

3 MINUTE PORTUGUESE COURSE 1
RECAP NOTES

WHAT ARE RECAP NOTES?

In each course of the **3 Minute Portuguese** series, you will learn lots of words and phrases, but you'll also learn some other parts of the language such as:

- **Grammar points**
- **Pronunciation tips**
- **Accent explanations**

Whilst you'll have plenty of opportunities to practise all of this throughout the lessons, sometimes, it's nice to be able to quickly come back and recap some of the trickier aspects.

Rather than having to sit through the entire course again, you can use this **Recap Notes** booklet to refresh your memory with a short recap. You'll find a booklet for each course in the series; this booklet is purely for the language points made in 3 Minute Portuguese - Course 1 (lessons 1 to 9).

I hope you enjoy 😊

Obrigado

Kieran

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THE LETTER C

There are two different ways to pronounce the letter C in Portuguese.

1. Like the letter **K**
2. Like the letter **S**

K pronunciation

The letter **C** is pronounced like a **K** when it is in front of the letters **A**, **O** or **U**

café *kah-FAY*
comer *koh-MAIR*
curiosidade *koo-ree-oh-zee-DAH-deugh*

S pronunciation

The letter **C** is pronounced like an **S** when it is in front of the letters **E** or **I**

cenoura *seugh-NOO-rah*
cintura *sin-TOO-rah*

The Ç cedilla

If you put a cedilla (the little squiggle) underneath the letter **C**, it will change it from a **K** sound to an **S** sound

açúcar *ah-SOO-kahr*
coração *koo-rah-SAOW*
maçã *mah-SAH*

ACUTE ACCENTS

á é í ó ú

All words are made up of syllables. They are easy to see; it's basically just how many different sounds a word has. Look at these words in English:

animal	<i>A-NI-MAL</i>	3 syllables
Spanish	<i>SPA-NISH</i>	2 syllables
impossible	<i>IM-POSS-I-BLE</i>	4 syllables
elephant	<i>E-LE-PHANT</i>	3 syllables

The general rule in Portuguese is that you should stress the syllable before last in a word that ends in a vowel.

lindo **LIN**-doo
 absolutamente ab-so-lu-ta-**MEN**-teugh

However, sometimes you'll see a little line over a vowel in Portuguese. This little line is called an acute accent, and when you see this accent over a vowel, you should stress that part of the word instead.

fantástico	fan- TÁSH -ti-co
máquina	MÁ -qui-na
México	MÉ -xi-co



É VS. E

You pronounce “**é**” (is) and “**e**” (and) in quite different ways

é - like the vowel sound in the word “*pay*”

e - like the double **ee** in the word “*meet*”

The accent over the **é** is actually called an acute accent.

THE PORTUGUESE H

In Portuguese, the letter H is easy to pronounce. That’s because you simply don’t pronounce it at all. Whenever you see a letter H in a word, it’s completely silent.

hotel *OH-tel*
horrível *oh-REE-vel*

THE LETTERS NH

In Portuguese, you’ll sometimes see the letters **NH** used together. The letter **H** changes the way the **N** is pronounced. When you see an NH together, imagine it’s an **NY**, because this is how it’s pronounced. If you know any Spanish, it’s the same as the Spanish letter **Ñ**.

minha *MEEN-yah*
quinhentos *keen-YEN-toosh*
Espanha *esh-PAH-nyah*

NASAL SOUND

In Course 1, we learnt a few words that have something called a “nasal sound” at the end. For example, “**bom**” is pronounced like “*bong*”, but without the “g”. If you say “*bong*”, but stop just before you reach the “g” on the end, you’ll notice your throat closes slightly - this is a nasal sound. It’s a very common sound in Portuguese, and here are some of the words that we’ve learnt so far that contain a nasal sound. Just think of it as closing your throat slightly:

bom *bon(g)*
muito *moyn(g)-too*
não *naown(g)*
mim *meen(g)*
sim *seen(g)*
são *saown(g)*

THE PORTUGUESE EI

In European Portuguese, the letters **EI** are pronounced a bit like the English word “eye”. So, when you see them in a word, just keep in mind it’s not “ay” but “eye”

perfeito *pur-FYE-too*
meia *MY-ah*

THE LETTER S

There are three different ways to pronounce the letter S in Portuguese.

1. Like the letter **S** in the word **sun**
2. Like the letter **Z** in **zebra**
3. Like the **SH** in **fish**

S pronunciation

The letter **S** is pronounced like an **S** when it is at the beginning of a word, or after a consonant.

sim

tensão *seen(g)*

absolutamente *ten-SAOW*
ab-soh-loo-tah-MEN-teugh

Z pronunciation

The letter **S** is pronounced like a **Z** when it is in between two vowels.

delicioso

rosa *deh-lee-see-OH-zoo*

peso *ROH-zah*

PEH-zoo

SH pronunciation

The letter **S** is pronounced like an **SH** before a consonant or at the end of a word

mas

fantástico *mash*

frangos *fan-TASH-tee-koo*

FRAN-goosh

DOUBLE SS

A double SS is always pronounced like the S in sun.

isso

passeio *EE-sooh*

sessão *pah-SYE-oooh*

seh-SAOW

THE LETTER Z

There are two ways to pronounce the letter Z in Portuguese.

