



Animals I: Dog lovers I

<http://coerll.utexas.edu/brazilpod/cob/lesson.php?p=01>





So here's the scenario: Denise has been walking in the park with her dog Sandy. Michelle, who happens to pass by, loves dogs and decides to strike up a conversation with Denise. Well, she doesn't exactly love dogs, but Sandy reminds her of her brother's dog. Anyway, the two have a nice chat in the park, which makes for a great *Conversa Brasileira*.

MICHELLE: Oi...
Hello...

DENISE: Oi, "menina"...
Hey, "girl"...

MICHELLE: Ai, que amor! ❶ I Que coisa mais linda! Posso sentar um pouquinho?
Oh, how cute! What a pretty puppy! Can I sit here for a little bit?

DENISE: Claro! Fica à vontade! ❷
Sure! Please, have a seat.

MICHELLE: Ai, que lindo!
It is so pretty!

DENISE: Vem, Sandy, vem, vem, aqui...
Come on Sandy, come here...

MICHELLE: Qual é o nome dela?
What's her name?

DENISE: ... "garota"? Aqui, aqui... é Sandy!
... "little girl"? Here, here... it's Sandy!

MICHELLE: É ele ou ela?
Is your puppy a boy or a girl?

DENISE: Ela!
A girl.

MICHELLE: Ah, ela... então tá bom!
Oh, it's a girl... that's cool!

DENISE: É Sandy!
It's Sandy!

MICHELLE: Sandy?
Sandy?

DENISE: É...
Yeah...

MICHELLE: E cadê **3** o Júnior? **4**
Where is Junior?

DENISE: Pois é, eu tenho duas meninas em casa, aí elas que escolheram o nome, né? **5**
Well, I have two girls at home, so they chose her name...

MICHELLE: Ah!
I see!

DENISE: Se fosse um “menino”, ia ser Júnior...
If it was a “boy”, it would be Junior...

MICHELLE: Provavelmente...
Probably...

DENISE: ... mas aí com a “garotona” aqui ficou Sandy.
... but with this “big girl”, we chose Sandy.

MICHELLE: Ah! E quantos anos têm suas meninas?
Oh, yeah! How old are your girls?

DENISE: Dez e seis.
Ten and six.

MICHELLE: E essa daqui?
How about this one?

DENISE: Essa tem três.
This one is three.

MICHELLE: Três anos!
Three years old!

DENISE: É, mas é uma...
Yeah, but she is a...

MICHELLE: Ai, que linda!
She's adorable!

DENISE: ... é uma garotona aí, uma boa garotona. **6**
... she's a big girl, a good girl.

MICHELLE: E parece não ser brava... não é brava?
She doesn't seem like an agitated puppy... is she a difficult puppy?

DENISE: Não, não é, não é... esta é uma cachorra bem tranquila, dócil, eh, calma com as crianças, boa pra passear, entendeu, não vai te carregando assim... **7**

No, no, she isn't... she's a very tranquil, docile puppy, she's easygoing with children, a good dog to walk with, you know, she doesn't pull you...

MICHELLE: Ah, isso é bom, né? Isso é bom...
Oh, this is good! That's good...

DENISE: ... na coleira, eh, ela é tranqüilona...
... with her collar, she's very calm...

MICHELLE: Ai, que bonita! Você sabe a raça, eh, que raça que é?
She's precious! Do you know her breed, I mean, what's her breed?

DENISE: Eh, é uma mistura: mãe é...
It's a mixture: her mother is...

MICHELLE: Porque eu não entendo nada de cachorro...
Because I don't understand anything about dogs...

DENISE: ... eh, não, eu também não muito, mas a mãe era labrador e o pai setter.
I don't understand very much either, but her mother was a labrador e her father an Irish setter.

MICHELLE: Ah, tá.
Oh, I see.

DENISE: Então é uma, uma mistura aí dos dois...
So, it's a mixture of the two...

MICHELLE: Deu uma mistura aí dos dois...
It is a mixture of the two...

DENISE: ... mas deu uma mistura boa, porque ela...
... but it was a good mixture, because she...

MICHELLE: ... mas ela ficou muito boazinha...
... she's so easygoing...

DENISE: ... eh, eu acho ela bonita, né?
... I think she's very beautiful...

MICHELLE: Ela, ela é treinada? Porque ela fica quietinha... 8
Is she trained? She's so quiet...

DENISE: É, a gente contratou um treinador quando ela era bebê, né, assim, com seis meses e... mas pra falar bem a verdade, ele nem teve muito trabalho não, 9 porque ela é muito inteligente, assim, pega muito rápido, eh...
Yeah, we hired a dog trainer when she was a baby, I mean, when she was six months old and... but to tell you the truth, he didn't have a lot of work, because she's very smart, I mean, she learns things very fast...

MICHELLE: Olha!
Wow!

DENISE: ... e por ela ser tranquila, assim, a índole dócil do cachorro, eh, não foi muito difícil; ela atende bem as ordens, eh...
... and because she's calm, I mean, because of her docile nature, it wasn't so difficult to train her; she obeys our commands...

