

Also by Sue Tyson-Ward

Practice Makes Perfect Beginning Portuguese with Two Audio CDs

Portuguese Verbs and Essentials of Grammar

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Teach Yourself Portuguese Grammar

**PRACTICE
MAKES
PERFECT®**

Basic Portuguese

Sue Tyson-Ward



New York Chicago San Francisco Lisbon London Madrid Mexico City
Milan New Delhi San Juan Seoul Singapore Sydney Toronto

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Preface

Practice Makes Perfect: Basic Portuguese is designed as a useful workbook, reference, and revision guide to the essentials of basic Portuguese. It covers a wide range of grammatical topics—all at a beginner’s level—and includes a solid introduction to verbs in the present tense. Grammar topics are introduced mainly in table form, with a list of general usage points, plus extensive coverage by illustrative examples. This is one of the many strengths of this book: Learners get the chance to see each and every grammar point contextualized in a sentence before they try out the exercises themselves. Additionally, learners are exposed to more than 1,000 vocabulary items and expressions, introduced thematically throughout the book, and reinforced in exercises from one chapter to the next.

This book is ideal for all beginners, from high school through college, and independent students. It works well as a companion text to other course books and is useful for teachers who wish to guide their students to extra review and activities based around the grammar they are covering in class. It can be followed sequentially or simply dipped into at will.

Although the main focus on the language is that used in continental Portugal, Brazilian differences in grammar and vocabulary are highlighted throughout, with the opportunity to use these in the exercises. Spellings conform to the Portuguese Spelling Reform agreed on in 1990 and now generally accepted into the language of Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking) countries around the world.

The structure of each chapter is as follows:

- ◆ Presentation of the grammar point in table and note form
- ◆ List of common, basic uses
- ◆ Example sentences illustrating each usage
- ◆ Exercises addressing the chapter’s grammar topic (At least one activity here will use vocabulary from previous chapters as well.)
- ◆ Themed vocabulary box with up to 20 new words per chapter
- ◆ Further exercises, this time using new vocabulary and including translation activities
- ◆ Answer key
- ◆ An English-Portuguese glossary

Abbreviations used in this book

BP	Brazilian Portuguese
EP	European Portuguese
m.	masculine
f.	feminine
sing.	singular
pl.	plural
pol.	polite
fam.	familiar
lit.	literally
abbrev.	abbreviation

Portuguese is a vitally-important world language, listed invariably as the fifth or sixth most-spoken language in the world. It is also a wonderfully vibrant, melodic, and colorful language, spoken in Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the East. Enjoy your studies of it, and once you have mastered the basics, take your learning further—both you and Portuguese deserve it!

Good Luck! **Boa Sorte!**

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Obrigada to all!

Subject pronouns • Family

Subject pronouns

Subject pronouns are the words *I, he, she*, etc., that we use with a verb (an action word) to show who carrying out the action.

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
eu	<i>I</i>	nós	<i>we</i>
tu / você, o senhor/ a senhora	<i>you*</i>	vós / vocês, os senhores/ as senhoras	<i>you</i>
ele	<i>he, it</i>	eles	<i>they (masculine)</i>
ela	<i>she, it</i>	elas	<i>they (feminine)</i>

*For an explanation of translating “you,” see below.

Uses

- ◆ Personal pronouns can take the place of nouns, to avoid repeating who (proper names) or what (things) is “in charge” of the verb.
- ◆ The word for *it* in Portuguese can be masculine or feminine, depending on the gender (sex) of the item concerned (see also [Chapters 16–18](#)).
- ◆ The plural *they* can also be masculine or feminine; for a mixed group (for example, six men and four ladies), the masculine always takes precedence.
- ◆ It is not always necessary in Portuguese to use a subject pronoun, as often the ending of the verb will also tell you who is carrying out the action.
- ◆ Pronouns can add emphasis to a sentence: “*He* stole it, not me!”

Translating you

There are a few ways to address someone as *you*:

SINGULAR	USE WITH
tu	Family, close friends, children, pets (seldom used in Brazil)
o + <i>man's name</i> / a + <i>lady's name</i>	Friends, colleagues, people of similar age or status (not used in Brazil)
você	The primary form of address in Brazil for friends, colleagues, people of similar age or status; also used in Portugal as an alternative to the above, with people you know a little or in informal situations.
o senhor (<i>to a man</i>)/ a senhora (<i>to a lady</i>)	The most polite form of <i>you</i> for older people, with strangers, and in situations of formality; these also literally mean “the man/the lady” in other situations.

