender and number with the nouns they modify.

A loja **está fechada**.
(The store **is closed**.)

Todos os bancos **estão fechados** hoje.
(All the banks **are closed** today.)

Gerunds

The Portuguese **gerund** is equivalent to the English **present participle**. Unlike the gerund in English, the Portuguese gerund is never used as a noun.

See:

Participles

Infinitives

The **infinitive** is the basic form of a verb. Portuguese-English dictionaries always identify a verb by its infinitive.

falar (to speak)
comer (to eat)
partir (to leave)

A guia de viagem tem informações actualizadas onde **comer**, onde **hospedar-se**.
(A guidebook contains updated information on where **to eat** and where **to stay**.)

The Personal Infinitive

The personal infinitive is an inflected infinitive which shows the person and number of the subject.

Infinitive	falar (to speak)	aprender (to learn)	partir (to leave)
1st person singular	falar	aprender	partir
2nd person singular	falares	aprenderes	partires
3rd person singular	falar	aprender	partir
1st person plural	falamos	aprendermos	partirmos
2nd person plural	falardes	aprenderdes	partirdes
3rd person plural	falarem	aprenderem	partirem

Vieram aqui sem **sabermos**.
(They came here without **our knowing** it.)

Active and Passive Voice

If the **subject** of the sentence denotes the person or thing performing the action, the verb is in the active voice.

João Sousa escreveu este livro.
(João Sousa wrote this book.)

If the subject of the sentence denotes the receiver of the action, the verb is in the passive voice.

Este livro foi escrito por João Sousa.
(This book was written by João Sousa.)

When the agent is specified in the passive voice, the construction is:

SUBJECT + **ser** + **past participle** + **por** + AGENT

Esta carta **foi escrita por** um amigo meu.
(This letter **was written by** a friend of mine.)

Since the past participle is functioning as an adjective, it agrees in gender and number with the subject.

If the passive subject is a thing (rather than a person) and the agent is not mentioned, then the **passive reflexive** construction is used. The verb agrees in number with the passive subject (which is always in the 3rd person).

Se vê o rio pela ponte.
(The river **is visible** from the bridge.)

Falam-se muitas línguas naquela cidade.
(Many languages **are spoken** in that city.)

Conditional Mood

The **conditional** is often treated as though it were a tense rather than a mood. In fact, the conditional is a mood which has only two tenses: a simple tense (the present conditional) used when referring to present possibilities, and a compound tense (the conditional perfect) used when referring to possibilities in the past.

Present Conditional

The **present conditional** is formed (like the future) by adding a single set of personal endings to the infinitives of all three conjugations.

falar-ia (I would speak), **comer-ia** (I would eat), **partir-ia** (I would leave)
falar-ias (you would speak)
falar-ia (he, she, it, you would speak)
falar-íamos (we would speak)
falar-íeis (you all would speak)
falar-iam (they, you would speak)

The conditional expresses the idea of 'would' (contingent possibility).

Raquel disse que **viria**.
(Rachel said that she **would come**.)

Conditional Perfect

The **conditional perfect** is a compound tense using the conditional of the auxiliary verb **ter** (to have) in the spoken form (**haver** in the literary form) with the past participle of the main verb.

teria comido	(I would have eaten)
terias comido	(you would have eaten)
teria comido	(he, she, it, you would have eaten)
teríamos comido	(we would have eaten)
teríeis comido	(you would have eaten)
teriam comido	(they, you (plural) would have eaten)

Eu teria feito ontem, mas não tive tempo.
(**I would have done** it yesterday, but I didn't have time.)

Subjunctive Mood

The **subjunctive mood** is used in dependent clauses introduced by **que** (that) when the main clause expresses a wish, a strong emotional attitude, or an uncertainty.

Duvido que **seja** a verdade.
(I doubt that it **would be** true.)

Peço que **repita** a frase.
(I am asking that you **repeat** the phrase, please.)

The subjunctive is also used for **formal commands**, and after **impersonal expressions** like **é necessário** (it is necessary). (In Portugal only, it is used for negative **informal commands**.)

Tome isto, senhor.
(**Take** this, sir.)

Assine aqui, por favor.
(**Sign** here, please.)

Present Subjunctive

The present subjunctive is regularly formed by adding one set of personal endings to the stem of **-ar** verbs and a second set of endings to **-er** and **-ir** verbs.

1st Conjugation: **falar** (to speak)

fal-e (that I speak)	fal-emos (that we speak)
fal-es (that you speak)	fal-eis (that you all speak)
fal-e (that he, she, it, you speak)	fal-em (that they, you (pl.) speak)

2nd Conjugation: **comer** (to eat)

com-a (that I eat)	com-amos (that we eat)
com-as (that you eat)	com-ais (that you all eat)
com-a (that he, she, it, you eat)	com-am (that they, you (pl.) eat)

3rd Conjugation: **partir** (to leave)

part-a (that I leave)	part-amos (that we leave)
part-as (that you leave)	part-ais (that you all leave)
part-a (that he, she, it, you leave)	part-am (that they, you (pl.) leave)

Fico contente que **ele fale** português.
(Im glad that **he speaks** Portuguese.)

Sinto muito que **você esteja** doente.
(Im sorry that **you are** ill.)

Imperfect Subjunctive

The imperfect subjunctive is formed by dropping the last syllable **-ram** in the 3rd person plural preterit indicative and adding the endings as shown below. There is one set of endings for first conjugation (**-ar**) verbs and another set of endings for the second (**-er**) and third (**-ir**) conjugations.

1st Conjugation: **falar** (to speak). (3rd person plural preterit indicative - **fala-ram**)

1st person sing.	falasse	(that I spoke)
2nd person sing.	falasses	(that you spoke)
3rd person sing.	falasse	(that he, she, it, you spoke)
1st person pl.	falássemos	(that we spoke)
2nd person pl.	falásseis	(that you all spoke)
3rd person pl.	falassem	(that they, you pl. spoke)

2nd Conjugation: **comer** (to eat). (3rd person preterit indicative - **come-ram**)

1st person sing.	comesse	(that I ate)
2nd person sing.	comesse	(that you ate)
3rd person sing.	comesse	(that he, she, it, you ate)
1st person pl.	com-ssemos	(that we ate)
2nd person pl.	comêsseis	(that you all ate)
3rd person pl.	com-ssem	(that they, you pl. ate)

3rd Conjugation: **partir** (to live). (3rd person preterit indicative - **parti-ram**)

1st person sing.	partisse	(that I left)
2nd person sing.	partisses	(that you left)
3rd person sing.	partisse	(that he, she, it, you left)
1st person pl.	partíssemos	(that we left)
2nd person pl.	partísseis	(that you all left)
3rd person pl.	partíssem	(that they, you pl. left)

Esperava que **ele partisse** tarde.
(I was expecting that **he would leave** late.)

