

TIPS & FOR TOOLS LEARNING EUROPEAN 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. There is also a video that goes with this lesson, at practiceportuguese.com/tools.

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.



Tips & Tools for Learning European Portuguese

Finding your Motivation (01:52)

Hoping you'll accomplish your goal isn't enough. Connect the goal to something in your life that motivates you deeply, not only to get you excited, but to make sure you stick with it when it gets frustrating.

Here are a few reasons for learning Portuguese we have heard from our members:

- Travellers who want to work here - They have been living in Portugal and are tired of not understanding people, they want to feel more integrated.
- Students planning to study (Erasmus etc)
- They have a Portuguese spouse or family they want to impress or connect better with.
- They have been living in Portugal and are tired of not understanding people, they want to feel more integrated.

- Brits planning to move to Portugal because of Brexit!

Using Negative Motivation to Your Advantage (03:02)

Surprisingly, negative motivation can sometimes be the most effective. Think about the personal consequences for not learning Portuguese:

- You'll always feel out of the loop. Even if people speak English to you, it will be frustrating to be always guessing about what's said in phone call conversations, people talking in the street, on TV... you don't want to spend every minute of the day asking for someone to translate basic phrases.
- Most services and hospitality industry (especially in Lisbon) speak at least basic English, but how many weeks, months or years do you really want to start every conversation with, "do you speak English"? And although most major city services will speak some English, most other secondary services like supermarkets, cafés, transportation, taxi drivers etc may not.
- Reading instructions, signs and product labels will be a hassle - grocery shopping can literally take hours if you need to use your phone to translate every word (or keep asking strangers for help).

- When you arrive, everyone will be impressed that you made the effort to learn the language. Even if you've made a small effort, they will take you much more seriously. (It's common for foreigners to live here for years and still speak no or very minimal Portuguese)
- You'll feel less like a tourist and more like someone who has made a commitment to fully integrate yourself into the culture.
- If you already know at least some Portuguese basics when you arrive, you will improve exponentially because you'll already recognize the basic sounds to be able to pick up new words and expressions. If you start from 0 then you won't retain any of the sounds you're hearing.

The Importance of Urgency (05:45)

The first few months before or after you arrive to the country, you'll likely feel a strong sense of excitement and urgency about adapting to a new routine (or maybe even restructuring your entire life!)

This is the ideal time to learn Portuguese. If you wait too long to learn the language, you'll get comfortable in your new routine and learning Portuguese will turn into a "someday maybe" project.

If you don't do it now, it will be very hard to make it a priority later.

Use this "window of urgency" to your advantage by establishing your study plan NOW, whether that means signing up for your course as soon as possible or building a daily study habit.

If you have a friend, roommate or partner who speaks Portuguese, work with them to come up with a realistic goal for both of you to speak every day. Perhaps it could be during your dinner routine? Start small then increase over time. Even though it may be your partner's native language, it takes just as much mental effort for them to speak slowly, simplify grammar then help you over-analyze everything when you inevitably ask a million questions! (How patient are you when you have to talk to someone who speaks your own language poorly? :)

Easy Ways to Immerse Yourself (06:32)

Find Content Relevant To Your Interests

When the content we are studying interests us, we are much more likely to retain new things. That's why you as soon as possible, you should seek out content that pertains to interests in your life.

Short vs. Long Study Sessions (06:58)

As the cliché says, consistency is key. A few minutes every day (or several short bursts throughout the day) is usually more effective than a few 6-hour sessions that you'll procrastinate all week on.

Simple Ways to Start Immersing Yourself In The Language (07:18)

- Switch your phone / tablet to Portuguese (for iOS you can still use Siri in English while using the rest of the interface in Portuguese) <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204031>).
- When watching TV, switch to Portuguese subtitles to passively learn while unwinding at the same time.
- If you play video games, set the language to Portuguese (many games either have audio in Portuguese or subtitles)
- Listening to Podcasts in the background even if you're not paying conscious attention
- Write todos and other notes to yourself in Portuguese (and try not to worry too much about the spelling or grammar)
- If you are already have Portuguese friends or family, write to them in Portuguese even if you normally speak in English. As a bonus, you'll have the help of autocorrect features on your phone to help you improve your spelling and make sure you don't miss any accented characters. (Make sure to add the Portuguese keyboard in the settings or else everything will autocorrect to English - Entertaining but not that useful!)

- iOS Instructions: <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT202178>

Portuguese Music (10:34)

- Rui Veloso
- Amor Electro
- Da Weasel
- Fado
- Amália Rodrigues
- Mariza
- Carminho
- Agir
- D.A.M.A.
- Diogo Piçarra
- Deolinda
- Ornatos Violeta



Apps, Websites, and Tools (10:54)

Reading News in Portuguese (11:08)

- Instead of reading English news, browse the same topics in Portuguese:

https://news.google.pt/news?edchanged=1&ned=pt-PT_pt&authuser=0

- If you use RSS, replace some of your feeds with Portuguese versions

Portuguese Video Content Online (12:12):

- <http://www.rtp.pt/play/>
- Set YouTube's language to Portuguese to push the Portuguese results to the top. Search for terms related to Portugal, Lisbon, Lisboa etc to make it more likely that you'll find EU PT content.

Dictionary (iOS/Android) (13:05):

- Portuguese Dictionary: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/portuguese-dictionary-translator/id403245342?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D4>
 - In Settings you can toggle European Portuguese pronunciation
 - Brazilian terms mixed in to be careful when converting EN->PT (use our Linguee tips to check for European Portuguese usage)

Translation + EU PT Pronunciation (iOS)

- iSpeak Portuguese (\$1.99) <https://itunes.apple.com/en/app/ispeak-portuguese/id303498207?mt=8>

Note: We edited this app out of the final video because it has been crashing on iOS 10 (It may or may not be working again in the future, so purchase at your own risk!)