PLURAL	USE WITH
vós	Rarely used in spoken language—older people may still use it; you may hear it in church sermons; and if you study literature, you will still come across it in the written language.
vocês	When addressing more than one person, as with the singular form
os senhores/as senhoras	The same as with the singular form; when addressing a mixed group, use the masculine form; these also mean “the men/the ladies / they” when not directly addressing the people concerned.

Interesting titles—higher-level formality

For anyone with a university degree and for medical doctors, use **o senhor Doutor/a senhora Doutora** (note the capitalization). Many other professions of certain stature assume professional titles, with or without the addition of **Doutor: o (senhor) Engenheiro/a senhora Engenheira (engineer); o (senhor) Arquiteto/a (senhora) Arquiteta (architect); o (senhor) Professor/a (senhora) Professora (teacher)**. Use this format also with people such as directors and diplomatic personnel. These are also used literally to mean “the engineer, teacher,” etc., when not directly addressing the people concerned.

To add weight to the formality, use a progression of titles, for example, **o senhor Doutor Advogado (lawyer)**. For people in positions of elevated status in public life—mayors, councillors, deputies—use **Vossa Excelência (Your excellency)**.

Examples

Eu sou americano.	<i>I am American.</i>
Tu cantas bem.	<i>You sing well.</i>
Ele joga futebol.	<i>He plays soccer / football.</i>
(Ele) é barato.	<i>It is cheap.</i>
Ela fala espanhol.	<i>She speaks Spanish.</i>
(Ela) está partida (BP quebrada).	<i>It (f.) is broken.</i>
Você é alto.	<i>You are tall.</i>
O senhor é simpático.	<i>You (sir) are kind / nice.</i>
A senhora trabalha no banco.	<i>You (madame) work in the bank.</i>
O senhor Engenheiro tem os planos.	<i>You (Engineer) have the plans. ALSO: The engineer has the plans.</i>
Nós moramos em Chicago.	<i>We live in Chicago.</i>
Vocês gostam do Brasil.	<i>You (pl.) like Brazil.</i>
Os senhores gastam muito dinheiro.	<i>You (pl., pol.) spend a lot of money.</i>
Eles pintam a casa.	<i>They (m./mixed group) paint the house.</i>
Elas compram leite.	<i>They (f.) buy milk.</i>

ATIVIDADE

1•1

Translate the following personal pronouns into English.

- | | |
|----------------|-------|
| 1. eu | _____ |
| 2. ela | _____ |
| 3. as senhoras | _____ |
| 4. nós | _____ |
| 5. vocês | _____ |
| 6. tu | _____ |
| 7. ele | _____ |
| 8. elas | _____ |
| 9. você | _____ |
| 10. eles | _____ |

ATIVIDADE

1•2

Insert the correct pronoun / form of address into the sentences, to match the Portuguese sentence to the English.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. _____ gosta de vinho. | <i>He likes wine.</i> |
| 2. _____ sou brasileira. | <i>I am Brazilian.</i> |
| 3. _____ comemos peixe. | <i>We eat fish.</i> |
| 4. _____ moram em Lisboa. | <i>They (f.) live in Lisbon.</i> |
| 5. _____ estudas português. | <i>You (sing., to a family member) study Portuguese.</i> |
| 6. _____ está bem. | <i>She is well.</i> |
| 7. _____ bebem vinho. | <i>You (pl., to older strangers) drink wine.</i> |
| 8. _____ ouvem a música. | <i>They (mixed group) listen to the music.</i> |
| 9. _____ fala rapidamente. | <i>You (to the city mayor) speak quickly.</i> |
| 10. _____ trabalha aqui. | <i>You (sing., to a Brazilian colleague) work here.</i> |

VOCABULÁRIO

A família (The Family)

o pai	father	a mãe	mother
o filho	son	a filha	daughter
os pais	parents	os filhos	children
o marido / esposo	husband	a mulher / esposa	wife
o irmão	brother	a irmã	sister
o tio	uncle	a tia	aunt
os irmãos	brothers and sisters	os tios	uncles and aunts
o avô	grandfather	a avó	grandmother
o neto	grandson	a neta	granddaughter
os avós	grandparents	os netos	grandchildren