Eu lhe disse que **falasse** português.
(I told him that **he should speak** Portuguese.)

Future Subjunctive

The future subjunctive is formed by dropping the ending **-ram** from the third person plural of the preterit indicative and adding the endings **-r**, **-res**, **-r**, **-rmos**, **-rdes**, **-rem**:

Irei embora assim que partir.
(I'll leave as soon as he leaves.)

1st Conjugation: **falar** (to speak). (3rd person plural preterit indicative - **fala-ram**)

1st person sing.	falar	(I would speak)
2nd person sing.	falares	(you would speak)
3rd person sing.	falar	(he, she, it, you would speak)
1st person pl.	falarmos	(we would speak)
2nd person pl.	falardes	(you pl. would speak)
3rd person pl.	falarem	(they, you pl. would speak)

2nd Conjugation: **vender** (to sell). (3rd person preterit indicative - **vende**-ram)

1st person sing.	vender	(I would sell)
2nd person sing.	venderes	(you would sell)
3rd person sing.	vender	(he, she, it, you would sell)
1st person pl.	vendermos	(we would sell)
2nd person pl.	venderdes	(you pl. would sell)
3rd person pl.	venderem	(they, you pl. would sell)

3rd Conjugation: **partir** (to live). (3rd person preterit indicative - **parti**-ram)

1st person sing.	partir	(I would leave)
2nd person sing.	partires	(you would leave)
3rd person sing.	partir	(he, she, it, you would leave)
1st person pl.	partírmós	(we would leave)
2nd person pl.	partírdes	(you pl. would leave)
3rd person pl.	partírem	(they, you pl. would leave)

Pluperfect Subjunctive

The pluperfect subjunctive is a compound tense formed with the imperfect subjunctive of **ter** for the spoken form, (or **haver** for the literary form) and the past participle of the main verb.

tivesse comido	(I would have eaten)
tivesses comido	(you would have eaten)
tivesse comido	(he, she, it, you would have eaten)
tivéssemos comido	(we would have eaten)
tivésseis comido	(you would have eaten)
tivessem comido	(they, you pl. would have eaten)

Imperative Mood

In Brazil, the present subjunctive is used for **formal and familiar commands**, both positive and negative.

Faça favor.
(**Do** me a favor.)

Venha aqui, por favor!
(**Come** here, please!)

Durma, por favor.
(Please **go** to sleep.)

(In Portugal, **familiar commands**, when positive, are expressed by means of the **imperative** mood which is identical to the third person singular of the present tense. **Negative familiar commands**, both singular and plural, are expressed by the present **subjunctive**.)

Stem-Changing Verbs

Some verbs in Portuguese change the spelling of their stems in certain conjugated forms. These verbs are regular verbs, except that the **vowel** of their stem undergoes predictable changes. Fortunately, only the present tense of the indicative and subjunctive and the polite command forms are affected. These verbs can be divided into three major groups.

GROUP 1: Verbs in the first conjugation ending in **-ear** change the stem vowel from **e** to **ei** throughout the singular and in the third person plural. The verb **passear** (to walk, stroll), along with others like **pentear**, **chatear**, **cear** and **recear**, is thus conjugated as follows:

Passear (to walk, stroll):

Present Indicative	Present Subjunctive	Imperative
passeio (I walk)	passeie (I may walk)	
passeias (you walk)	passeies (you may walk)	
passeia (he/she/it walks, you walk)	passeie (he/she/it, you may walk)	passeie (Go for a walk!)
passeamos (we walk)	passeemos (we may walk)	passeemos (Let's go for a walk!)
passeais (you pl. walk)	passeeis (you pl. may walk)	
passeiam (they, you walk)	passeiem (they, you may walk)	passeiem (Go for a walk!)

GROUP 2: Verbs in the third conjugation (ending in **-ir**) with the stem vowels **e** or **o** change the **e** to **i** and the **o** to **u** in the first person singular of the present indicative and in the entire present subjunctive, as well as in the polite command forms. The verbs **mentir** (to lie) and **dormir** (to sleep), along with **preferir**, **ferir**, **repetir**, **sentir**, **servir**, **sugerir**, **vestir**, **cobrir**, **tossir**, are thus conjugated as follows:

Mentir (to lie):

Present Indicative	Present Subjunctive	Imperative
minto (I lie)	mintá (I may lie)	
mentes (you lie)	mintas (you may lie)	
mente (he/she/it lies, you lie)	mintá (he/she/it, you may lie)	mintá (Don't tell the truth!)
mentimos (we lie)	mintamos (we may lie)	mintamos (Let's not tell the truth!)
mentis (you pl. lie)	mintais (you pl. may lie)	
mentem (they, you lie)	mintam (they, you may lie)	mintam (Don't tell the truth!)

Dormir (to sleep):

durmo (I sleep)	durma (I may sleep)	
dormes (you sleep)	durmas (you may sleep)	
dorme (he/she/it sleeps, you sleep)	durma (he/she/it, you may sleep)	durma (Go to sleep!)
dormimos (we sleep)	durmamos (we may sleep)	durmamos (Let's go to sleep!)
dormis (you pl. sleep)	durmais (you pl. may sleep)	
dormem (they, you sleep)	durmam (they, you may sleep)	durmam (Go to sleep!)

GROUP 3: Verbs in the third conjugation (ending in **-ir**) with the stem vowel **u** change the **u** to **o** in the second and third persons of the singular and the third person plural of the present indicative only. Thus **subir** (to climb) is conjugated as follows:

Subir (to climb)

Present Indicative:

subo (I climb), **sobes** (you climb), **sobe** (he, she, it climbs, you climb),

subimos (we climb), **subis** (you pl. climb), **sobem** (they, you climb)

Verbs conjugated like **subir** are:

consumir (to consume), **fugir** (to flee), **sacudir** (to shake) and **sumir** (to hide).

