



## Gossip 2: Vai ser uma dupla interessante

<http://coerll.utexas.edu/brazilpod/cob/lesson.php?p=29>





How tough is it to all of a sudden have an outsider brought in take over operations? Alexandre and Heloísa are not impressed with the new guy at all. Even worse, the rumor is that the new guy is way too young and they say he doesn't even have a valid diploma from the university. No wonder the gossip is flying around the office at light speed everywhere! Of course we are not condoning the gossip, but we have to confess that we love what it shows us about a great *Conversa Brasileira*!

ALEXANDRE: Olá, Heloísa. Tudo bem?  
Hi, Heloísa. How are you?

HELOÍSA: Tudo bem, Alexandre, e você?  
I'm good, Alexandre, and you?

ALEXANDRE: Tudo bem. Como foi o final de semana? ❶  
I'm good. How was your weekend?

HELOÍSA: Ah, foi tranquilo. Fiquei em casa descansando. Acabei não indo lá ❷ na festa da empresa.  
Ah, it was good. I stayed at home, resting. I ended up not going to the company party.

ALEXANDRE: Ah, eu ouvi falar ❸ dessa festa aí. As meninas ❹ estavam falando lá no café. ❷ Do Carlinhos... Cê conhece o Carlinhos, né?  
Ah, I've heard about this party. The girls were talking about it during the coffee break. About Carlinhos... You know Carlinhos, right?

HELOÍSA: Ah, conheço bem!  
Yeah, I know him very well!

ALEXANDRE: É, então. Parece que ele voltou a beber, tá traindo ou já traiu a esposa... Um negócio assim... ❸  
Well, then. It looks like he's started drinking again, he is cheating or he has already cheated on his wife... Stuff like that...

HELOÍSA: Nossa! Que grave!  
Wow! That's serious!

ALEXANDRE: Tá vindo alguém aí... ❷  
Someone is coming...

HELOÍSA: Sabe o que eu ouvi também?  
Do you know what else I've heard?

ALEXANDRE: Ahn? ⑥  
What?

HELOÍSA: É que o nosso novo chefe, o Marcos, tava lá também, né? E... Bom, eu não o conheço pessoalmente ainda, né? Só de vista, ⑦ assim. Sujeito ⑧ alto, usa óculos, né? Tá sempre elegante.  
That our new boss, Marcos, was also there, you know? And... Well, I still don't know him in person, you know? I've just seen him, you know. Tall guy, he wears glasses, right? He's always well-dressed.

ALEXANDRE: É, então. Eu ouvi falar que, inclusive, ele tava com o Carlinhos... E... vai ser uma dupla ⑨ interessante, né?  
Yeah, well. I've also heard that he was along with Carlinhos... And... it's going to be interesting with those two together, right?

HELOÍSA: Vai!  
Yeah!

ALEXANDRE: Cê sabe se ele é casado, também?  
Do you know if he also is married?

HELOÍSA: Olha, eu ouvi falar que sim. Não tenho certeza, não. Mas parece que ele é sim. Pera aí, ② tá vindo alguém.  
Well, I've heard he is. I'm not sure. But it looks like he is. Wait a minute, someone is coming.

ALEXANDRE: E... você sabe da onde ⑩ ele veio?  
And... do you know where he is from?

HELOÍSA: Então, parece que ele veio transferido ⑪ de Campinas ⑫ pra cá, né? Agora, o mais interessante - eu não sei se você ouviu isso -, mas parece, tavam comentando, ⑬ que talvez ele tivesse feito faculdade na Unicamp ou na PUC, ⑭ alguma coisa de Administração... Mas eu ouvi falar que parece que ele comprou o diploma! ⑮  
Well, it looks like he was transferred here from Campinas, you know? Now, the most interesting thing - I don't know if you heard about this -, but it looks like, people were talking, that maybe he had graduated at Unicamp or PUC, something in Business School... But I've heard that it looks like he "got a fake diploma"!

ALEXANDRE: Verdade?!  
Really?

