



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you can access at <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?lt=gra&p=02>.

Grammar Lesson #2: Contractions Getting Change From A Machine

Dialog

Michelle: Ficar **na** fila é duro, né?

Esperar en la fila es duro, ¿verdad?

Waiting in line is tough, isn't it?

Valdo: Que tal se a gente passar **pelo** meio e chegar **naquele** outro caixa?

¿Qué tal si pasamos por el centro y esperamos en aquel otro cajero?

How about if we go towards the middle and wait at the other cashier?

Michelle: **Do** lado de lá? Tá bom.

¿Del otro lado? Está bien.

That other side over there? OK.

Valdo: Viu, **às** vezes me confundo com o troco **nesses** supermercados. Por que eles nunca colocam as moedas **nas** nossas mãos?

Sabe, a veces me confundo con el cambio en esos supermercados. ¿Por qué ellos nunca dejan las monedas en nuestra mano?

You know, some times I get confused with the change in these supermarkets. Why don't they ever put the change in your hands?

Michelle: Porque as moedas caem **das** maquininhas que ficam **ao** lado **do** caixa.

Porque las monedas caen de las maquinitas que están al lado de la caja.

Because the coins come out of the little machines that are next to the cashier.



Valdo: Ah, tá... é que **nos** supermercados brasileiros a gente recebe todo o troco **dos** próprios caixas.

Ah, entiendo... es que en los supermercados brasileños uno recibe todo el cambio de los propios cajeros.

Ah, I get it, it's just that in the Brazilian supermarkets you get your change directly from the cashiers.

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 there are no change machines in the supermarkets. Cashiers always hand you your change. And speaking of change, in Brazil be prepared for a low tolerance for large bills. It is not uncommon to find it difficult to break a \$20. Some times they will even send someone to another store to find change. Or even more interesting is when they won't sell you something because they can't break your change.

Grammar Notes

People often ask if it is true that Brazilians understand Spanish better than Spanish speakers understand Portuguese. And the answer is yes. It is true. Brazilians do understand Spanish much better than the other way around.

One of the possible reasons is because Portuguese has a number of contractions that do not exist in Spanish. In Spanish we have *del* which is a combination of *de el*, "of the". Spanish also has *al* which is a combination of *a el*, "to the". Portuguese has a lot of these types of contractions, especially with the prepositions *em*, *de*, *a*, and *por*. Here are some charts, some very long charts, to summarize things:

Chart #1: em

em	Portuguese	English	Spanish
em + o	no	in the	en el
em + a	na	in the	en la
em + os	nos	in the	en los
em + as	nas	in the	en las



em + um	num	in a	en un
em + uma	numa	in a	en una
em + uns	nuns	in some	en unos
em + umas	numas	in some	en unas
em + este	neste	in this	en este
em + essa	nesta	in this	en esta
em + estes	nestes	in these	en estos
em + essas	nestas	in these	en estas
em + esse	nesse	in that	en ese
em + essa	nessa	in that	en esa
em + esses	nesses	in that	en esos
em + essas	nessas	in that	en esas
em + aquele	naquele	in that	en aquel
em + aquela	naquela	in that	en aquella
em + aqueles	naqueles	in that	en aquellos
em + aquelas	naquelas	in that	en aquellas

Chart #2: de

de	Portuguese	English	Spanish
de + o	do	of the	del
de + a	da	of the	de la
de + os	dos	of the	de los
de + as	das	of the	de las
de + um	dum	of a	de un
de + uma	duma	of a	de una
de + uns	duns	of some	de unos
de + umas	dumas	of some	de unas
de + este	deste	of this	de este
de + essa	desta	of this	de esta
de + estes	destes	of these	de estos
de + essas	destas	of these	de estas
de + esse	desse	of that	de ese
de + essa	dessa	of that	de esa
de + esses	desses	of that	de esos
de + essas	dessas	of that	de esas
de + aquele	daquele	of that	de aquel
de + aquela	daquela	of that	de aquella
de + aqueles	daqueles	of that	de aquellos



de + aquelas	daquelas	of that	de aquellas
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Chart #3: a

a	Portuguese	English	Spanish
a + o	ao	to the	al
a + a	à	to the	a la
a + os	aos	to the	a los
a + as	às	to the	a las
a + aquele	àquele	to that	a aquel
a + aquela	àquela	to that	a aquella
a + aqueles	àqueles	to that	a aquellos
a + aquelas	àquelas	to that	a aquellas

Chart #4: por

por	Portuguese	English	Spanish
por + o	pelo	by the	por el
por + a	pela	by the	por la
por + os	pelos	by the	por los
por + as	pelas	by the	por las

When hearing Portuguese, these contractions, in part, make it harder for speakers of Spanish to understand. It is difficult for a Spanish speaker to see *dos livros* and think of "of the books" instead of "two books". It is difficult to see *no livro* and think "in the book" instead of "no book". It is hard to see *pelo livro* and think that it could possibly mean "by the book".