Verbs with Orthographic Changes

Since **g** and **c** have different sounds depending on the following vowel (soft before **i** and **e**, hard before **a**, **o** and **u**) the addition of personal endings when conjugating a verb requires certain spelling changes to preserve their sound. This mostly affects the subjunctive forms, where **a** becomes **e** and vice versa.

pagar (to pay)	pague (let him pay)
sacar (to take out)	saque (let him take out)
almoçar (to have lunch)	almocei (I ate lunch)
eleger (to elect)	elejo (I elect)
dirigir (to guide)	dirijo (I guide)
erguer (to erect)	ergo (I erect)
distinguir (to distinguish)	distingo (I distinguish)
pagar (to pay)	pague (let him pay)

Grammar Pages

Number

Person

Gender

1st Conjugation

2nd Conjugation

3rd Conjugation

Number

There are two numbers in Portuguese: **singular** and **plural**.
Most nouns in Portuguese have singular and plural forms:

a casa (the house) / **as casas** (the houses)
a lei (the law) / **as leis** (the laws)

See

Singular and Plural Forms of Nouns

Pronouns also have singular and plural forms:

Singular	Plural
eu (I)	nós (we)
tu (you)	vós (you)
ele (he)	eles (they m)
ela (she)	elas (they f)
o senhor (you, masc. formal)	os senhores (you, masc. pl., formal)
a senhora (you, fem. formal)	as senhoras (you, feminine pl., formal)
você (you, familiar)	vocês (you, familiar plural)

See

Subject Pronouns

Direct Object Pronouns

Indirect Object Pronouns

Prepositional (Stressed) Pronouns

Reflexive Pronouns

Possessive Pronouns

Interrogatives and Exclamations

Indefinite Pronouns and Adjectives

Demonstrative Pronouns

Adjectives and articles agree with nouns in number (and also in gender).

um livro vermelho	(a red book)
as casas vermelhas	(the red houses)

See

Adjectives

Articles

Verbs and different verbal forms (present and past participles) agree with the subject of the sentence in number:

SUBJECT

A estudante

(The student (female))

Os estudantes

(The students (male and female))

PREDICATE

está pronta.

(is ready.)

estão prontos.

(are ready.)

See

Verbs

1st Conjugation

2nd Conjugation

3rd Conjugation

Participles

Person

Person is a grammatical category reflected in pronouns and verb conjugations (endings). Portuguese has 3 persons. The first person refers to the individual speaker or the speaker group (**eu** (I), **nós** (we)). The second person (**você** (you, singular), **vocês** (you, plural)) refers to the addressee, that individual, or that group of individuals whom the speaker addresses or talks to. The third person (**ele** (he), **ela** (she), **eles/as** (they, masculine and feminine)) refers to any other individual, object, animal, etc. whom the speaker talks about, refers to, describes, etc.

These pronouns are used with the third person forms of conjugated verbs:

você (you, singular)	vocês (you, plural)
o senhor (you, masculine singular formal)	os senhores (you, masculine plural formal)
a senhora (you, feminine singular formal)	as senhoras (you, feminine plural formal)

The 3rd person refers to the entity being spoken about, **ele** (he), **ela** (she), **eles** (they, m.), **elas** (they, f.).

See

Subject Pronouns

Direct Object Pronouns

Indirect Object Pronouns

Prepositional (Disjunctive) Pronouns

Reflexive Pronouns

Possessive Pronouns

Verbs are inflected (receive different endings) to agree with the person of the subject

fal- ar (to speak)		
1st person	fal- o	fal- amos
2nd person	fal- as	fal- áis
3rd person	fal- a	fal- am

See

Verbs

1st Conjugation

2nd Conjugation

3rd Conjugation

Gender

There are two genders in Portuguese: **masculine** and **feminine**.

All nouns in Portuguese are either masculine or feminine.

Although there are no rules by which the gender of all nouns can be determined, the gender of many nouns can be determined by their meaning or their ending. The gender of other nouns must be learned individually. The best way to memorize the gender of words is to memorize the article when learning a new word.

o touro	(the bull) masculine
a vaca	(the cow) feminine

See

Gender of Nouns

Knowing the gender of every noun is important not only for the noun itself, but for the spelling and pronunciation of the words it influences in a sentence: adjectives, articles, past participles, and pronouns. They agree in the gender and in the number with the noun.

See

Adjectives

Article

Past Participle

Active and Passive Voice

1st Conjugation

Present Infinitive:

falar (to speak)

Present Participle:

falando

Past Participle:

falado

	Present	Present Perfect
eu	fal-o	tenho falado
tu	fal-as	tens falado
ele, ela, você	fal-a	tem falado
nós	fal-amos	temos falado
vós	fal-ais	tendes falado
eles, elas, vocês	fal-am	têm falado

	Imperfect	Pluperfect
eu	fal-ava	tinha falado
tu	fal-avas	tinhas falado
ele, ela, você	fal-ava	tinha falado
nós	fal-ávamos	tínhamos falado
vós	fal-áveis	tínheis falado
eles, elas, vocês	fal-avam	tinham falado

	Future	Future Perfect
eu	falar-ei	terei falado
tu	falar-ás	terás falado
ele, ela, você	falar-á	terá falado
nós	falar-emos	teremos falado
vós	falar-eis	tereis falado
eles, elas, vocês	falar-ão	terão falado

	Preterite
eu	fal-ei
tu	fal-aste
ele, ela, você	fal-ou
nós	fal-ámos
vós	fal-astes
eles, elas, vocês	fal-aram

	Present Subjunctive	Future Subjunctive
eu	fal-e	fa-lar
tu	fal-es	fal-ares
ele, ela, você	fal-e	fa-lar
nós	fal-emos	fal-armos
vós	fal-eis	fal-ardes
eles, elas, vocês	fal-em	fal-arem

	Imperfect Subjunctive	Past Perfect Subjunctive
eu	fal-asse	tivesse falado
tu	fal-asses	tivesses falado

ele, ela, você	fal-asse	tivesse falado
nós	fal-ássemos	tivéssemos falado
vós	fal-ásseis	tivésseis falado
eles, elas, vocês	fal-assem	tivessem falado