HELOÍSA: Nem formado é!  
He's didn't even graduate from college!

ALEXANDRE: Isso é sério, hein? Inclusive, ele é muito novo pra apresentar esse

histórico que ele apresenta. 16

That's serious, you know? Besides that, he's way too young to have the background he claims to have.

**HELOÍSA:** Isso que eu achei, sabia? Eu acho que ele não deve ter muita experiência pra assumir um cargo de chefia.  
That's what I thought, you know? I think he might not have enough experience for a leadership position.

**ALEXANDRE:** É, eu acho que ele vai ter bastante dificuldade aqui. Tá vindo alguém aí.  
Yeah, I think he's going to have a hard time here. Someone is coming.

**HELOÍSA:** Inclusive, sabe o quê? Eu achei muito injusto de eles não terem dado o cargo pra alguém que já trabalha aqui, sabe? 17 Porque...  
Besides that, you know what? I thought it was so unfair that they didn't give the job to someone who already works here, you know? Because...

**ALEXANDRE:** Isso é verdade.  
That's true.

**HELOÍSA:** ... tem tanta gente experiente aqui, não é?  
... there are so many experienced people here, right?

**ALEXANDRE:** E seria bem mais fácil, pra gente e pra ele.  
And it would be much easier, for us and for him.

**HELOÍSA:** Porque agora ele vai ter que treinar, ele vai ter que conhecer o perfil de todo mundo... Eu achei bem injusto isso...  
Because now he needs to be trained, he needs to know everybody's profile... I thought this was so unfair...

**ALEXANDRE:** É, eu também.  
Yeah, me too.

**HELOÍSA:** Não é? Tá vindo alguém!  
Isn't it? Someone is coming!



## Usage Notes

### 1. Como foi o *final de semana*?

In Portuguese, when making reference to the weekend, you can either say *fim de semana* or *final de semana*.

### 2. Fiquei em casa descansando. Acabei não indo *lá* na festa da empresa.

Another interesting thing to note is the use of *lá* and *aí* several times in this dialog:

- a) Acabei não indo *lá* na festa da empresa. (I ended up not going to the company's party.)
- b) As meninas estavam falando *lá* no café. Do Carlinhos... (The girls were talking about it during the coffee break.)
- c) Tá vindo alguém *aí*... (Someone is coming...)
- d) Pera *aí*... (Wait a minute... Short version of *Espera aí*...)

We already talked before (in a previous lesson) about how Brazilians love to use the word *lá* (there) in places that a non-native speaker would never use it, as a form to add emphasis to the sentence. In this dialog, we have several examples of this, as in *a* and *b*, above.

Notice that the same happens with the word *aí* (there), as in the examples *c* and *d*. The difference is that *lá* is used to talk about a place away from both the speaker and the person being spoken to (*lá*: “over there”) while *aí* is used to refer to a place close to the person one is addressing (*aí*: “that place where you are”). Notice that in the expression *pera aí* (wait a minute), a very commonly used expression, there is not even any reference to a place...

### 3. Ah, *eu ouvi falar* dessa festa aí.

Yeah, this is always a good way to start gossiping: *eu ouvi falar*... (I've heard it said...). Notice that in Portuguese you use both verbs: *ouvir* and *falar*, the last one lacking its subject.

4. As meninas estavam falando lá *no café*.

The word menina usually means girl or young woman. But notice that this is not the case here: it doesn't mean young girls, but the women who work in the office too. This is a good example of how this word can be used as a familiar and affectionate term for a person of the feminine sex, adult or child.

5. Parece que ele voltou a beber, tá traindo ou já traiu a esposa... Um negócio assim...

It looks like Carlinhos is acting as a bad boy: he started to drink again, he is cheating or he has already cheated his wife... Or "um negócio assim (something like that)," says Alexandre... When gossiping, it's always a good idea to be careful not to make very strong declarations... Notice the expression you can use in Portuguese to do so: "um negócio assim..."

6. Ahn?

This is a very Brazilian way to say "what"?

