

Lesson 1



TEACHER VLADMIR SOUZA

Pronunciation of nasal sounds

Spelling	IPA	Example	Shape of the mouth
ÃO	'ẽw̃	p ã o	Closed
AM at the end of words (verbs)	ẽw̃	ven ham	
AM at the end of syllables	ẽ	amb os	Open smile
AN at the end of syllables		an tes	
EM at the end of syllables/words	ẽ	tamb ém	
EN at the end of syllables		a gen te	
IM at the end of syllables/words	ĩ	ass im	Closed
IN at the end of syllables		ningu ém	
OM at the end of syllables/words	õ	com	
ON at the end of syllables		con tar	
UM at the end of syllables/words	õ	com um	
UN at the end of syllables		mun do	

The general rule is that **vowels before “m” and “n” usually have a nasal sound**, but an exception is when the “m” is in a different syllable, as in:

O que aconteceu? Ela teve uma **emerg**ência?
Ela **tava** super atrasada, teve que correr.

What happened? Did she have an emergency?
She was super late, she had to run.



Você viu aquele hom**em** cantando super bem no metrô?
Fiquei **de boca aberta**, e é difícil me surpreender.

Did you see that man singing really well on the subway?
I was impressed, and I'm not easily surprised!



A pair of words that you definitely should be able to pronounce correctly and to differentiate between are the words “**pão**” and “**pau**”.

“Pão” means “bread” and “pau” means “wood” but is also a slang for “dick” or “a beating”, so **be sure of which one you want for breakfast**.

Pão caseiro é muito mais gostoso que o **pão** da padaria.
Quem tem tempo pra isso?

Homemade bread is much tastier than bread from the bakery
But who has time for that [to do that]?



It is very common in **written informal Portuguese (WhatsApp Portuguese)** to find the verb “estar” conjugated **with and without** an accent (to/tô [am], ta/tá [is]). The same thing goes for several other informal words like “po”.

Meu irmão **tá** me ajudando com o projeto.
Pô, assim fica fácil.

My brother is helping me with a project.
Wow, this makes it easy!



One example where the open and closed “e” can be easily compared in spoken Portuguese is with the subject pronouns “ele” and “ela”. Thinking exclusively about the **first “e” of both words**, the masculine form has a closed pronunciation, while the feminine one has an open pronunciation.

Ele falou **pra** ela consertar a impressora.
Não tem jeito, essa máquina não funciona mais.

He told her to fix the printer.
It’s hopeless, this machine doesn’t work anymore.



Pronunciation of nasal sounds

Spelling	Weak syllable	Strong syllable
de	/dʒi:/ like the letter “g”	/d/ as in desire
te	/tʃi:/ as in cheap	/t/ as in toe
di	/dʒi:/ like the letter “g”	
ti	/tʃi:/ as in cheap	

Now we will consider the letters “d” and “t” when followed by the vowels “e” and “i”. The syllables “di” and “ti” always have the same pronunciation, but “de” and “te” may have different pronunciations when they are the strong syllables of a word as you can see in the table.

Generally, the preposition “de” [of] will have a weak-syllable pronunciation because it is a **connecting word**. The same happens with the object pronoun “te” [to you], which usually is not the most important part of the sentence.

In a word, it is very hard to know which is the strong syllable before you hear it, so I recommend listening to the next examples, paying close attention:

Nossa, finalmente tô de boa. Vou te falar, hoje o dia foi foda!

Você também teve que tirar dinheiro? Eu tive que ficar duas horas dentro do banco!

Wow, I’m finally done. I gotta tell you, today was a fucking bad day!

Did you also have to withdraw money? I had to wait in the bank for two hours!



Remember that all the examples in this PDF are also in the audio lecture in this section.

Try to spot these sounds in conversations so they become natural to you.

SUPER TIP:

“Po” is a very versatile word - it can be used to express astonishment, anger, excitement. It is a shortened version of the swear word “porra”, but does not pack the same shocking factor at all.



What about formal Portuguese?

In formal Portuguese the vocabulary and structure of the sentences are the main aspects that change, so all the **pronunciation tips** here apply for formal Portuguese too.



tropicalportuguese.com/
contact@tropicalportuguese.com