1. Like the letter **Z** in **zebra**
2. Like the **SH** in **fish**

Z pronunciation

The letter **Z** is pronounced like a **Z** when it's at the start of a word, after a consonant or in between vowels.

zero *ZEH-roo*

azedo *ah-ZEH-dah*

cinzento *seen-ZEN-too*

SH pronunciation

The letter **Z** is pronounced like an **SH** when it's at the end of a word, or in front of a consonant.

feliz *feh-LEESH*

se faz favor *seugh fash fah-VOOR*

THE LETTER O

The letter O in Portuguese can be pronounced either like the ue sound in true, or like the o in the word on

UE pronunciation

You pronounce the O like a UE when it appears in the final syllable of a word

tudo *TOO-doo*

isso *EEH-soo*

frangos *FRAN-goosh*

O pronunciation

When it appears elsewhere, you pronounce the O like the O in on

obrigado *oh-bree-GAH-doo*

onde *ON-deugh*

bolo *BOH-loo*

INDEFINITE ARTICLES

The words “**a**” and “**an**” are called **INDEFINITE ARTICLES** and, in Portuguese, there are two different words. There’s a masculine and a feminine version.

Masculine	um
Feminine	uma

The version you use depends on whether the noun it goes in front of is a masculine or a feminine noun. This is called the **gender** of the noun.

You always put the word “**um**” in front of nouns that are masculine and the word “**uma**” goes in front of nouns that are feminine. The best way to know whether a noun is masculine or feminine is simply to learn its gender when you first learn the word; that way, you’ll always know that **restaurante** is masculine but **mesa** is feminine in Portuguese.

MASCULINE NOUNS

um café	<i>a coffee</i>
um frango	<i>a chicken</i>
um restaurante	<i>a restaurant</i>
um garoto	<i>a boy</i>

FEMININE NOUNS

uma mesa	<i>a table</i>
uma reserva	<i>a reservation</i>
uma casa	<i>a house</i>
uma garota	<i>a girl</i>

DEFINITE ARTICLES

The word “**the**” is called a **DEFINITE ARTICLE** and, in Portuguese, there are four different words. There’s a masculine version, a feminine version, and a plural version of each of those.

Masculine singular	o
Feminine singular	a
Masculine plural	os
Feminine plural	as

It’s the same as the indefinite articles in that the one you use is dependent on the noun it goes in front of. If it’s a masculine noun you use “**o**”, a feminine noun uses “**a**” and for plural nouns you use “**os**” or “**as**”.

MASCULINE NOUNS

o frango	<i>the chicken</i>
os frangos	<i>the chickens</i>
o restaurante	<i>the restaurant</i>
os restaurantes	<i>the restaurants</i>

FEMININE NOUNS

a mesa	<i>the table</i>
as mesas	<i>the tables</i>
a casa	<i>the house</i>
as casas	<i>the houses</i>

To make a Portuguese noun plural, most of the time, you simply add an **S** to the end.



POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

The word “my” is a **POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVE** and, in Portuguese, there are four different versions. There’s a masculine, feminine, and plural versions of each of those.

Masculine singular	o meu
Feminine singular	a minha
Masculine plural	os meus
Feminine plural	as minhas

The possessive adjective you use depends on the noun. If it’s a singular noun you use “**o meu**” or “**a minha**”, and for plural nouns you use “**os meus**” or “**as minhas**”.

WHAT’S A NOUN?

Generally speaking, a noun is a word that you can put “**the**” in front of. They can be singular or plural:

singular	plural
the hotel	the hotels
the boy	the boys
the idea	the ideas
the possibility	the possibilities

In Portuguese, nouns are words you can put “**o**”, “**a**”, “**os**” or “**as**” in front of. They can be masculine or feminine, singular or plural. You can usually make a noun plural by putting an “**s**” on the end.

masculine singular	masculine plural
o frango (<i>the chicken</i>)	os frangos
o carro (<i>the car</i>)	os carros
o garoto (<i>the boy</i>)	os garotos
o café (<i>the coffee</i>)	os cafés

feminine singular	feminine plural
la mesa (<i>the table</i>)	as mesas
a cenoura (<i>the carrot</i>)	as cenouras
a garota (<i>the girl</i>)	as garotas
a casa (<i>the house</i>)	as casas

MASCULINE NOUNS

o meu café	<i>my coffee</i>
os meus cafés	<i>my coffees</i>
o meu frango	<i>my chicken</i>
os meus frangos	<i>my chickens</i>

FEMININE NOUNS

a minha pizza	<i>my pizza</i>
as minhas pizzas	<i>my pizzas</i>
a minha casa	<i>my house</i>
as minhas casas	<i>my houses</i>

KEY

	MASCULINE SINGULAR	FEMININE SINGULAR	MASCULINE PLURAL	FEMININE PLURAL
THE	O	A	OS	AS
A / AN	UM	UMA	/	/
MY	O MEU	A MINHA	OS MEUS	AS MINHAS

MASCULINE OR FEMININE?