ATIVIDADE

1•3

Choose the correct pronoun / form of address in each sentence, to match the Portuguese sentence to the English.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. (Eu / As senhoras) sou engenheira. | <i>I am an engineer.</i> |
| 2. (Ela / Elas) trabalha com o pai. | <i>She works with her father.</i> |
| 3. (A senhora / Nós) visitamos os avós. | <i>We visit our grandparents.</i> |
| 4. (Ele / Vocês) jantam em casa. | <i>You (pl.) have dinner at home.</i> |
| 5. (Elas / Você) escrevem para a tia. | <i>They (f.) write to their aunt.</i> |
| 6. (O senhor / Vós) tem dois irmãos. | <i>You (sing., pol.) have two brothers.</i> |
| 7. (Tu / Você) tens seis anos. | <i>You (sing., to a child) are six years old.</i> |
| 8. (Vós / Eles) moram com o meu tio. | <i>They live with my uncle.</i> |
| 9. (Nós / A senhora Doutora Arquiteta) é de Ohio. | <i>You (very pol.) are from Ohio.</i> |
| 10. (Ele / Ela) é o meu neto. | <i>He is my grandson.</i> |

ATIVIDADE

1•4

Test yourself: What are the corresponding Portuguese pronouns?

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. you (<i>sing., to a child</i>) | _____ |
| 2. she | _____ |
| 3. we | _____ |
| 4. you (<i>pl., used extensively in Brazil</i>) | _____ |
| 5. I | _____ |
| 6. they (<i>f.</i>) | _____ |
| 7. he | _____ |
| 8. they (<i>mixed group</i>) | _____ |
| 9. you (<i>sing., to a colleague</i>) | _____ |
| 10. it (<i>Think carefully!</i>) | _____ |

Ser (to be) • Professions

Ser

There are two verbs in Portuguese both meaning “to be” (*I am, you are, etc.*). In this chapter we’ll look at the first one, **ser**, used mainly for permanent situations.

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
eu sou	<i>I am</i>	nós somos	<i>we are</i>
tu és	<i>you are</i>	[vós sois	<i>you are]</i>
ele é	<i>he, it is</i>	eles são	<i>they are (m.)</i>
ela é	<i>she, it is</i>	elas são	<i>they are (f.)</i>
você,		vocês,	
o senhor/ a senhora é	<i>you are</i>	os senhores/ as senhoras são	<i>you are</i>

Uses

- ◆ Remember to choose the correct form for “you” (singular or plural) depending on your familiarity with the person concerned.
- ◆ The plural form **vós** is rarely used; for plural “you,” use **vocês, os senhores / as senhoras**.
- ◆ “It” is the same form of the verb as “he/she.”
- ◆ It is perfectly acceptable to use the form of the verb without the personal pronoun: **sou** means “I am,” and cannot mean anything else. However, **é** can mean “he/she / it is, you are,” and therefore the addition of the pronoun avoids confusion.
- ◆ To make the verb negative (*I am not...*), put the word **não** before the verb.
- ◆ To form a question (*Is he ...?*), put a question mark at the end of the sentence and raise the tone of your voice in a questioning way.

When to use ser

- ◆ nationalities
- ◆ professions
- ◆ marital status
- ◆ origins of people / things
- ◆ possession
- ◆ time, days, dates
- ◆ what something is made from
- ◆ geographical location
- ◆ permanent characteristics
- ◆ inherent (non-changing) characteristics
- ◆ permanent nature

- ◆ impersonal expressions
- ◆ climate / permanent weather
- ◆ passive sentences

Examples

Sou americana.	<i>I am American (f.).</i>
(Ele) é engenheiro.	<i>He is an engineer.</i>
(Você) é casado?	<i>Are you married?</i>
O meu tio é de Nova Iorque.	<i>My uncle is from New York.</i>
A bola é da minha irmã.	<i>The ball is my sister's.</i>
São 10 horas.	<i>It is 10 o'clock.</i>
Hoje é domingo.	<i>Today is Sunday.</i>
É 25 de julho.	<i>It is the 25th of July. / It is July 25th.</i>
A bolsa é de cabedal (BP de couro).	<i>The purse is (of) leather.</i>
Lisboa é em Portugal.	<i>Lisbon is in Portugal.</i>
(Nós) somos inteligentes.	<i>We are intelligent.</i>
A fruta é boa para a saúde.	<i>Fruit is good for (one's) the health.</i>
Isto é um cão (BP cachorro).	<i>This is a dog.</i>
É fantástico!	<i>It is fantastic!</i>
O clima daqui é diferente.	<i>The climate here is different.</i>
A casa é pintada por eles cada seis meses.	<i>The house is painted by them every six months.</i>

ATIVIDADE

2•1

Write the correct form of the verb *ser* for each pronoun.