	Present Conditional	Conditional Perfect
eu	falar-ia	teria falado
tu	falar-ias	terias falado
ele, ela, você	falar-ia	teria falado
nós	falar-íamos	teríamos falado
vós	falar-íeis	teríeis falado
eles, elas, vocês	falar-iam	teriam falado

	Imperative
tu	fala
você	fale
nós	falemos
vós	falai
vocês	falem

2nd Conjugation

Present Infinitive
comer (to eat)
Present Participle
comendo
Past Participle
comido

	Present	Present Perfect
eu	com-o	tenho comido
tu	com-es	tens comido
ele, ela, você	com-e	tem comido
nós	com-emos	temos comido
vós	com-éis	tendes comido
eles, elas, vocês	com-em	têm comido

	Imperfect	Pluperfect
eu	com-ia	tinha comido
tu	com-ias	tinhas comido
ele, ela, você	com-ia	tinha comido
nós	com-íamos	tínhamos comido
vós	com-íeis	tínheis comido
eles, elas, vocês	com-iam	tinham comido

	Future	Future Perfect
eu	comer-ei	terei comido
tu	comer-ás	terás comido
ele, ela, você	comer-á	terá comido
nós	comer-emos	teremos comido
vós	comer-eis	tereis comido
eles, elas, vocês	comer-ão	terão comido

	Preterite
eu	com-i
tu	com-este
ele, ela, você	com-eu
nós	com-emos
vós	com-estes
eles, elas, vocês	com-eram

	Present Subjunctive	Future Subjunctive
eu	com-a	com -er
tu	com-as	com -eres
ele, ela, você	com-a	com -er
nós	com-amos	com -ermos
vós	com-ais	com -erdes
eles, elas, vocês	com-am	com -erem

	Imperfect Subjunctive	Past Perfect Subjunctive
eu	com-esse	tivesse comido

tu	com-esses	tivesses comido
ele, ela, você	com-esse	tivesse comido
nós	com-êssemos	tivêssemos comido
vós	com-êsseis	tivésseis comido
eles, elas, vocês	com-essem	tivessem comido

	Present Conditional	Conditional Perfect
eu	comer-ia	teria comido
tu	comer-ias	terias comido
ele, ela, você	comer-ia	teria comido
nós	comer-íamos	teríamos comido
vós	comer-íeis	teríeis comido
eles, elas, vocês	comer-iam	teriam comido

	Imperative
tu	come
você	coma
nós	comamos
vós	comei
vocês	comam

3rd Conjugation

Present Infinitive:

partir (to depart)

Present Participle

partindo

Past Participle:

partido

	Present	Present Perfect
eu	part-o	tenho partido
tu	part-es	tens partido
ele, ela, você	part-e	tem partido
nós	part-imos	temos partido
vós	part-ís	tendes partido
eles, elas, vocês	part-em	têm partido
	Imperfect	Pluperfect
eu	part-ia	tinha partido
tu	part-ias	tinhas partido
ele, ela, você	part-ia	tinha partido
nós	part-íamos	tínhamos partido
vós	part-íeis	tínheis partido
eles, elas, vocês	part-iam	tinham partido
	Future	Future Perfect
eu	partir-ei	terei partido
tu	partir-ás	terás partido
ele, ela, você	partir-á	terá partido
nós	partir-emos	teremos partido
vós	partir-eis	tereis partido
eles, elas, vocês	partir-ão	terão partido
	Preterite	
eu	part-i	
tu	part-iste	
ele, ela, você	part-iu	
nós	part-imos	
vós	part-istes	
eles, elas, vocês	part-iram	
	Present Subjunctive	Future Subjunctive
eu	part-a	part-ir
tu	part-as	part-ires
ele, ela, você	part-a	par-tir
nós	part-amos	par-tirmos
vós	part-ais	part-irdes
eles, elas, vocês	part-am	part-irem
	Imperfect Subjunctive	Past Perfect Subjunctive
eu	part-isse	tivesse partido

tu	part-isses	tivesses partido
ele, ela, você	part-isse	tivesse partido
nós	part-íssemos	tivéssemos partido
vós	part-ísseis	tivésseis partido
eles, elas, vocês	part-issem	tivessem partido

	Present Conditional	Conditional Perfect
eu	partir-ia	teria partido
tu	partir-ias	terias partido
ele, ela, você	partir-ia	teria partido
nós	partir-íamos	teríamos partido
vós	partir-íeis	teríeis partido
eles, elas, vocês	partir-iam	teriam partido

	Imperative
tu	parte
você	parta
nós	partamos
vós	parti
vocês	partam

Absolute Construction

When a past participle phrase begins a sentence, and the participle has no direct connection with the main verb, the phrase is said to be absolute. This is a stylistic device associated with literary writing rather than with common speech.

Terminada a guerra, começaram a reconstruir.

(The war over, they began to rebuild.)

Active and Passive Voice

If the subject of the sentence denotes the person or thing performing action, the verb is in the active voice.

Sam Barroqueiro **escreveu** esta novela.

(Sam Barroqueiro **wrote** this novel.)

If the subject of the sentence denotes the receiver of the action, the verb is in the passive voice.

Esta novela **foi escrita** por Sam Barroqueiro.

(This novel **was written** by Sam Barroqueiro.)

Adjective Clauses

An adjective clause contains a subject and verb but, like an adjective, it qualifies a preceding noun or pronoun.

MAIN CLAUSE

Os Andes detêm o ar humido

(The Andes stop the humid air

ADJECTIVE CLAUSE

que vem do oriente.

that comes from the east.)

Adjectives

Adjectives are words that qualify the meaning of a noun or pronoun.

um livro **interessante** (an **interesting** book)

uma casa **nova** (a **new** house)

Portuguese adjectives agree in **gender** (masculine or feminine) and **number** (singular or plural) with the nouns they qualify.

um livro **vermelho** (a **red** book)

uns livros **vermelhos** (some **red** books)

a casa **vermelha** (the **red** house)

as casas **vermelhas** (the **red** houses)

Adverbs

Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives or other adverbs. Many adverbs are formed from adjectives by adding the suffix **-mente** to the feminine singular form.

