



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you can access at <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?lt=gra&p=03>.

Grammar Lesson #3: Plurals with 'I' Gas Stations

Dialog

Valdo: **Aquele homem está fazendo sinal pra gente baixar o farol do carro?**

¿Aquel hombre nos está indicando que bajemos las luces del carro?

That man is signaling that we should turn down the headlights?

Michelle: **Não! Vamos deixar os faróis acesos... E onde está o frentista pra colocar o combustível no nosso automóvel?**

No! Vamos a dejar las luces ascendidas... ¿Y dónde está el mozo para poner el combustible en el carro?

No! Let's leave the lights on... And where is the attendant to put gas in our car?

Valdo: **Aqui não é tão fácil como no Brasil. Os automóveis são abastecidos pelo próprio motorista.**

Aquí no es tan fácil como en el Brasil. Los carros son abastecidos por el propio motorista.

It's not as easy here as it is in Brazil. The cars are filled up by the drivers themselves.

Michelle: **Como assim? Por que as coisas são tão difíceis aqui?**

¿Cómo así? ¿Por qué las cosas son tan difíciles aquí?

What do you mean? Why are things so difficult here?

Valdo: **Ah, não é tão difícil assim! Pagar com o cartão e colocar a mangueira no carro são coisas bem fáceis de fazer... você consegue!**



Ah, no es tan difícil así. Pagar con la tarjeta y poner la manguera en el carro son cosas bien fáciles de hacer... tú lo consigues.

It's not so difficult. Paying with the credit card and putting the hose in your car are easy things to do... you can do it!

Michelle: **É, mas você tem que concordar que não há sinais claros indicando nada disso.**

Sí, pero tendrás que estar de acuerdo que no hay ninguna señal clara que indique nada de eso.

Yea, but you have to agree that there are no clear signs indicating any of this.

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.

Brazilian gas stations always have attendants to help costumers to pump their gas, change their oil, and wash their windshields, etc., unlike gas stations in the U.S. where the drivers do it all themselves.

Grammar Notes

If there were two Brazils, in Portuguese that would be **Brasis!** How weird is that? The plural forms of words that end in "l" may look strange to speakers of English and Spanish, but the rules are actually fairly easy, basically drop the "l" and add "is":

- AL animal -> **animais**; radical -> **radicais**; nacional -> **nacionais**
- EL papel -> **papéis**; túnel -> **túneis**
- OL espanhol -> **espanhóis**; farol -> **faróis**; sol -> **soles**
- UL azul -> **azuis**

This basic rule does have a few twists and turns. The first is when a word ends in "il", there would be no reason to have double "ii":



IL barril -> **barris**; infantil -> **infantis**

Another exception is if the word ending in "il" is not stressed on the last syllable. In those cases, we change things to "eis". This is one of those rules that we accept without worrying about why it is what it is:

difícil -> **difíceis**; fácil -> **fáceis**; fossil -> **fósseis**

Finally, there are a few words that just want to do their own thing, side-stepping the normal tendencies all together:

mal -> males (evils); gol -> gols