MICHELLE: Que bom!
How nice!

DENISE: ... uma boa cachorra...
... she's a good puppy...

MICHELLE: Eu tinha... o meu irmão, na verdade, tem, tem um cachorro parecido com ela, ¹⁰ por isso que quando eu olhei eu vim pra cá conversar com você; eu sempre tive muito medo de cachorro, mas depois convivendo com o cachorro dele eu fui perdendo o medo, me acostumando, ¹¹ e ela lembra muito ele, por isso que...
I had... actually, my brother has a dog that looks like her. Because of this, I came to speak with you when I saw her. I always had so much fear of dogs, but living with his dog I started getting over my fear, you know, becoming accustomed, and she reminds me of my brother's dog a lot. Because of this...

DENISE: Huh...
Huh...

MICHELLE: Muito boazinha! Mas então tá bom. Prazer em conhecê-la.
She's so easygoing! OK, that's it. Nice to meet you.

DENISE: Iguualmente.
Nice to meet you, too.

MICHELLE: E adorei a cachorra...
I loved your puppy...

DENISE: Tá joia.
OK.

MICHELLE: Até mais.
See you

DENISE: A gente se vê.
See you around.

MICHELLE: Tchau, tchau.
Bye-bye.



Usage Notes

1. *Ai, que amor!*

Notice that the translation we have given is “how cute”, but the phrase is literally “what love.” In Portuguese exclamations with *que* can be said with nouns or adjectives. In English speakers can only add adjectives: e.g., how nice, how pretty, how interesting. In English nobody says things like: how house, how book, how elephant. In Portuguese there is no problem with *que casa*, *que livro*, *que elefante*. Instead English speakers would say something like “what a house, what a book, what an elephant.”

2. *Fica à vontade!*

The word *vontade* is roughly equivalent to “your will.” So in *fica à vontade* you are saying, in essence “stay as you are willing.” English speakers would similarly say something like “stay as long as you would like to.”

3. E *cadê* o Júnior?

The phrase *onde está?* in Portuguese is informally rendered as *cadê?*, which some think originated came from *o que é de...*, “what ever happened to...” It works as a singular or a plural form. *Cadê o livro?* “Where is the book?” *Cadê os livros?* “Where are the books?” Notice also that there really is no verb in these sentences. Usually *cadê* is simply followed by a noun.

4. *Sandy e Júnior*

Sandy and Júnior are a sister and brother team who sang together while growing up and who became very popular in Brazil. They began singing together on TV when they were just 5 and 6 years old, but today they often perform solos. The reference here is to them. When Denise says that the dog's name was Sandy, Michele's response was, "Then where is Júnior?" Denise goes on to explain that had the dog been a boy, he would probably have been called Júnior.

5. ...*á* elas *que* escolheram o nome

Notice how Brazilians emphasize items in Portuguese. The phrase *elas escolheram o nome* would be the standard rendition for "they chose the name." However, by putting the word *que* in between, it is like saying, "they are the ones that chose the name."

6. ...*uma boa garotona*

Brazilians often add diminutive or augmentative endings to words to give them an endearing quality. In this case that noun *garota* (young girl) is given an endearing quality with the feminine augmentative *-ona*: *garotona*. These forms are especially common among female speakers and listeners will note that Denise and Michelle have several other examples in this clip.

7. ... *não vai te carregando* assim...

The future tense in Portuguese is formed by a conjugated form of the verb *ir* followed by the infinitive of a verb, e.g., *vai carregar* (going to carry). However in this sentence Denise says *carregando*, which gives the sentence an ongoing feel, a sense of movement and motion. Notice also how the direct pronoun *te* (you) is placed between the two verb forms, rendering something akin to "she isn't going to go on carrying you off."

8. Ela é treinada? Porque ela fica quietinha...

In these two phrases we see excellent examples of Brazilian intonation. Michelle lengthens out the duration of the stressed syllables and there is a sharp rise in the pitch of her voice: trei**N**ada... quie**T**inha.

9. ... ele nem teve muito trabalho não.

Brazilians often emphasize negative phrases by adding an extra *nã*o at the end of the sentence. In this example Denise, speaking of the dog trainer, is saying, “he really didn’t even have to work hard at all.” The word *nem* makes the sentence negative, but the word *nã*o at the end adds the emphasis.

10. ... tem um cachorro parecido com ela

Here’s a good example of a phrase that uses a preposition that is very different from English. Michelle is saying that her brother has a dog that looks a lot like Denise’s dog. However in Portuguese she uses the phrase *parecido com ela*, using the preposition *com* (with) which literally means something like “seems with her.” What generally happens is that native speakers of English want to say **parecido como ela*, because they think that *como* means “like.”

11. ... mas depois convivendo com o cachorro dele, eu fui perdendo o medo, me acostumando ...

One of the differences between Spanish and Portuguese is seen in how much more Brazilians use the “-ing” ending *-ndo*. This is actually more similar to English and in this example Michelle is saying something like “but after having lived with the dog I began losing my fear and I was getting used to it...” Notice how this give a more ongoing and developing feel to her speech.