Ele escreve **rapidamente**. (He writes **quickly**.)

Ele escreve **correctamente**. (He writes **clearly**.)

Adverbial Clauses

An adverbial clause is a dependent clause that qualifies a verb, indicating when, why or under what conditions an action or situation occurs.

MAIN CLAUSE

Não tinha dinheiro

(I didn't have money

ADVERBIAL CLAUSE

quando era jovem.

when I was young.)

Appositive Phrases

An appositive phrase renames the noun or pronoun to which it is in apposition. Appositive phrases are set off by commas.

Articles are not used in an appositive phrase unless it involves a superlative or is qualified by a following adjective or adjective clause.

Luis de Camões, poeta de Portugal

(Luis de Camões, the Portuguese poet)

Auxiliary Verbs

The verbs used to form compound tenses are called auxiliary verbs. They indicate the person and tense while the main verb keeps a fixed form. The auxiliary verbs are **ter/haver** (to have), **estar** (to be) and **ser** (to be).

Ter/haver is used to form the perfect tenses.

Estar is used to form the progressive (continuous) tenses.

Ser is used to form the passive voice.

Basic Verb Forms

The basic verb forms are:

Infinitive:	falar (to speak)
Past participle:	falado (spoken)
Gerund:	falando (speaking)

Cardinal Numbers

Cardinal numbers are used for counting.

0 zero	10 dez
1 um	11 onze
2 dois	12 doze
3 três	13 treze
4 quatro	14 catorze
5 cinco	15 quinze
6 seis	16 dezesseis
7 sete	17 dezessete
8 oito	18 dezoito
9 nove	19 dezenove

Comma

Commas (,) are the most commonly used punctuation marks.

Commas separate words in a series:

Julio Dinis, José Ramos, Alice Coelho, Carlos Fontes e Manuel Paiva.

Commas are also used after an introductory phrase, an appositive phrase, or parenthetical expression.

Command

An imperative sentence expresses a command. The subject noun or pronoun is often omitted.

2nd person positive commands use the subjunctive mood.

Vá! (Go away!)

2nd person negative commands (prohibitions) also use the subjunctive, as do all commands in the 1st or 3rd persons.

Não vá! (Don't go away!)

(In Portugal, the following imperative forms are used: Vai! (Go away!) Não vás! (Don't go away!))

Common Nouns

All nouns other than **proper nouns** are called **common**.

casa (house)

amizade (friendship)

Common nouns are subdivided into **count** and **noncount** nouns.

Comparative

There are three degrees of comparison for an adjective.

POSITIVE:	alto (tall)	alto (tall)
COMPARATIVE:	mais alto (taller)	menos alto (less tall)
SUPERLATIVE:	o... mais alto (the tallest)	o... menos alto (the least tall)

The **absolute superlative** indicates a high degree of some quality, rather than a comparison. It is formed by adding the suffix **-íssimo** (feminine **-íssima**) to the adjective.

uma mulher linda (a pretty woman)

uma mulher lindíssima (an very pretty woman)

Compounds

Compound words consist of two word elements that combine to form a single word.

girasol (sunflower), **matamoscas** (flyswatter).

Coordinate Conjunctions

Coordinate conjunctions join two sentence elements of equal value (one is not dependent on the other). Those elements can be words, phrases or entire clauses. The most common coordinate conjunctions are **e** (and), **ou** (or) and **mas** (but).

relatos sombrios **e** inquietantes
(gloomy **and** disturbing tales)

Declarative

In a declarative sentence, the subject and the predicate follow the normal word order, with the subject coming first and the predicate following.

SUBJECT	PREDICATE
João (João	não fala português. doesn't speak Portuguese.

Definite Articles

	DEFINITE	ARTICLES	INDEFINITE	ARTICLES
	Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Mas.	o (the)	os (the)	um (a)	uns (some)
Fem.	a (the)	as (the)	uma (a)	umas (some)

Articles always agree in gender and number with the noun they modify.

o homem (the man -- masculine singular)

a mulher (the woman -- feminine singular)

os homens (the men -- masculine plural)

as mulheres (the women -- feminine plural)

Direct Speech

Direct speech gives the words actually spoken by a person. **Reported speech** puts them into a clause introduced by **que** (that) for statements and **se** (if) for questions.

DIRECT SPEECH

«É professor?» perguntou.

("Are you a teacher?" he asked.)

REPORTED SPEECH

Perguntou se sou professor.

(He asked if I'm a teacher.)

Estar

Ser and **estar** both mean 'to be.' **Ser** is used to express permanent being or a permanent characteristic, while **estar** expresses temporary being. For instance, **ser** would be used to describe a buildings location and **estar** would be used to describe a persons position at a particular time.

Ser is also used for the passive voice, while **estar** indicates the result of an earlier action.

Estar is used with the gerund (English present participle) to form the progressive tenses: present and past.

Exclamations

Exclamations often begin with an exclamatory **que...!** (what a...!). If an adjective follows, it is preceded by **mais** or **tão**.

Que pena! (What a pity!)

Que dia tão lindo! (What a lovely day!)

Quanto...! (How...!) and **Viva...!** (Cheers! Long live...!) are also used for exclamations.

Quanto me alegre! (How glad I am about it!)

Viva Portugal! (Cheers to Portugal!)

Expressions of Quantity

Expression of Quantity	Count Noun (Sing.)	Count Noun (Plural)	Noncount Noun (Sing.)
um (a)	livro (book)		
dois (two)		livros (books)	
muita (a lot of)			chuva (rain)

Future Indicative

The future tense of regular verbs is formed by adding personal endings to the entire infinitive form (rather than to the verb stem).