Verb Conjugations (16:23)

- **Portuguese Verb Conjugator** (iOS / Android, \$1 or Free with Ads) <https://itipton.com/portuguese.html>
- Conjugame.net - Search verb conjugations for all verbs

Flashcards App (14:31)

- **AnkiApp** (<https://www.ankiapp.com>) available for Mac/Windows/iOS/Android etc

Mobile Learning Apps (15:14)

Cross-Platform, High-Quality but Brazilian:

- Duolingo (duolingo.com)
- Babbel (babel.com)
- Rosetta Stone (rosettastone.com)

Other European Portuguese Links

- Memrise (memrise.com)
- **More tools & resources** (from friends of Practice Portuguese):
- <https://sites.google.com/site/europeanportugueseresources/other>
- <http://hackingportuguese.com/european-portuguese-resources/>
- <https://lusosite.wordpress.com/2016/03/05/my-favourite-language-hacks/>

How to Check Your Vocabulary Lists With Linguee (16:20)

Building your own vocabulary lists is important for retaining what you learn, and to also make sure you are covering vocabulary that will be practical for you to learn according to your plans and interest.

We like AnkiApp for making your own flash cards for study.

But how do you make sure that you're studying words that are used in European Portuguese and not Brazilian?

This is something that you will run into a lot - You will waste time learning words that you find in an app, article or dictionary, then later find that a completely different word is used in Portugal.

Before studying a vocabulary list, it's ideal to have a Portuguese native review it first since they will be able to confirm that each word is used in Portugal, or help you swap them out for better synonyms.

If you are on your own, [Linguee.com](https://www.linguee.com) (or their mobile app on iOS/Android) is a way to confirm words on your list are used in European Portuguese.

It's also a great way to translate expressions (which is very often unreliable with other tools like Google Translate). In a nutshell, Linguee searches human-translated web pages from across the web allowing you to see your search term in context.

Here's how you can use Linguee:



English ↔ Portuguese

á à ã ä é ê í ó ô õ ú ç

dog



Dictionary Portuguese-English

dog *noun* (plural: dogs)

cão *m* ⓘ (often used) (plural: cães *m*)

cachorro *m* ⓘ (plural: cachorros *m*)

Examples:

stray dog *n* – cão abandonado *m* ⓘ

dog walker *n* – passeador de cães *m* ⓘ

top dog *n* – chefe *m/f*

⋮

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Wikipedia

External sources (not reviewed)

Yesterday, I visited a cat and dog food factory.

↳ europarl.europa.eu

Visitei ontem uma fábrica de comida para cães e gatos.

↳ europarl.europa.eu

With an income, you can go to the theater, to the movies, go to a square, eat a hot dog that, sometimes, you don't even have R\$ 2,00 to eat a hot dog.

↳ ibase.br

[...] teatro, cinema, ir numa praça, comer um cachorro-quente que, às vezes, você não tem nem R\$ 2,00 para comer um cachorro-quente.

↳ ibase.org.br

Exposure to dog allergens is a common cause of respiratory allergic disease.

↳ phadia.com

A exposição a alérgenos de cães é uma causa comum das doenças alérgicas respiratórias.

↳ phadia.com

[...] Markos Kyprianou of the Commission's decision to put forward a proposal establishing a ban on trade in cat and dog fur.

↳ europa.eu

[...] Comissário Markos Kyprianou da decisão da Comissão de apresentar uma proposta proibindo o comércio de peles de gato e de cão.

↳ europa.eu

Before sitting down Ruth turns off her newly purchased 29" television, and sends her dog, a jumpy overweight terrier, to the backyard.

↳ en.braudel.org.br

[...] novo de sofá azul-marinho Ruth desliga a TV de 29 polegadas, também recém-comprada, e manda o cachorro ir para o quintal.

↳ en.braudel.org.br

My horse and my dog are thirsty too.

↳ warriorofthelight.com

Meu cavalo e meu cachorro também estão com sede.

↳ warriorofthelight.com

1. As you'd expect, you can search for an English word or phrase to find a translation in Portuguese, or you can type the Portuguese word / phrase you are thinking about learning. For example, let's search for "dog".
2. You'll see a basic translation at the top of the page, but we want to pay attention to the sentences to see the word in context.
3. It looks like there are 2 ways to say dog, "cão" and "cachorro". But how do we know which one is better for Portugal? Below the sentences, you can look for hints in the site's domain (link/URL) where the translation came from.

Check for domains that look like they have to do with Portugal or Europe. (For example, ending in ".pt", ".eu", or maybe even ".[co.uk](#)").

Avoid those that have to do with Brazil (".br") or even ".com" domains.

4. **Check the grammar or vocabulary in the sentences for hints. For example:**

Usage of the informal pronoun "tu" is more common in EU PT. Some areas of Brazil use it, but "você" is much more common.

Verb conjugated with "tu", example "podes", "dizes", "tens" etc. Or the pronouns: "teu", "tua", "ti"

Verbs hyphenated with pronouns doesn't happen in Brazilian Portuguese. For example, "She told him":

- EU PT: "Ela disse-me"
- BR: "Ela me disse"

If you see the use of gerúndio, it will often be Brazilian:

- EU PT: O cão está a **correr**
- BR: O cachorro está **correndo**

5. You can also try adding some of the above EU PT hints to your search term. For example, "teu cão".

Announcing... (20:33)

Practice Portuguese's Learning Studio Launching Soon!



Stay tuned for more details!