

# 5000

**EUROPEAN PORTUGUESE WORDS**  
(THAT YOU ALREADY KNOW)



**Practice**  **Portuguese**

# About This E-Book

Thanks for checking out this lesson! We hope you find it very useful.

This is part of a 3-part lesson series by Rui Coimbra & Joel Rendall of [practiceportuguese.com](http://practiceportuguese.com). There is also a video that goes with this lesson, at [practiceportuguese.com/words](http://practiceportuguese.com/words).

If you learn something new from this lesson, we'd love to hear from you in the comments at the above link! Feel free to share this lesson, (all we ask is for you to keep intact our logo and urls).

*Obrigado!*

- Rui & Joel

**Our mission is to create quality European Portuguese learning tools for people around the world, of all ages.**



# 5000+ Portuguese Words (That You Already Know!)

## What are Cognates? (3:04)

Have you ever noticed that sometimes you can look a Portuguese word you have never seen before, and still understand what it means?

Or if you have already had Portuguese conversations, you may have even successfully guessed a word you have never studied, just by changing the ending of an English word.

When words are similar in multiple languages, they are called cognates. In our case, we will explore cognates that are words that are very similar in English and Portuguese.

As you probably know, Portuguese is referred to as a Romance language. Others include Spanish, Italian, French, Catalan, and sometimes Romanian is also included in this group.

As an English speaker, you're at a huge advantage for learning Portuguese – and even moreso if you speak another Romance language.

## Sample Paragraph of Cognates (4:08):

Try to understand the following paragraph, at first without looking at the translation. Regardless of your current Portuguese level, you will probably be able to understand most of, if not all of the words.

É **incrível** a **quantidade** de **vocabulário** que consegues **compreender imediatamente** por **estudar cognatos**. **Simplesmente observando** esta **lição**, vais **descobrir** como **utilizar** estes **conceitos regularmente**.

Now you can compare the words in the translated paragraph to see the similarities.

It's **incredible** the **quantity** of **vocabulary** you can **comprehend immediately** by **studying cognates**. **Simply** by **observing** this **lesson** you'll **discover** how to **utilize** these **concepts regularly**.

Can you think of any other similar words you have seen that are similar in both languages?

## More Examples:

- coleção (*collection*)
- virtual (*virtual*)
- independente (*independent*)

- capacidade (*capacity*)
- dentista (*dentist*)

## Falsos Cognates / "Falsos Amigos" (5:32)

Instead of true cognates, many Portuguese classes will focus on what's referred to as Falsos Amigos / False Cognates / False Friends.

These are words that look similar, but have a different meaning. They are usually very memorable, because with the difference in meaning between the two languages, they can lead to funny or even embarrassing situations.

## Why Should We Focus on True Cognates Instead? (6:06)

1. There are many more *true cognates* than *false cognates* (see *statistics below*)
2. When you do run into a false cognate, you will be very unlikely to make the same mistake again because we remember new things much more easily when they are connected to a funny or embarrassing situation.

So with these two points in mind, you can see why we have a lot more to gain by learning the true cognates (rules) rather than just the false ones (exceptions).

## Statistics (6:23)

The exact numbers of true cognates are heavily debated but just to give you an idea, these languages have:

- less than 6% **false** cognates

*compared to*

- about 42% **true** cognates.

For those interested in where all our numbers and percentages are coming from...

The above percentages refer to words that are not just similar between English and Portuguese, but also the other main romance languages (Spanish, Portuguese, French, & Italian).

Statistics refer to the Brown Word Frequency List, made up of the 3457 most-used words: <http://www.cognates.org/pdf/false-cognates.pdf>

The percentage of true cognates across *all* vocabulary (rather than just the lists of most frequently-used words) is estimated at about 25% – Again, referring to all languages.

To get your attention, we used the number "5000" in the title for this lesson. These 5000 words are only part of this 25% percent. There are actually more, but that is a nice, round but also conservative estimate we chose based on the suffixes we chose to include. There are many suffixes not included in this lesson, but we tried

to make the best use of your time by just focussing on the ones that will be the most useful.

