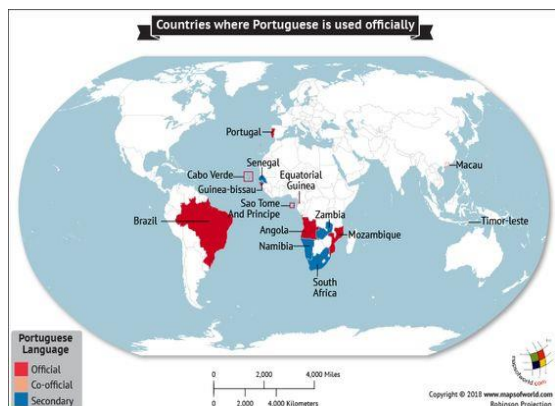


Portuguese

Language Profile



Countries in which Portuguese is the official language:

Portugal, Brazil, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, Angola, Mozambique, East Timor, Guinea-Bissau, and Guinea-Equatorial

Portuguese is also spoken in India (Goa), in the Region of Macau (China) and in countries with an important Portuguese Diaspora.

History of the language

- Belongs to the Indo-European family, Romance group
- Developed in northern Portugal (Lusitania) from the Latin language and "Galego", the language spoken in Galicia
- Contains a large number of words of Arabic origin, as well as French and Greek origin
- Ranks 4th among the most spoken languages in the world
- In areas of the world where Portuguese is spoken there are differences and variations in terms of pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary. However, these differences are not such as to challenge the basic structure of the language.
- Portuguese is the 5th most used language on the internet
- Portuguese is the most spoken language in the southern hemisphere
- More than 260 million people speak Portuguese in the world today, and in 2100 there will be more than 500 million speakers

Similarities between Portuguese and English

- ★ Portuguese and English grammars are fairly relatable since both languages belong to the Indo-European family. As such, they share many grammatical features, namely, their basic syntax and word order.
- ★ Because some words in English come from the same root as some words in Portuguese (mostly Latin words), the word will be similar (cognates) in both languages, with a minor difference in the suffix. *Read on for more about cognates!*
For example: *Incrível* = incredible
- ★ Portuguese and English use the basic Subject-Verb-Object sentence structure. Let's look at a simple example:
 $S > V > O$
O Pedro comprou um carro.
Peter bought a car.
- ★ English and Portuguese form the plural by adding an -s at the end of nouns. There are more exceptions to this pattern in Portuguese than in English. Still, it is by far the dominant pattern.

Helpful Cognates for the Classroom

(There are many more!)

English	Portuguese
cellular	celular
conclusion	a conclusão
creative	criativo/a
diagram	o diagrama
division	a divisão
family	a família
finally	finalmente
introduction	a introdução
operation	a operação
organization	organização
participate	participar
probable	provável
rectangular	retangular
similar	similar

Beware of False Cognates

Portuguese-English cognates are an extremely valuable ally in language and content learning. However, they should not be taken for granted: there are also many **false cognates**, words which look like cognates but actually have completely different meanings to their English counterparts.

Notable differences between Portuguese and English

Source: [Rhode Island College, author Amanda Bento](#)

Phonology

- All the 9 vowel sounds in Portuguese can be nasalized
- Fewer vowel and consonant clusters in Portuguese than in English
- Pronunciation issues in Portuguese include:
 - Inaudibility of unstressed vowels at word endings (e.g., "Part" for "Party")
 - Problems with diphthongs (e.g., "hear" vs "hair")
 - Inclusion of vowel sounds around consonants (e.g., "estrap" for "strap", "monthes" for "months")
 - Nasalization of final /m/ or /n/ (e.g., "Ran" becomes "Rang")
 - Difficulty discriminating between similar words (e.g., "pig" vs "big", "gale" vs "kale")
 - Substitution of similar sounds (e.g., "high" for "I"), "ear" for "hear"

Grammar/Verb Tense

- Many similarities with English (e.g.,
 - parts of speech
 - Pluralization with "s"
 - Definite and indefinite articles
 - Verb forms
 - Active and passive forms
 - Tenses

- Differences may cause mistakes due to negative transfer:
 - Questions in Portuguese use intonation, not auxiliaries or word order changes (e.g., "You like me?" or "He came to school yesterday?")
 - Double negatives in Portuguese lead to errors (e.g., "I don't know nothing.")

Grammar

- Word order in Portuguese is more flexible than English
 - Non-subject topic elements often moved to the front (e.g., "Cakes I like!")
 - Variations in placement of adjectives, adverbs, and pronouns
- Basic Portuguese sentence structure is similar to English
- English prepositions are challenging for native Portuguese speakers
 - Portuguese has fewer prepositions, no direct correspondence
 - Personal prepositions also difficult (e.g., "I told." instead of "I told him.")