1. eu _____
2. você _____
3. vocês _____
4. ele _____
5. eles _____
6. tu _____
7. nós _____
8. eu e ela _____
9. ela _____
10. elas _____

ATIVIDADE

2•2

Complete these sentences with the correct forms of *ser*, to match the Portuguese sentence to the English.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. A minha tia _____ de Michigan. | <i>My aunt is from Michigan.</i> |
| 2. Eu _____ inglês. | <i>I am English.</i> |
| 3. O nosso irmão não _____ casado. | <i>Our brother is not married.</i> |
| 4. Vocês _____ amigos? | <i>Are you friends?</i> |
| 5. Tu não _____ estudante. | <i>You are not a student.</i> |
| 6. Os teus primos _____ altos. | <i>Your cousins are tall.</i> |
| 7. Hoje _____ sábado. | <i>Today is Saturday.</i> |
| 8. O livro _____ da avó. | <i>The book is grandmother's.</i> |
| 9. Esta cadeira _____ de plástico? | <i>Is this chair (made) of plastic?</i> |
| 10. O pai dela _____ inteligente. | <i>Her father is intelligent.</i> |

VOCABULÁRIO

As profissões (*Professions*)

MASCULINE	FEMININE	
o professor	a professora	teacher
o arquiteto	a arquiteta	architect
o urbanista	a urbanista	town / city planner
o desenhador / programador de sistemas de informática (BP designer de TI)	a desenhadora / programadora de sistemas de informática (BP designer de TI)	IT (designer)
o dentista	a dentista	dentist
o médico	a médica	doctor
o advogado	a advogada	lawyer
o policial / o polícia	a policial / a polícia	police officer
o vendedor	a vendedora	salesperson
o secretário	a secretária	secretary
o empregado (de mesa) (BP garçom)	a empregada (BP garçonete)	waiter/waitress
o canalizador (BP encanador)	a canalizadora (BP encanadora)	plumber
o agricultor (BP fazendeiro)	a agricultora (BP fazendeira)	farmer
o enfermeiro	a enfermeira	nurse
o rececionista (BP recepcionista)	a rececionista	receptionist
o construtor	a construtora	builder
o psicólogo	a psicóloga	psychologist
o empresário	a empresária	business person
o jornalista	a jornalista	journalist

ATIVIDADE

2•3

Translate the following sentences into English.

1. Eles são médicos.
-

2. O apartamento é moderno.

3. Você não é casado.

4. Nós somos colegas.

5. As senhoras (*You*) são de Washington?

6. Eu sou professor.

7. O meu dentista é brasileiro.

8. Hoje é 15 de dezembro.

9. Paris não é em Portugal.

10. São os primos do José.

ATIVIDADE

2•4

Translate the following sentences into Portuguese.

1. Are you (*pl.*, *very pol.*) from Kansas?

2. You (*sing.*, *fam.*) are a receptionist.

3. We are not friends.

4. They (*f.*) are lawyers.

5. The ball is made of plastic.

6. It's fantastic!

7. The fruit is from Brazil.

8. This is not a bag.

9. I am a city planner.

10. Are they (*m.*) farmers?



Estar (to be) • Moods / emotions

Estar

The second verb meaning “to be” in Portuguese is **estar**, used mostly to denote temporary situations.

SINGULAR		PLURAL	
eu estou	<i>I am</i>	nós estamos	<i>we are</i>
tu estás	<i>you are</i>	[vós estais	<i>you are]</i>
ele está	<i>he, it is</i>	eles estão	<i>they are (m.)</i>
ela está	<i>she, it is</i>	elas estão	<i>they are (f.)</i>
você,	<i>you are</i>	vocês,	<i>you are</i>
o senhor/ a senhora está		os senhores/ as senhoras estão	

When to use estar

- ◆ temporary place or position
- ◆ description of temporary / changeable states and characteristics
- ◆ temporary feelings, emotions
- ◆ temporary illness
- ◆ as a greeting
- ◆ weather (but not permanent climate features)
- ◆ with **com** (*with*) + a noun (e.g., *to be with hunger*) to replace **ter** (*to have*) + a noun (e.g., *to have hunger*)

Examples

Eu estou no escritório.
Os livros estão na gaveta.
Você não está em Salvador.
Está muito quente esta semana.
A sopa não está quente.
Esta laranja não está boa.
Nós estamos cansados.
Tu estás contente?
A Maria está doente.
Como estão vocês?
Estamos bem, e você?
Eles estão com fome.