1st Conjugation: **falar** (to talk)

falar-ei (I will talk)	falar-emos (we will talk)
falar-ás (you will talk)	falar-eis (you all will talk)
falar-á (he, she, it, you will talk)	falar-ão (they, you will talk)

2nd Conjugation: **comer** (to eat)

comer-ei (I will eat)	comer-emos (we will eat)
comer-ás (you will eat)	comer-eis (you all will eat)
comer-á (he, she, it, you will eat)	comer-ão (they, you will eat)

3rd Conjugation: **partir** (to depart)

partir-ei (I will depart)	partir-emos (we will depart)
partir-ás (you will depart)	partir-eis (you all will depart)
partir-á (he, she, it, you will depart)	partir-ão (they, you will depart)

Future Perfect

The future perfect uses the future tense (indicative and subjunctive) of the auxiliary verb **ter** (or **haver**, used only in literary forms).

terei	falado, comido, partido (I will have spoken, eaten, departed)
terás	falado, comido, partido (you will have spoken)
terá	falado, comido, partido (he, she, it, you will have spoken)
teremos	falado, comido, partido (we will have spoken)
tereis	falado, comido, partido (you will have spoken)
terão	falado, comido, partido (they, you will have spoken)

haverei	falado, comido, partido (I will have spoken)
haverás	falado, comido, partido (you will have spoken)
haverá	falado, comido, partido (he, she, it, you will have spoken)
haveremos	falado, comido, partido (we will have spoken)
havereis	falado, comido, partido (you will have spoken)
haverão	falado, comido, partido (they, you will have spoken)

Gender

Nouns and adjectives have two genders in Portuguese: **masculine** and **feminine**. The ending of a noun often indicates its gender. Nouns and adjectives ending in **-o** are usually masculine, while nouns ending in **-a** are usually feminine:

o touro (the bull), **a vaca** (the cow)
o médico (male physician), **a médica** (female physician)

Imperative Mood

Familiar commands, when positive, are expressed by means of the imperative mood. The second person singular imperative forms are identical to the third person singular of the present tense in the subjunctive mood.

O menino dorme. (The child is sleeping.)

Durma! (Go to sleep!)

The second person plural (vocês) forms are based on the third person plural of the present tense in the subjunctive mood.

Vocês dormem. (You sleep.)

Durmam! (Go to sleep!)

Indefinite Pronouns and Adjectives

Indefinite pronouns and adjectives refer to people or things that are not specific.

algum (some), **nenhum** (not any), **pouco** (a little, few), **muito** (much, many), **demasiado** (too much, too many), **qualquer** (any), **qualsquer** (any), **tal** (such), **tais** (such), **todo** (all), **certo** (a certain), **outro** (another), **tanto** (much, many)

Infinitive Phrases

An infinitive phrase may function in the following ways.

As an adverb:

Ao casar-se com Mary Todd, Abraham Lincoln começou a sua carreira política.

(Upon marrying Mary Todd, Abraham Lincoln began his political career.)

As the object of a verb:

Quero ver os quadros de Malhòa.

(I want to see the paintings of Malhòa.)

As the subject of a sentence:

Aprender português é difícil.

(Learning Portuguese is hard.)

Infinitives

The infinitive is the basic form of a verb. Portuguese-English dictionaries always identify a verb by its infinitive.

falar (to speak), **comer** (to eat), **partir** (to leave)

A complementary infinitive completes the meaning of a preceding conjugated verb.

Ela quer viver com eles.

(She wants to live with them.)

Infinitives can be used as verbal nouns, in which case they are considered to be masculine singular and are sometimes preceded by the definite article **o**.

O escrever bem é uma arte.

(Writing well is an art.)

After a preposition, the infinitive form of a verb must always be used.

Eu gosto de ler antes de dormir.

(I like to read before going to sleep.)

Interjections

Interjections are words or expressions stuck in at random to express the speaker's emotions. They are usually set off from the rest of the sentence by an exclamation mark or a comma.

Ah! (Oh! Ouch!)	admiration, pain, happiness
Ai! Ui!	pain, surprise
Bem! Bravo!	cheers
Oh!	surprise, happiness, pain, aversion

Interrogative Adverbs

Interrogative adverbs ask a question.

Quando chegará? (**When** will he arrive?)

Aonde está ele? (**Where** is he?)

Como está ela? (**How** is she?)

Porque fizeste estas perguntas? (**Why** did you ask these questions?)

Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogatives ask a question, and are distinguished by their written accents.
The most common interrogatives are:

Quem?	(Who?)
De quem?	(Whose?)
Que?	(What? Which?)
Qual?	(Which?)
Para que?	(What for?)

Interrogative-Word Question

Many questions begin with either interrogative pronouns or interrogative adverbs

The most common interrogative pronoun is **que** (what). It is also used as an adjective.

Que é isto?

(What is this?) (pronominal)

Interrogative adverbs include the following:

como? (how?), **quando?** (when?), **quanto?** (how much?), **cujo?** (whose?), **aonde?** (whereto?),
donde? (wherefrom?), **porque?** **por que?** (why?)

Linking Verbs

A linking verb connects a subject with a predicate adjective or noun. The most usual linking verb is **ser** (to be).

Daniela é muito inteligente.
(Daniela is very intelligent.)

Mass Nouns

Mass nouns refer to things that cannot be counted. In English, they do not usually take a definite article, but in Portuguese they often do:

o leite (milk)

a farinha (flour)

o aço (steel)

Modal Verbs

Modal verbs express ability, obligation or possibility. They are followed by a complementary infinitive (another verb that completes their meaning). Commonly used modals include **poder** (to be able to), **dever** (to be obligated to), **querer** (to want) and **saber** (to know how).

Mood

There are four moods (or modes) that a verb can take:

Indicative: expressing an objective factuality

Subjunctive: (expressing a subjective attitude

Conditional: expressing a contingent possibility

Imperative: expressing a command

Morphology

Morphology is the study of the rules governing word formation in a language.

Subordinating Clauses

Subordinating clauses (noun clauses) are dependent clauses used as the objects of verbs of saying or thinking. They are usually introduced by the conjunction **que** (that).

The verb in the subordinating clause is indicative mood when the main verb expresses what someone says.

MAIN CLAUSE	SUBORDINATING CLAUSE
Diz (He says	que não vêm. that they aren't coming.)

When the main verb expresses what someone feels (a wish, an emotion, a doubt), then the verb in the subordinating clause takes the subjunctive mood.

MAIN CLAUSE	SUBORDINATING CLAUSE
Queremos (We want	que venham. them to come.)

Noun Formation

A special feature of Portuguese nouns is that their meaning may be modified by addition of prefixes and suffixes, thus forming new nouns. The noun **homem** (man) can become **homenzinho** (little man) or **homenzarrão** (big man). **Mulher** (woman) can easily become **mulherinha** (little woman), **mulherão** (big woman). **Conceito** (concept) can form a new noun **preconceito** (prejudice) by attaching the prefix **pre-** to the front of the noun.