## Joel's Embarrassing "False Cognate" Fail! (6:59)

Joel only had to come across the word *preservativo* once to find out that it does not have the same meaning as *preservatives*.

Forgive us for this inappropriate example, but we hope you'll agree it does a good job of illustrating why you will be likely to remember many *falsos amigos* the first time you see them.

### What Joel said:

- O chocolate não tem **preservativos**?
- The chocolate doesn't have **condoms**?

### What he meant to say:

- O chocolate não tem **aditivos**?
- The chocolate doesn't have **preservatives/food additives**?

# What You Need to Remember When Looking At Cognate Groups (8:05)

There are more cognate endings that you will come across, but for this video we are just focusing on those that we found with the highest number of words for you to make the best use of your time.

There are always exceptions (spelling, gender, word meaning, pronunciation etc.) in all of these categories, but like we mentioned, you will probably remember most of these exceptions when you run into them the first time.

In the following cognate groups, the cognates are always based on just changing the word endings (suffixes).

For these rules, to work it's important to know the basic categories of words:

## Quick Review of Parts of Speech (8:38)

### **Nouns:**

Persons, places or objects

the car (*o carro*)

the woman (*a mulher*)



## Adjectives:

Words that describe nouns

good (*bom/boa*)

happy (*feliz*)

## Verbs

Actions

to run (*correr*)

to talk (*falar*)

## Adverbs

Words that describes the way a verb is done

quickly (*rapidamente*)

badly (*mal*)

# How to Use This Video

*(Not mentioned in video)*

We intended for this video and PDF to be the ultimate resource for Portuguese cognates that you can return to many times; and we will move through the content fairly fast for anyone seeing this for the first time.

So we recommend that for the first viewing, you just sit back and relax to let yourself simply be curious about these general ideas and detach yourself a bit from having to internalize every detail.

Later, you can return to sections the video and PDF at your own pace, and use them to make your own study notes to further internalize the content.

Note that throughout this PDF we have included timecodes that you can use to easily refer back to these main chapters of the video.

## **-tion (1000 nouns) - 9:23**

Replace "**-tion**" with "**-ção**"

- **station** -> a **estação**
- **nation** -> a **nação**
- **collection** -> a **coleção**

- education -> a educação

## Tips:

- These nouns are usually feminine
- Pronunciation: The tilde ~ tells us that the last syllable is nasal and is to be emphasized

## -sion (nouns, # unknown) - 10:29

Replace "-SION" with "-SÃO"

- persuasion -> a persuasão
- illusion -> a ilusão
- invasion -> a invasão
- dimension -> a dimensão

## Tips:

- These nouns are also usually feminine

- Pronunciation: The tilde ~ tells us that the last syllable is nasal and to be emphasized

## -ly (1000 adverbs) - 11:07

Replace "-LY" with "-MENTE."

- particularly**ly** -> particular**mente**
- original**ly** -> original**mente**
- especial**ly** -> especial**mente**
- normal**ly** -> normal**mente**
- final**ly** -> final**mente**

### Exceptions:

First, we have to remember that adverbs usually come from adjectives. In English, you add the **-ly** to create the adverb, and in Portuguese you add "**mente**" to the adjective.

- natural (natural) -> natural**mente** (naturally)

Now that that's covered... if the Portuguese *adjective* ends with "E", you need to write and pronounce it first before adding "MENTE".

- inteligente (intelligent) -> inteligent**emente** (intelligently)
- aparente (apparent) -> aparent**emente** (apparently)

## Tip:

Notice that in these examples, just like in most cases in Portuguese, double consonants from English like "ll" or "pp" usually become single consonants in Portuguese.

## -al (700 adj) - 12:00

No changes! The words are identical (except for pronunciation, of course).

- sensual
- virtual
- total
- original

## Tip:

- The last syllable "**al**" is usually emphasized, (an exception to the rule that in unaccented words, the second last syllable gets the emphasis)

## -ic (500 adj + nouns) - 13:03

### Adjectives:

Add "**-o**" (masc) or "**-A**" (fem.)

- basic -> básico
- specific -> específico
- dramatic -> dramático
- automatic -> automático
- fantastic -> fantástico
- organic -> orgânico

## Nouns:

- Add "-O" (masc) or "-A" (fem.)