7. Bom, eu não o conheço pessoalmente ainda, né? Só de vista, assim.

Well, the guys even don't know the new boss yet, at least not in person, but this is not a reason not to gossip about him... They've just seen him - só de vista...

8. Sujeito alto, usa óculos, né?

You already know the word cara, but here you have another one with the same meaning: sujeito (guy, fellow). It is also used to talk about an individual, a man whose name is not mentioned. Would the new boss be um bom sujeito (a good fellow)?

9. E... vai ser uma dupla interessante, né?

In some cases, the word dupla in Portuguese means *double*, like *dose dupla* (double dose) or *cabine dupla* (double cabin), etc. But usually the Portuguese word used for "double" is dobro. In the example here, we have a more particular meaning of the word dupla: duo, two persons appearing or somehow acting together. For instance, dupla sertaneja or dupla caipira (a kind of Brazilian country music duo) is very popular in Brazil.

10. E... você sabe *da onde* ele veio?

Alexandre seems to be very interested in knowing “where the new boss came from” (*da onde* ele veio). Well, if you look for this expression in the Portuguese textbooks, you won’t find *da onde*, but *de onde* instead. This is one more example of how spoken language can be very particular and interesting...

11. Então, parece que ele *veio transferido* de Campinas pra cá, né?

Notice here the use of the verb *vir* (in the past tense: *veio*) as a main verb with participle: *ele veio transferido*. You can also use *ser* as the auxiliary verb, but note that *vir*, in this case, adds flavor to the sentence and makes it more lively and interesting.

12. Então, parece que ele veio transferido de *Campinas* pra cá, né?

*Campinas* is a city located in the state of *São Paulo*, the third largest city in the state, after *São Paulo* and *Guarulhos*. *Campinas*' population is around 1 million, as of the 2010 Census. The *Viracopos International Airport* connects *Campinas* with many Brazilian cities and also operates some international flights. The city is home to the *State University of Campinas (UNICAMP)*, one of the most important universities in Latin America.

13. ...eu não sei se você ouviu isso -, mas *parece, tavam comentando...*

It’s interesting to notice that when people are gossiping, it’s common that they adopt some strategies to reduce severity of possible effects of the message. Here we can see two examples of this: a) the use of verb *parecer* (to look like), a tool to avoid a total commitment with the truth of the proposition (something like: “if this is not true, don’t blame me”); and b) addressing the source of the information to someone else than the speaker: *tavam comentando...* (people were talking...).

14. ...que talvez ele tivesse feito faculdade na Unicamp ou na PUC

As mentioned before, Campinas is home to UNICAMP - short for *State University of Campinas*. According to the *Times Higher Education 2007 World University Rankings*, Unicamp is the 2nd best in Latin America (after *University of São Paulo*), responsible for around 15% of all Brazilian research. The city is also home to another prestigious Brazilian university, PUCCAMP (or only PUC), *Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Campinas*, a private and non-profit Catholic university.

15. Mas eu ouvi falar que parece que ele comprou o diploma!

Wait a minute. "Marcos bought his degree?" How come? Well, unfortunately, this used to be a sad reality in some parts of Brazil, and it still happens. It is possible – although very expensive and not so easy to do – to buy a fake diploma or fake degree from some very bad universities. In some cases, what happens is that the student attends only a couple of hours in some courses, but somehow ends up with the diploma...

16. Inclusive, ele é muito novo pra apresentar esse histórico que ele apresenta.

The word novo(a) in Portuguese can mean “new, recent,” but it also means “young, unexperienced” – and this last meaning is what we have here in this example.

17. Eu achei muito injusto de eles não terem dado o cargo pra alguém que já trabalha aqui, sabe?

Note our translation here and you’ll see the difference between the tenses of the verbs in the Portuguese / English version of the sentence: “I thought it was so unfair that they didn’t give (and not have not given) the job to someone who already works here... But don’t be intimidated: you can also use the simple past in this case, along with que: *Achei muito injusto que eles não deram...*