Noun Phrases

Nouns are qualified by articles, adjectives and participles. A noun phrase consists of a noun and the words that serve to qualify it.

NOUN: **livro** (book)

NOUN PHRASE: **um livro interessante** (an interesting book)

Nouns

A noun is a word that names a person, place, thing or idea.

João (João)

Portugal (Portugal)

casa (house)

amizade (friendship).

Number

There are two grammatical forms to show number: singular and plural. The singular for count nouns indicates that there is one, the plural that there are two or more. The plural of nouns and adjectives is regularly formed by adding **-s** to a words ending.

a casa (the house) -- **as casas** (the houses)

a lei (the law) -- **as leis** (the laws)

Indirect Object Pronouns

Indirect object pronouns stand for persons or things indirectly affected by the action of the verb. The forms of the indirect object pronouns are as follows:

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1st person	me (to me)	nos (to us)
2nd familiar	te (to you)	vos (to you)
2nd (polite)	lhe (to you)	lhes (to you)
3rd (familiar)	a você (to you)	a vocês (to you)
3rd (polite)	ao senhor (to you - m.)	aos senhores (to you - m.)
3rd (polite)	à senhora (to you - f.)	às senhoras (to you - f.)

Ordinal Adjectives

Ordinal numbers identify the position a noun occupies in a sequence.

a primeira página (the first page)

o segundo casamento (the second marriage)

The definite article is not used with the ordinal numbers after the names of royalty.

D. Afonso Quarto (King Alphonse the Fourth)

Participial Phrases

Phrases with a gerund (which is equivalent to the English present participle) function adverbially. They indicate an action simultaneous with the action of the main verb.

Andando pelo Vale da Morte, é possível ouvir-se a voz de Deus.

(**Walking** through the Valley of Death, it is possible to hear the voice of God.)

Phrases with a past participle function adjectivally.

Luís Váz de Camões, **nacido** em 1524, é o imorredouro poeta de Portugal.

(Luís Váz de Camões, **born** in 1524, is the immortal poet of Portugal.)

Perfect Tenses

The perfect tenses are **compound tenses** formed with the auxiliary verb **ter** or **haver** (to have) (**haver** is only used in literary forms) and the past participle of the main verb. The past participle in perfect tenses is invariable in form.

The **present perfect** uses the present tense of the verb:

tenho falado (I have spoken)

The **future perfect** uses the future tense of the verb:

terei falado (I will have spoken)

The **pluperfect** uses the imperfect tense of the verb:

tinha falado (I had spoken)

Period

Periods (.) are used at the end of a complete sentence.

Os pessimistas dizem que é impossível.

(Pessimists say that it is impossible.)

Periods are also used in abbreviations.

Sr. (Senhor) (Sir)

Personal Pronouns

Subject	Direct Object	Indirect Object	Prepositional	Reflexive
eu (I)	me	me	mim	me
tu (you)	te	te	ti	te
ele (he)	o	lhe	ele, si	se
ela (she)	a	lhe	ela, si	se
o senhor (you)	o (senhor)	lhe	ele, si	se
a senhora (you)	a (senhora)	lhe	ela, si	se
você (you)	lhe	lhe	ele/ela, si, você	se
nós (we)	nos	nos	nós	nos
vós (you)	vos	vos	vós	vos
eles (they)	os	lhes	eles, si	se
elas (they)	as	lhes	elas, si	se
os senhores (you)	os	lhes	eles, si	se
as senhoras (you)	as	lhes	elas, si	se
vocês (you)	lhes	lhes	eles/elas, si, vocês	se

Phonology

Phonology describes the sound system of a language: consonants, vowels, word stress and intonation.

Phrases with De

English can use one noun to qualify another, in the function of an adjective.

music book

country house

In Portuguese, a construction must be used with de and the qualifying noun.

um livro de música (a music book)

uma casa de campo (a country house)

Possessive Adjectives

Possessive adjectives answer the question 'Whose?'

meu coração (my heart)

tua casa (your home)

sua amizade (his/her/their friendship)

They agree in gender and number with the thing possessed, NOT with the possessor.

meu livro (my book)

meus livros (my books)

sua classe (their class)

suas classes (their classes)

Possessive Pronouns

The possessive pronouns are formed by adding the appropriate definite article to the long forms of possessive adjectives.

ADJECTIVE

uma coisa minha (a thing of mine)

umas coisas minhas (some things of mine)

um carro teu (a car of yours)

uns carros teus (some cars of yours)

um amigo seu (a friend of his/hers)

uns amigos seus (some friends of his/hers)

um amigo nosso (a friend of ours)

uns amigos nossos (some friends of ours)

uma amiga vossa (a girlfriend of yours)

umas amigas vossas (some girlfriends of yours)

uma casa sua (a house of theirs)

umas casas suas (some houses of theirs)

PRONOUN

a minha (mine)

as minhas (mine)

o teu (yours)

os teus (yours)

o seu (his/hers)

os seus (his/hers)

o nosso (ours)

os nossos (ours)

a vossa (yours)

as vossas (yours)

a sua (theirs)

as suas (theirs)

Predicate

The predicate of the sentence states something about the subject. The predicate always contains a verb. The most basic forms of the predicate are:

- 1) a verb with or without a direct or indirect object following it.

SUBJECT

Ana

(Ana)

PREDICATE

parte.

(leaves.)

- 2) a linking verb followed by a predicate adjective or noun.

SUBJECT

Ana

(Ana)

PREDICATE

é médica.

(is a doctor.)

Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefixes are added at the beginning of the word:

ante-

(before)

anteontem (the day before yesterday)

contra-

(against)

contrapeso (counterweight)

Suffixes are added at the end of the word:

-ancia

abundância (abundance)

-ção

operação (operation)

Prepositions

Prepositions are placed before pronouns and nouns (or infinitives used as nouns) in order to form a

prepositional phrase qualifying another word in the sentence. The noun or pronoun in the phrase is called the object of the preposition.

As ilhas dos Açores, no Atlântico, são relativamente inacessíveis.

(The Açores Islands, in the Atlantic, are relatively inaccessible.)