*I am in the office.
The books are in the drawer.
You are not in Salvador.
It's very hot this week.
The soup is not hot.
This orange isn't good.
We are tired.
Are you happy?
Maria is sick (unwell).
How are you?
We're well, and you?
They are hungry. (lit., They are
with hunger.)
My daughter is sleepy. (lit., My
daughter is with sleep.)*

A minha filha está com sono.

ATIVIDADE

3•1

Write the correct form of the verb **estar** for each pronoun.

1. eu _____
2. as senhoras _____
3. você _____
4. vocês _____
5. eles _____
6. ela _____
7. tu _____
8. elas _____
9. nós _____
10. ele _____

ATIVIDADE

3•2

Complete these sentences with the correct form of the verb **estar**, to match the Portuguese sentence to the English.

1. A professora _____ na sala.	<i>The teacher is in the classroom.</i>
2. Eu _____ bem, obrigada.	<i>I'm well, thanks.</i>
3. O vendedor não _____ feliz.	<i>The salesman is not happy.</i>
4. Nós _____ com fome.	<i>We are hungry.</i>
5. A empregada de mesa (BP garçone) _____ doente?	<i>Is the waitress ill?</i>
6. Os construtores _____ com fome.	<i>The builders are hungry.</i>
7. Não _____ quente hoje.	<i>It's not hot today.</i>
8. A canalizadora (BP encanadora) não _____ bem.	<i>The plumber is not well.</i>
9. Onde _____ a bolsa?	<i>Where is the bag?</i>
10. Como _____ a sopa?	<i>How is the soup?</i>

VOCABULÁRIO

Disposições e emoções (*Moods and emotions*)

bem	well	zangado/a	angry
surpreendido/a	surprised	triste	sad
mal	unwell	aborrecido/a	bored, boring
disposto/a	willing	feliz	happy, content
cansado/a	tired	satisfeito/a	satisfied
chateado/a	annoyed	emocionado/a	excited
calmo/a	calm	interessado/a	interested
preocupado/a	worried		

VOCABULÁRIO

Expressions with **estar** (*to be*)

estar com ...	to be ...
... calor	... warm, hot (<i>for people</i>)
... frio	... cold (<i>for people</i>)
... sono	... sleepy
... sede	... thirsty
... fome	... hungry

ATIVIDADE

3•3

Translate the following sentences into English.

1. O senhor (*You*) está no banco.

2. Os livros estão na bolsa.

3. Está frio em Londres?

4. Tu não estás interessado.

5. As portas (*doors*) estão abertas (*open*).

6. Você está bem?

7. Os senhores (*You*) estão com muito calor.

8. Elas não estão surpreendidas.

9. A senhora (*You*) não está satisfeita?

10. Nós estamos tristes.

Estar + a + verb (to be ... -ing)

Use this structure to describe an action that is going on right now, or that has some long-term continuity to it. The “action” verb after **a** is in the infinitive form—you do not need to change its endings.

Estou a falar.

Ele está a estudar português.

Estamos a trabalhar nos Estados Unidos.

I am speaking.

He is studying Portuguese.

We are working in America (U.S.A.).

To be ... -ing in Brazilian Portuguese

In Brazil, the construction is slightly different:

part of **estar** + verb ending in **-ando** (-ar verbs)

-endo (-er verbs)

-indo (-ir verbs)

Estou falando.

Você está comendo.

Eles estão partindo.

I am speaking.

You are eating.

They are departing.

(For more on the different verb groups, see [Chapters 4, 5, and 8.](#))

ATIVIDADE

3•4

Translate the following sentences into Portuguese. Use the correct form of the verb **estar** plus the verb given in parentheses. You can use either the European or Brazilian structure.

1. You (*m.*, *very pol.*) are reading (**ler**).

2. Are you (*f.*, *very pol.*) studying (**estudar**) English?

3. You (*pl.*) are not working (**trabalhar**).

4. It is raining (**chover**).

5. I am not eating (**comer**) the soup.

6. You (*pl.*) are visiting (**visitar**) Brazil.

7. They (*f.*) are going up (**subir**) the stairs (**as escadas**).

8. You (*fam.*) are not departing (**partir**) today.

9. Are you (*f.*, *pl.*, *very pol.*) making (**fazer**) a cake?

10. Is he drinking (**beber**) wine (**vinho**)?

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