



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access by clicking <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?p=02>.

Lesson #2: Pronunciation of /u/ Slaming the Car Door

Dialog

Valdo: **Puxa vida. Você não tem geladeira em casa, não? Seja mais educada.**

¡Qué Barbaridad! ¿No tienes nevera en casa? Sea más educada.

Gee whiz. Don't you have a fridge at home? Don't be so rude.

Michelle: **Sinto muito eu ter batido a porta do carro.**

Lo siento mucho haber tirado la puerta del coche.

Sorry to have slammed the car door.

Valdo: **Você sabe que no Brasil a gente não faz isso.**

Sabes que en Brasil no hacemos eso.

You know that in Brazil we don't do that.

Michelle: **Eu sei. Esqueci. Prometo ficar mais atenta.**

Lo sé. Se me olvidó. Te prometo estar más atenta.

I know. I forgot. I promise to be more careful.

Valdo: **Ótimo. Espero que sim.**

Excelente. Espero que sí.

Great. I hope so.

Michelle: **Isso é muito chato. Você quer sempre tudo certinho.**

Esto es muy aburrido. Siempre quieres todo perfecto.

What a drag. You always want everything so perfect.

Cultural Notes

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

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<http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/>

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Brazilians seem to always notice how hard Americans close their car doors. The phrase "Você não tem geladeira em casa?" (Don't you have a fridge at home?) may sound strange, but it is a way of saying, "Don't slam my car door!". We're sure that more than once, Brazilians have thought that the Americans were somehow angry at something, because of the way that they slammed a door when getting out of a car.

Pronunciation Notes

This dialog focuses on the sound /u/. This sound is similar to what is heard in English in words such as "who'd, hoot, boot".

Excluding diphthongs and nasalization, this sound is found in two main locations:

- Any word written with the vowel "u": puxa, educado, tudo
- Any word written with a final "o": espero, chato, certinho

The challenge for learners who speak English is to avoid pronouncing "u" as one would in the words "hood, put". Another challenge is to avoid pronouncing "u" as one would in the words "university, usual". Compare for example the English "universe" and "pudding" with the Portuguese "universo" and "pudim".

The challenge for learners who speak Spanish is to avoid pronouncing the word-final "o" as one would in Spanish "bebo, digo, hablo". Compare for example the Spanish "como" with the Portuguese "como".