Note that you have to discover and remember whether these words are masculine or feminine... until then, you have a 50% chance of getting it right!

- logic -> a **lógica**
- panic -> o **pânico**
- clinic -> a **clínica**
- graphic -> o **gráfico**

## Tip:

- For both of these types of words (nouns & adjectives), the 3rd last syllable is usually accented and emphasized

## -ity (400 nouns) - 14:45

Replace the "-ITY" with "-IDADE"

- capacity -> a **capacidade**

- eternity -> a etern**idade**
- simplicity -> a simplic**idade**
- community -> a comun**idade**
- opportunity -> a oportun**idade**

### Tip:

- These nouns are usually feminine

## -ate (300 verbs + adj, nouns) - 15:22

### Verbs:

Replace "-ATE" with "-AR"

- abbreviate -> abrevi**ar**
- activate -> ativ**ar**
- agitate -> agit**ar**



- **complicate** -> **complicar**
- **communicate** -> **comunicar**
- **meditate** -> **meditar**
- **validate** -> **validar**

## Tips:

- These are verbs in their infinite form. Just like any verb, they need to be conjugated depending on how you're using them.
- Like most verbs in their infinitive form, the last syllable "**AR**" gets the emphasis

## Nouns / Adjectives:

There are lots of exceptions but often you can... Replace "**ATE**" with "**-ATO**" or "**-ADO**" (the 2nd one seems more common)

### Example Nouns:

- **state** -> **estado**

- candid**ato** -> candidate
- afili**ado** -> affiliate
- associ**ado** -> associate

### Example Adjectives:

- immedi**ate** -> imedi**ato**
- priv**ate** -> priv**ado**
- approxim**ate** -> aproxim**ado**

### Important:

You need to change the ending to match the gender

(for adjectives and nouns).

- Ele é um afili**ado** priv**ado** (He is a private affiliate)
- Ela é uma afili**ada** priv**ada** (She is a private affiliate)

# -able/ible (300 adj) - 17:33

Replace "-BLE" with "-VEL"

- tolerable -> tolerável
- applicable -> aplicável
- invisible -> invisível
- memorable -> memorável
- accessible -> acessível

## Tips:

- Normally with adjectives, you have to change the gender to match the person or object you are describing. (eg. maravilhoso / maravilhosa). But this group of adjectives apply to both genders without modification.
- Pronunciation: An accent is written and pronounced on the second last syllable.

# -ent (300 adj + nouns) - 18:38

## Adjectives:

Add an "E" to the end

- excellent -> excelente
- content -> contente
- fluent -> fluente
- frequent -> frequente
- permanent -> permanente
- independent -> independente

## Tips:

- Normally with adjectives, you have to change the gender to match the person or object you are describing. (eg. maravilhoso / maravilhosa). But this group of adjectives apply to both genders without modification.

## Nouns:

It's better to not look for a rule here because for nouns because:

Although it sometimes works to add "E", just like adjectives:

- Present -> Presente
- President -> Presidente
- Serpent -> Serpente

There are too many exceptions:

Content -> Conteúdo

Sentiment -> Sentimento

Abandonment -> Abandono

Comment -> Comentário

## -ism (250 nouns) - 20:25

Replace "-ISM" with "-ISMO"

- **organism** -> **organismo**
- **autism** -> **autismo**
- **feminism** -> **feminismo**
- **favoritism** -> **favoritismo**
- **optimism** -> **otimismo**

## Tips:

- These words are always masculine
- They usually relate to idealisms (ideal**ismos**!) or concepts.

## -ist (250 nouns) - 21:02

Replace "-IST" with "-ISTA"

- **pianist** -> **pianista**
- **specialist** -> **especialista**
- **elitist** -> **elitista**

- **activist** -> **activista**
- **artist** -> **artista**

## Tips:

- These words are often professions
- Although these words end with "**A**", they are not feminine. They remain unchanged even when referring to a male. You just change the preceding article.
- **o** dentista ~ **a** dentista
- **o** economista ~ **a** economista

# How to Use Cognates in a Real Conversation - 22:14

