



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you can access at <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?lt=gra&p=04>.

Grammar Lesson #4: Future Subjunctive Soda Refills at Restaurants

Dialog

Michelle: Não sei, tô me sentindo meio gorda ... **se a gente for** jantar hoje à noite eu só vou tomar água.

No sé, me siento un poco gorda ... si comemos esta noche solamente voy a tomar agua.

I don't know, I'm feeling a little fat ... if we go out to eat tonight I'm only going to drink water.

Valdo: Eu vou tomar refrigerante e **o quanto eu puder**, afinal com esse sistema de *refil* a gente pode beber **o quanto quiser**.

Yo voy a tomar refrescos, y todo lo que pueda, a final con ese sistema de *refill* se puede beber cuanto desee.

I'm going to drink sodas and as much as I want, after all, with this refill system we can drink as much as we want to.

Michelle: Eh, mas **quando nós chegarmos** lá fique atento com os copos...

Está bien, pero al llegar cuidado con los vasos...

OK, but when we get there, keep an eye on your cups ...

Valdo: Fique tranqüila, os copos são diferentes. E **se estivermos** com muita fome, será que eles vão deixar a gente repetir sem pagar de novo?

Tranquílitate, los vasos son diferentes. Y si tenemos mucha hambre, ¿será que se permite que nosotros repitamos sin pagar otra vez?



Don't worry, the cups are different. And if we are really hungry, do you think that they'll let us have seconds on food without paying again?

Michelle: **Claro que não! O refil é só pra bebida.**

Claro que no! El *refill* es sólo para la bebida.

Of course not! The refills are only for the drinks.

Valdo: **Se Deus quiser a gente ainda vai adotar esse sistema no Brasil.**

Si Diós quiere, tal vez podemos adoptar ese sistema en el Brasil.

God willing, maybe we can adopt this system in Brazil.

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 is no refill system for sodas at restaurants, bars, fast food places, etc. You pay for each drink and seldom see soda machines where customers fill their own cups.

Grammar Notes

The grammar term "future subjunctive" seems to strike fear in the hearts of language learners. Native speakers of English scream, "No not another subjunctive!" and native speakers of Spanish scream, "Hey, what is this? We don't have this in Spanish so why do they have it in Portuguese?" Truth is, the future subjunctive is super common in every day speech, when you use it is super easy to define, and the forms to create it are super regular. You might say that the future subjunctive is super!

Let's look at two parts: how to create the forms and how to use it. First, let's see how to conjugate the forms. The good news is that there are no exceptions in the whole language. Not one. Every verb follows the rule 100% of the time. Here's the rule:

Take the 3rd person past tense form of any verb (the form that always ends in "ram") and drop the "am". For the 1st person plural form, *we*, add "mos" and for 3rd person plural, *they*, add "em".

For example:

Cantar: **cantaram** (past tense) -> **cantar, cantarmos, cantarem**

Comer: **comeram** (past tense) -> **comer, comermos, comerem**



Abrir: **abriram** (past tense) -> **abrir, abrimos, abrirem**
Dizer: **disseram** (past tense) -> **disser, dissermos, disserem**
Querer: **quiseram** (past tense) -> **quiser, quisermos, quiserem**
Poder: **puderam** (past tense) -> **puder, pudermos, puderem**
Ter: **tiveram** (past tense) -> **tiver, tivermos, tiverem**

No exceptions, it works 100% of the time. Go ahead, try your least favorite verbs, it will work every time: **trouxeram** -> **trouxer**; **puseram** -> **puser**; **vieram** -> **vier**.

Now, how to use it? Begin with this sentence that has the word "if":

Se você **quiser**, eu vou falar com João.
If you want, I will talk with João.

This is the classic future subjunctive sentence because

1. There are two clauses
 - a. se você quiser
 - b. eu vou falar com João
2. The first clause has the word "if"
3. The second clause is in the future (or at least has a future feeling)

Look at the following examples that follow this classic pattern:

Se você **estudar**, vai aprender muito.
Se Marcos **tiver** dinheiro, ele vai comprar o carro.
Se eu **puder**, eu vou comer pizza.

Once you get the classic pattern down, you can then modify the word "if" with other little words that work the same:

Quando você **quiser**, eu vou falar com João.
Logo que você **quiser**, eu vou falar com João.
Assim que você **quiser**, eu vou falar com João.
Depois que você **quiser**, eu vou falar com João.
Enquanto você **quiser**, eu vou falar com João.

Similarly the future subjunctive works in phrases that I call the "Confucius says" phrases. Notice that they are very similar to the classic pattern, you just have to use Confucius words like *he who*, *those that*, etc.:



Os que **quiserem**, vão falar com João.
Aqueles que **quiserem**, vão falar com João.
Quem **quiser**, vai falar com João.

There is a bit more to it, but this will get you started. So, if you want, you will learn it. And when you do, it will be cool. And those who use it, will impress the Brazilians.