Common Errors

- Word order differences when translating
 - Portuguese: noun first, then adjective (e.g., "the dress beautiful")
 - English: adjective first, then noun (e.g., "the beautiful dress")
- Tense choice issues
- Portuguese has simple tenses

- Native Portuguese speakers may struggle with choosing correct tense for future or present perfect simple/continuous
- Examples of mistakes:
 - "It's ages since I have played tennis."
 - "I must to go now."
- "Be careful" and "take care" use the same verb stem in Portuguese
 - Example: "Take care of him" or "Be careful with him" (for "Beware of him")
- One Portuguese word may have multiple English equivalents
 - Examples: rob - steal, lend - borrow, speak - talk, look - see

Vocabulary

- English and Portuguese share Latin roots
- Differences in actual meaning when translated can be confusing
- Examples of translation differences:
 - Abuse (abusar = use frequently)
 - Educated (educado = well-mannered)
 - Disgust (desgaste = worn-out)
 - Familiar (familiar = decent, respectable)
 - Intend (entender = to understand)
 - Real (real = royal; sure; that exists)
 - Vulgar (vulgar = ordinary)

Vocabulary Examples:

- The verb "ficar" in Portuguese: can mean to stay, change of state, become, grow, turn, remain
 - Example: "He stayed furious because he waited so long" (instead of "he became furious")
- Portuguese has the same word for "why" and "because"
 - Example: "He didn't come why he felt tired"

Communication Style

- Individual greetings: reserved and polite (handshake with direct eye contact and appropriate time-of-day greeting)
- Once a personal relationship develops greetings become more personal
 - Men: hug and handshake
 - Women: kiss twice on the cheek, starting with the right
- Proper form of address: 'senhor' or 'senhora' with surname
- University degree holders: 'senhor' or 'senhora' with 'doutor' or 'doutora' (doctor) and optionally surname
- Wait for invitation before using first names
- Use formal case until suggested otherwise by Portuguese friend

Useful Portuguese Phrases for Beginners

[Click here for video of Portuguese Greetings from the Portuguese Lab](#)

Useful beginning phrases:

English	Portuguese
Greeting	
Hi!	Olá
Good morning!	Bom dia!
Good afternoon!	Boa tarde!
Good evening!	Boa noite!
Welcome! (to greet someone)	Bem-vindo(a)!

Hello my friend!	Olá meu amigo! (m) Olá minha amiga! (f)
How are you? (friendly)	Como está(s)? Como tem (tens) passado?
How are you? (polite)	Como está(s)?
I'm fine, thank you!	Estou bem, obrigado(a)! obrigado (m); obrigada (f)
And you? (friendly)	E tu?
And you? (polite)	E você?
Good	Bom (m); boa (f)

Not so good	Não muito bem
What's new?	Que há de novo?
Nothing new	Nada de novo
Thank you (very much)!	Muito obrigado!
You're welcome! (for "thank you")	De nada!
My pleasure	Com muito prazer! Com todo o gosto!
Come in! (or: enter!)	Entra!
Make yourself at home!	Sente-te como se estivesse em tua casa!

Farewell Expressions

Have a nice day!	Tenhas um dia fantástico/feliz!
See you later!	Até logo!
See you soon!	Até já!
See you tomorrow!	Até amanhã!
Good bye!	Adeus!
Have a good trip!	Boa viagem!
I have to go	Tenho de ir

I will be right back!	Volto já!
Holidays and Wishes	
Good luck!	Boa sorte!
Happy birthday!	Feliz aniversário! Muitos parabéns!
Happy new year!	Feliz ano novo!
Merry Christmas!	Feliz Natal!
Congratulations!	Parabéns!/Felicidades!
Enjoy! (or: bon appetit)	Bom proveito!

Bless you (when sneezing)	Saúde or Deus te abençoe
Best wishes!	Felicidades!
Cheers! (or: to your health)	Saúde!
Accept my best wishes	Muitas felicidades!
How to Introduce Yourself	
What's your name?	Como te chamas? Qual é o teu nome?
My name is _____	Chamo-me _____ O meu nome é _____

Nice to meet you!	Prazer em conhecer-te!
Where are you from?	De onde és?

Other resources and links for Portuguese language:

- [Portuguese General Courses - Camões - Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua](#)
- [Cursos Gerais de Português - Camões - Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua](#)
- <http://www.instituto-camoes.pt>
- <http://www.facebook.com/camoes.ip>
- <http://twitter.com/instituto.camoes>
- <http://cvc.instituto-camoes.pt/index.php>
- [Ensino a Distância - Camões - Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua](#)
- [Bases temáticas - Camões - Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua](#)
- [Biblioteca Digital - Camões - Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua](#)
- [Referencial Camões PLE](#)

Platform PORTUGUÊS MAIS PERTO: <http://www.portuguesmaisperto.pt>

Portuguese Publishers:

- **PORTO EDITORA:**

Web: <https://www.portoeditora.pt/>

Mr. Sérgio Marques
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depinternacional@portoeditora.pt

- **LIDEL, EDIÇÕES TÉCNICAS:**

Web: <https://www.lidel.pt/pt/>

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Note: In the US the importance given by the educational system to the Portuguese language is materialized in its accreditation as a language of access to higher education, through the NEWL exam (National Examinations in World Languages) developed by American Councils for International Education and endorsed by the AP Program of the College Board.

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World map showing countries where Portuguese is the official language. Answers. (2018, June 6). Retrieved May 2, 2023, from <https://www.mapsofworld.com/answers/regions/countries-territories-portuguese-official-co-official-language/attachment/world-map-portuguese-language-countries/>

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