Mastering Portuguese Pronouns with English Comparisons

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Personal Pronouns and Examples

Let's talk about pronouns in Portuguese

Personal, Possessive, and Reflexive—

these are just labels to help us organize the exercises.

Don't get caught up in the names; they're tools, not rules.

What matters is how they function in real sentences. Vamos a isto?

Pronomes Pessoais – Personal Pronouns

Eu I

Tu (Você)* You

Ele/Ela He/she

Ele/Ela it (There is no it-equivalent term in Portuguese)

Nós We

Vós (Vocês)** You (plural)

Eles / Elas They

- * In Portugal, we use **tu** for friends, but, for strangers or seniority, we may use **você**.
- ** As for **vós** versus **vocês**, vós is more formal, while vocês is like saying "you, guys/girls". So, learn both, **vós** and **vocês**.

Having options is a good thing, right?

Examples

Exemplos, let's see some examples:

Eu vou à padaria comprar pão

- I'm going to the bakery to get bread.

Tu vais à pastelaria comprar pasteis de nata

- You're going to the pastry shop to buy custard cakes.

Aside:

In the old days in Portugal, a *padaria* was for the common bread, and a *pastelaria* was for sweets.

My father owned a pastelaria—he could make *pão de leite*, (sweet bread), but not the rustic loaves sold at the bakery across the street.

It wasn't just law—it was tradition, a kind of culinary etiquette.

Today, things have changed, but the memory remains: bread had its place, and so did sugar.

More examples

Eu e tu vamos ao café

- You and I are going to the café.

Nós vamos passear

– We are going for a walk.

Vós ides embora amanhã?

- Are you leaving tomorrow?

Voçês vão embora amanhã?

- Are you (guys) leaving tomorrow?

Eles estão na praia.

- They are on the beach (at the beach).

Possessive Pronouns & Examples

• Meu / Minha My or mine

O meu carro.

My car. (Car is masculine)

A minha camisa.

My shirt. (Shirt is feminine)

• Teu / Tua Your or Yours

O teu livro.

Your book. (Book is masculine)

A tua casa.

Your house. (House is feminine)

• **Dele / Dela** His, Her or Hers

Este livro é dela.

This book is hers. (Book is feminine)

• **Dele / Dela** Its

O biscoito é dele, do gato!

The biscuit is his, the cat's!

• Nosso / Nossa Our or ours

Esse dinheiro é nosso.

That Money is ours. (Money is masculine)

Essa cadeira é nossa.

That chair is ours. (Chair is feminine)

• Deles/Delas Their/theirs

O carro vermelho é deles. The red car is theirs.

Reflexive Pronouns & Examples

Myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, ourselves, themselves.

me, te, se, or nos

we use reflexive pronouns when the action is something one does to oneself.

Examples:

Como te chamas?

- How do you call yourself? Or, more idiomatic, "What's your name?"

Eu chamo-me Tony.

"My name is Tony"

Ele foi-se embora.

He left (himself)

Nós vamo-nos embora.

We are leaving.

With practice you will get used to it. This is just an introduction.

Don't forget to subscribe to get notified.

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