Present Perfect

The present perfect is a compound tense formed with the **present tense** (indicative and subjunctive) of the auxiliary verb **ter** (or **haver** in literary forms) and the **past participle** of the main verb. **The past participle is invariable**; it does not agree in gender and number with the subject.

eu	tenho	falado, comido, partido (I have spoken, eaten, departed)
tu	tens	falado, comido, partido (you have spoken, eaten, departed)
ele/ela, você	tem	falado, comido, partido (he, she, it has (you have) spoken, eaten, departed)
nós	temos	falado, comido, partido (we have spoken, eaten, departed)
vós	tendes	falado, comido, partido (you all have spoken, eaten, departed)
eles/elas, vocês	têm	falado, comido, partido (they, you have spoken, eaten, departed)

Proper Nouns

A proper noun is the name of a particular person, place or entity.

Afonso I

Luís Váz de Camões

o Rio Amazonas (the Amazon River)

a Páscoa (Easter)

Real Conditions

Statements with real conditions express possibilities which may be realized.

Such conditions are expressed by a present-tense conditional clause and a future-tense main clause.

Main Clause	Conditional Clause
(FUTURE)	(PRESENT)
Comprá-lo-ei	se tenho bastante dinheiro.
(I'll buy it	if I have enough money.) (which is possible)

Reflexive Pronouns

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1st person	me (myself)	nos (ourselves)
2nd (familiar)	te (yourself)	vos (yourselves)
2nd (polite)	se (yourself)	se (yourselves)
3rd	se (him/her/itself)	se (themselves)

Reported and Direct Speech

Direct speech gives the words actually spoken by a person. Reported speech puts them into a clause introduced by **que** (that) for statements and **se** (if) for questions.

DIRECT SPEECH	REPORTED SPEECH
«É professor?» perguntou.	Perguntou se sou professor.
"Are you a teacher?" he asked.	He asked if I'm a teacher.

Semantics

Semantics is the study of the relationship between signs (such as the words in a language) and their meaning.

Sequence of Adjectives

Descriptive adjectives usually follow the nouns they modify:

cabelo **branco** (**white** hair)

Limiting adjectives usually precede the nouns they modify:

muito pelo (**a lot of** hair)

Some descriptive adjectives have a different meaning when they precede the noun they modify:

um **pobre** homem (an **unfortunate** fellow)

várias pessoas (**several** people)

Sequence of Tenses

Noun clauses requiring the subjunctive follow a special set of rules. A main verb in the present or future requires a dependent verb in the present or perfect subjunctive.

MAIN CLAUSE

Duvidamos
(We doubt

NOUN CLAUSE

que venham hoje. (Present Subjunctive)
that they'll come today.)

Ser and Estar

Ser and **estar** both mean 'to be.' **Ser** is used to express permanent being or a permanent characteristic, while **estar** expresses temporary being. For instance, **ser** would be used to describe a buildings location and **estar** would be used to describe a persons position at a particular time.

Ser is also used for the passive voice, while **estar** indicates the result of an earlier action.

Estar is used with the gerund (English present participle) to form the progressive tenses, present and past.

Subject-Predicate Agreement

The subject and the predicate must agree.

The verb must agree in number (singular or plural) and person (1st, 2nd or 3rd) with the noun or pronoun that is its subject. Any predicate nouns or adjectives must agree in gender and number with the subject that they refer to.

SUBJECT

A estudante

(The student

Os estudantes

(The students

PREDICATE

está pronta.

is ready.)

estão prontos.

are ready.)

Subject Pronouns

1st person	eu (I)	nós (we)
2nd (familiar)	tu (you)	vós (you)
3rd (masc.)	ele (he)	eles (they)
3rd (fem.)	ela (she)	elas (they)
3rd (familiar)	você (you)	vocês (you)
3rd (polite)	o senhor (you)	os senhores (you)
3rd (polite)	a senhora (you)	as senhoras (you)

Subject

The subject is the topic of the sentence. The predicate is what is said about the subject.

SUBJECT

PREDICATE

As vielas

(The back alleys

serpenteiam.

twist and turn.)

The most common subject forms are nouns and pronouns.

Não todos

(Not all of them

eram aristócratas.

were aristocrats.)

Infinitives may also function as the subjects of sentences.

Trabalhar juntos

(Working together

é mais eficaz.

is more efficient.)

Subjunctive Mood

The subjunctive mood is used in dependent clauses introduced by **que** (that) when the main clause expresses a wish, a strong emotional attitude, or an uncertainty.

Lhe rogo que escreva em português.

(I beg you to write in Portuguese.)

Superlative

There are three degrees of comparison for an adjective.

Positive:	alto (tall)
Comparative:	mais alto (taller) menos alto (less tall)
Superlative:	o... mais alto (the tallest) o... menos alto (the least tall)

Syntax

Syntax denotes the way words are combined to form phrases, clauses and sentences.

Tag Questions

Tag questions consist of a short phrase added to the end of a statement. They are separated from the statement by a comma (,).

É tradutor, **não é verdade?**
(You're a translator, **aren't you?**)

Gosta disso, **não?**
(You like that, **don't you?**)

Transitive Verbs

Transitive verbs can take a object.

Escrevi um livro.

(He wrote a book.)

Intransitive verbs cannot take an object, although they are often conjugated with reflexive pronouns.

Retirou-se do serviço diplomático.

(He retired from diplomatic service.)

Unreal Conditions

Unreal conditions express an impossibility. Such 'unreal' or 'contrary-to-fact' conditions are expressed by a subjunctive verb in the conditional clause.

A contrary-to-fact condition in the present has a conditional verb in the main clause and an imperfect subjunctive verb in the conditional clause:

MAIN CLAUSE

CONDITIONAL CLAUSE

O faria

se tivesse tempo.

(I would do it

if I had time.) (but I don't)

A contrary-to-fact condition in the past has a pluperfect subjunctive verb in both clauses:

MAIN CLAUSE

CONDITIONAL CLAUSE

O teria feito

se tivesse tido tempo.

(I would have done it

if I had had time.) (but I didn't)

Verb Formation

Prefixes are used to form verbs from 'root' verbs.

pôr (to put)

expôr (to put forth)

interpôr (to put between)

pospôr (to put behind)

propôr (to put forward)

sobrepôr (to put on top)