The best way to know whether a noun is masculine or feminine is to learn the gender when you learn the noun. However, there is a general rule that works about 90% of the time.

If a noun ends in the letter A, it's probably feminine. If it doesn't end in an A, it's probably masculine.

chica - *girl* (feminine)

casa - *house* (feminine)

chico - *boy* (masculine)

pollo - *chicken* (masculine)

You can remember the difference by thinking of the names "**Roberto**" (masculine - ends in an O) and "**Roberta**" (feminine - ends in an A).

Oftentimes, masculine nouns end in an **O**, but not always. Look at these two exceptions:

o hotel - *the hotel*

o restaurante - *the restaurant*

É (IT) IS

The phrase "it is", in English, is made up of a subject pronoun (it) and a verb (is). In Portuguese, however, subject pronouns are optional, and very often are not used at all. This is the case with "it is"; in Portuguese, "é" can mean both "it is" or just "is".

é bom - *it is good*

o hotel é bom - *the hotel is good*

é perfeito - *it's perfect*

a comida é perfeita - *the food is perfect*

The same is true with "não é". It can mean both "it isn't" or just "isn't"

não é bom - *it isn't good*

o hotel não é bom - *the hotel isn't good*

WHAT'S AN ADJECTIVE?

An adjective is a word that is used to describe something. However, a simpler explanation would be:

If you can put "**it is**" in front of a word, then it's most probably an adjective. So, in Portuguese, these would be words you can put "**é**" in front of:

it is good - **é bom**

it is fantastic - **é fantástico**

it is delicious - **é delicioso**

it is perfect - **é perfeito**

it is bad - **é mau**

THE TILDE ã, õ

In the words "**não**" and "**são**", you can see the little squiggle above the "**ã**". This squiggle is called a tilde, and it means you have to produce a nasal sound with that vowel. You'll only see a tilde over an **ã** or an **õ**.

THANK YOU

The word for "thank you", in Portuguese, is "obrigado". However, if you're a woman, you change the "o" on the end to an "a":

obrigado (*masculine*)

obrigada (*feminine*)

PARA MIM

The phrase "para mim" literally means "for me", but you can also use it as a way of giving your opinion. You can use it to mean "in my opinion" or "I think"

para mim, é bom - *I think it's good*

para mim, é terrível - *I think it's terrible*

Adjectives describe nouns and in Portuguese, nouns can be either singular or plural, and masculine or feminine. The adjective has to change its ending slightly depending on the type of noun it's describing. This is called "agreeing the adjective"

ADJECTIVAL AGREEMENT

Below is an example of how the adjective **PERFEITO** changes depending on the noun it's describing

MASCULINE SINGULAR NOUN

adjective doesn't change

MASCULINE PLURAL NOUN

add an **S** to the end of the adjective

FEMININE SINGULAR NOUN

if there's an **O** on the end, change it to an **A**
if there's an **E** on the end, leave it

FEMININE PLURAL NOUN

add an **S** to the end of the feminine singular

MASCULINE SINGULAR

o frango é **perfeito**

MASCULINE PLURAL

os frangos são **perfeitos**

FEMININE SINGULAR

a pizza é **perfeita**

FEMININE PLURAL

as pizzas são **perfeitas**

PORTUGUESE ADJECTIVES

In the table below are the different forms of the adjectives we covered in course 1. This will help you to get used to seeing the endings you need to add when agreeing the adjective, and it will also help you to familiarise yourself with the irregular adjectives.

ENGLISH	MASCULINE SINGULAR	MASCULINE PLURAL	FEMININE SINGULAR	FEMININE PLURAL
GOOD	bom	bons	boa	boas
DELICIOUS	delicioso	deliciosos	deliciosa	deliciosas
FANTASTIC	fantástico	fantásticos	fantástica	fantásticas
BEAUTIFUL	lindo	lindos	linda	lindas
EXTRAORDINARY	extraordinário	extraordinários	extraordinária	extraordinárias
PERFECT	perfeito	perfeitos	perfeita	perfeitas
BAD	mau	maus	má	más
TERRIBLE	terrível	terríveis	terrível	terríveis
NICE	simpático	simpáticos	simpática	simpáticas