

# Portuguese Pronunciation Guide

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## Nasalization

- pronouncing a vowel while blocking airflow to your nose. Imagine how you speak while holding your nose.

## Vowels

â = say uh and move your tongue back in the mouth

a = a as in father, or say uh and move your tongue back in the mouth

á = a as in father

à = a as in father

é = e as in let

e = e as in hey

ê = e as in hey

i = ee as in keep

í = ee as in keep but is stressed

ó = o as in the British pronunciation of door/ also Midwestern thought

ô = o as in oh no

u = oo as in loose

## Consonants

b = same as in English

c = before a, o, u, same as English K, before i, e, same as English S

d = before i, same as English J, elsewhere English D

f = same as in English

g = same as the s in English pleasure before i, e, elsewhere same as English G as in goal

h = silent

j = same as the s in English pleasure

k = same as in English

l = same as or similar to English

m = same as in English

n = same as in English

p = same as in English

q = same as English K, always followed by a silent u

r = similar to English H but stronger, sometimes similar to the English tt in butter  
s = same as in English  
t = English ch before i, elsewhere English T  
v = same as in English  
x = always English sh at the beginning of words, elsewhere varies  
y = same as in English yet  
z = similar to a t and an s being pronounced or the same as in English

## **Digraphs**

ch = English sh  
lh = pronounce a y and an l simultaneously  
nh = Spanish ñ  
em = e but nasalized  
am = a but nasalized

## **Other symbols**

~ = nasalization of the vowel it comes on top of  
ç = s as in sit

## **Stress**

Oxítona – stressed on the last syllable

Paroxítona – stressed on the next to last syllable

Proparoxitona – stressed on the syllable before the paroxítona

Most words will be paroxítona. If they are not, they will usually be marked with an accent ´.

## **How to get good at pronunciation**

The best way to practice your pronunciation is to speak and listen. I highly recommend listening to Brazilian/Portuguese tv shows, podcasts, and music, even if you do not understand what is being said. This will get you used to the sounds of the language.