

# Portuguese Pronunciation Guide 3: Practice and Learn

Tony de Araújo

—tech writer

November/19/25

YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/JQhAXAwGYQA>

## **Timecodes**

[0:00](#) Portuguese Default Syllable Stress

[0:32](#) Practicing Portuguese Syllable Stress with a Poem

[1:34](#) Why "será" is accented, but "assim" is not accented?

[2:01](#) Why Certain Words in Portuguese Don't Need an Accent on The Last Syllable

[4:08](#) Second Practice of Stressed Syllables with a Second Poem.

## Contents

Overview .....	2
Read Augusto Gil's Stanza .....	3
New stress rule for Portuguese paroxytone words.....	4
Bonus practice. Another poem .....	7
Complete poem: Promessa de Reencontro .....	8
English version.....	9
Succinct version .....	10

# Overview

Hello and welcome

Today we are going to take a classic poem by [Augusto Gil](#)

and practice reading a stanza, or **quadra**, while paying attention to stressed syllables.

Remember: by default, (though with a few exceptions)

in Portuguese the penultimate syllable is stressed.

Unless, of course, there's a written accent (or for historical reasons), the word breaks the stress rule, which we will cover as we go along.

## Read Augusto Gil's Stanza

Let's practice syllable-stress.

Please repeat after me:

Batem leve, levemente,  
como quem chama por mim.  
Será chuva? Será gente?  
Gente não é, certamente  
e a chuva não bate assim.

Now, let's repeat again,  
but it with a different rhythm.

- Link to the full Augusto Gil poem:  
<https://www.escritas.org/pt/t/2470/balada-da-neve>
- Wikipedia (Gil Vicente):  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augusto\\_Gil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augusto_Gil)

.

## New stress rule for Portuguese paroxytone words

Notice how Será has an acute accent.

The accent moves the stress to the last syllable.

Rather than sera... is será

But, what about assim?

Shouldn't it be stressed on the first syllable?

Or have an accent on the last? assím

Well,

let's add a new rule to our vocabulary.

As you know from previous video sessions,

most Portuguese words are paroxytones

(stress on the penultimate syllable).

But we also have oxytone words

(stress on the last syllable).

Oxytones without a stress accent usually end in  
-i, -u, -l, -r, -z, or -**im**,  
like we have, in our case, **assim**.

Here are a few more examples of **oxytones**:

**Será**, tam**bém**, al**guém**, jard**im**...

The best way to learn this is by practicing.

Don't memorize, just become aware of it.

Just practice. Keep practicing.

But you're practicing with intention,  
not just out of the blue.

For completeness, though,  
let's also mention **proparoxytones**  
(stress on the antepenultimate syllable).

Usually, a proparoxytone word  
carries a written accent.

Example: ma-te-**má**-ti-ca.

So: become aware of these rules but focus more  
on practice than memorization.

I'll keep preparing exercises to assist you.

As for Augusto Gil's poem,

I'll leave a link in the video description.

And if you'd like to keep learning with me,  
please subscribe to the channel to get notified.

## Bonus practice. Another poem

As a **bonus**, however,

here's another Poem I have created for you:

Há **cantos** que não me **encantam**

Há **sons** que não são **meus**

**Mesmo** **ditos** com **carinho**

Não me **falam** como os **teus**.

If you memorize this and repeat it,  
you will get the swing of the language.

I'll leave a PDF file link of this video  
with the full poem and translation.

Here, however, the goal is to **read**.

Understanding is secondary for this type of exercise.

I'll see you at the next one, my friend

Thank you.

## Complete poem: Promessa de Reencontro

### *Promessa de Reencontro*

Há Cantos que não me cantam,

Há sons que não são meus,

Mesmo ditos com carinho,

Não me falam como os teus.

Há palavras bem-ditas,

Mas sem alma nem calor. (calôr – historic exception)

Só as tuas são escritas

Com a tinta do amor. (amôr – historic exception)

E se um dia o silêncio

Nos faltar por entre os céus,

Que a tua voz me encontre

Onde os versos são só teus.

Tony de Araújo

2025

See translation on the next page.



## English version

### Promise of Reunion

There are songs that never sing to me,  
There are sounds that are not mine.  
Even spoken with tenderness,  
They don't echo like yours in time.

There are words that shine with polish,  
But lack the soul, the fire, the glow.  
Only yours are written truly,  
With the ink that love bestows.

And if one day the silence  
Should vanish from the skies above,  
May your voice still find me waiting  
In the verses born of love.

Tony de Araújo

2025

## Succinct version

### Promise of Reunion

Some songs don't reach me,  
Some words don't stay.  
Only yours carry warmth,  
Only yours find their way.

And if silence fades,  
Let your voice return—  
Where love writes the verses  
That only you can burn.

Tony de Araújo