



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access at <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?lt=gra&p=12>.

Grammar Lesson #12: Personalized Infinitive Paying for your Education

Dialog

Michelle: **É bom fazermos** as contas porque esse mês vai ser duro pagar a universidade.

Sería bueno preparar el presupuesto porque este mes va a ser duro pagar la universidad.

It would be a good thing to do our budget because this month it is going to be tough to pay for the university.

Valdo: **Quando eles mandarem o valor a gente se preocupa com isso.**

Cuando ellos mandan la cuenta nos preocupamos mucho.

When they send the bill we really get worried about things.

Michelle: **Mas é importante não esquecermos** que as universidades públicas aqui nos Estados Unidos não são gratuitas como no Brasil.

Pero es importante recordar que las universidades públicas aquí en los Estados Unidos no son gratuitas como en el Brasil.

But it's important to remember that public universities in the United States are not for free like they are in Brazil.

Valdo: **Pois é, e como custa caro! Por isso é que depois de terminarem os estudos os alunos estão todos pobres e endividados.**

Es verdad, y qué caro es! Es por eso que después de terminar con los estudios los alumnos están pobres y endeudados.

Right, and it is expensive! That's why after students are done with their studies they end up poor and in debt.



Michelle: Ainda bem que para as universidades públicas no Brasil só **bastam** passarmos no vestibular e pronto.

Lo bueno de las universidades públicas en el Brasil es que nada más se necesita pasar el *vestibular* y ya.

Fortunately in public universities in Brazil you just need to past the *vestibular* and that's it.

Valdo: É verdade. **Para os alunos freqüentarem** as universidades privadas no Brasil, eles têm que pagar, mas **para cursarem** as públicas, que são mantidas pelo governo, não.

Es verdad. Para asistir a las universidades privadas en el Brazil, hay que pagar, pero no para matricularse en las públicas, que son mantenidas por el gobierno.

That's true. For those students who would like to attend a private university, they'll have to pay. But for those who enroll in the public ones, which are paid for by the government, they don't need to.

Cultural Notes

Besides the lessons in pronunciation and grammar, all of the dialogs key on some cultural issue that Valdo and Michelle have noticed as Brazilians living in the United States.

In Brazil public universities are owned by the State and they are totally free for the students. Only private universities have tuition payments. Consequently, the costs of a U.S. education seem even more expensive from a Brazilian perspective.

Grammar Notes

The personalized infinitive refers to the use of a verb that could be in the infinitive (with no conjugation) but an extra ending is placed on the verb to help identify the person. For example, the following sentence allows for a verb in the infinitive and as such this sentence is ambiguous.

Antes de **sair**, eu quero falar com João.
Before leaving, I want to talk to João.



The ambiguity is this, who is leaving? The answer is that we do not know. The sentence allows for a verb *sair* in the infinitive, and we don't know who the person is. The solution is what is called the personalized infinitive where we add extra endings to the infinitive of the verb that shows who the person is. Notice the following examples.

Antes de **sairmos**, eu quero falar com João.

Before **we** leave, I want to talk to João.

Antes de **saiem**, eu quero falar com João.

Before **they** leave, I want to talk to João.

Antes de **eu sair**, eu quero falar com João.

Before **I** leave, I want to talk to João.

Antes de **você sair**, eu quero falar com João.

Before **you** leave, I want to talk to João.

To form the personalized infinitive you simply add **-mos** to the end of the infinitive if we are referring to 1st person plural "we" or **-em** to the end of verbs if we are referring to 3rd person plural "they". In the singular, you simply add the subject pronoun in front of the verb. This works 100% of the time. There are no exceptions and no irregular forms. You are simply personalizing the infinitive form. Because the personalized infinitive is 'optional' many students of Portuguese think that they can go without using it. The truth is, however, it is very common in everyday speech.

One final note. The personalized infinitive and future subjunctive look very similar. In fact, with regular verbs the two forms are exactly the same. This is not true of irregular verbs however. There is not need for a details description here, but the following sentences give a brief comparison.

É bom **estudarmos** aqui. (Personalized Infinitive)

I is good (for us) to study here.

Se **estudarmos** aqui, vamos aprender muito (Future Subjunctive)

If we study here, we'll learn a lot.

É bom **fazermos** o trabalho. (Personalized Infinitive)

It is good (for us) to do the work.

Se **fizermos** o trabalho, vamos aprender muito. (Future Subjunctive)

If we do the work, we'll learn a lot.