

Differences between Portuguese and English

1. **Auxiliary Verbs.** English uses auxiliary verbs, but Portuguese doesn't. They are used principally for negative phrases and questions.

- a) Negatives – don't / doesn't / didn't / won't / hasn't / haven't
- b) Questions – do / does / did / will / has / have

2. **Gendered Nouns.** Portuguese has gendered nouns, but English doesn't.

- a) PT: people, animals, objects – ele / ela
- b) ENG: people – he/she, objects, animals, weather – it

3. **Adjectives.**

a) In English, adjectives are before nouns, but in Portuguese, after.

ENG: I have a **black car**. PT: Eu tenho um **carro preto**.

b) In English, adjectives are never plural, but in Portuguese, they are.

ENG: I have two **black cars**. PT: Eu tenho dois **carros pretos**.

c) When we use two or more adjectives, their order is important, but in Portuguese, not.

ENG: I have an old, red, Persian carpet. (this order is important)

4. **The verb “to be” – ser & estar**

Portuguese separates permanent and temporary states by using two verbs – “ser” and “estar”. English doesn't have this facility, it uses different structures, which can be confusing for non-natives. For example:

Temporary

He is drunk. (*Ele está bêbado.*)

She is pretty. (*Ela está bonita.*)

How is he? (*Como ele está?*)

Permanent

He is a drunk. (*Ele é bêbado.*)

She is a pretty girl. (*Ela é bonita.*)

What is he like? (*Como ele é?*)

Video (ser vs estar): <https://english.insl.com.br/files/videos/Ser-estar.mp4> (1 min)

5. **Subject.** In Portuguese, it is not necessary to state the subject of the verb, since the verb conjugation shows what the subject is – it is implicit. However, in English, because verb conjugation is very simple, we need to explicitly state the subject of every verb.

- a) PT: **Temos** um gato. b) PT: **Está** chovendo.
- ENG: **We have** a cat. ENG: **It is** raining.

6. **Word Order in Questions.** English changes the word order, but Portuguese doesn't.

- a) ENG: Affirmation: SVO, Question: VSO / V^aSVO
- b) PT: No change (only intonation)

7. Pronunciation.

- a) PT: It is a well-defined, phonetic language.
ENG: It is not a phonetic language, making pronunciation difficult.
- b) PT: accents to assist
ENG: no accents, but has silent 'e'
- c) PT: stress on last three syllables, ENG: stress on last five syllables

	<u>Portuguese</u>	<u>English</u>
Oxytone:	xod <u>ó</u>	in <u>cor</u> rect
Paroxytone:	cab <u>e</u> lo	politici <u>a</u> n
Proparoxytone:	ir <u>ô</u> nico	cinema
Pro-paroxytone:	-----	<u>ph</u> ysically
Pro-pro-paroxytone:	-----	<u>f</u> avoritism

8. Uncountable Nouns. English has many more uncountable nouns than Portuguese:

For example:

software, hardware, equipment, furniture, information, baggage(USA) / luggage(UK), bread, work, homework, housework, music, medicine, research, advice

These words can never be plural. They must be used with: **some, a little, much, a lot of, etc.**

9. Idiosyncrasies.

- a) PT: Ask self a question and reply to self.
PT: "Por que a empresa está com problemas? Porque"
ENG: "The company has some problems because"
- b) PT: Repeating an adjective many times for emphasis.
PT: "A casa dela é linda, linda, linda!"
ENG: "Her house is absolutely beautiful!" (*last two words very slowly*)
PT: "Ele ficou com tanta, tanta, tanta raiva!"
ENG: "He was extremely angry!" (*last two words very slowly*)
- c) When asking a negative question, Portuguese often adds "não" at the end of the question, but English doesn't.
PT: Você não quer sair comigo, não?
ENG: Don't you want to go out with me?
- d) Diminutives: The suffix "-inho(a)" is frequently used in Portuguese, and the word often has a different meaning from the original word. For example "devagarinho" is a little different from "devagar". English doesn't have anything similar.

10. Verb Conjugation.

a) PT: 3 types (-AR, -ER, -IR) and conjugation is well-defined.

ENG: Regular verbs – conjugation is well-defined.

Irregular verbs – have different conjugations. Some patterns exist, but there are many exceptions.

b) PT: There are often more than 50 possible conjugations for a verb.

ENG: There are only 5 or 6 conjugations for each verb.

11. **Correction with emphasis.** For correction or emphasis, Portuguese uses the word “sim”, while English uses an auxiliary verb.

a) PT: A: Você não gosta de pizza. Certo?

B: Gosto, **sim!**

ENG: A: You don't like pizza. Right?

B: I **do** like it!

b) PT: A: Você não foi ontem. Certo?

B: Fui, **sim!**

ENG: A: You didn't go yesterday. Right?

B: I **did** go!

c) PT: Eu não gosto de jazz, mas gosto **sim** de blues!

ENG: I don't like jazz music, but I **do** like blues!

12. Hand gestures

Each culture uses different gestures, which other cultures often do not understand.

Compare some Brazilian gestures with some British ones:

Brazilian: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=koucfUIPUBg> (4 mins)

British: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBfbEZq4gH4> (9 mins)

An example when a hand gesture is misunderstood:

Mr Bean: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JwBaLrgzUY> (1 min)