

## Words which are missing from the English Language

There are some words in Portuguese that seem to be “missing” from the English language. Here are some examples:

### 1. “ser” & “estar”

In English, the verb “to be” is used in all contexts of “existence”, but it lacks the verbs to differentiate between temporary and permanent contexts.

#### Temporary (estar)

I **am** at work.

She **is** tired.

We **are** hungry.

He **is** drunk.

She **is** pretty.

#### Permanent (ser)

I **am** a teacher.

She **is** married.

We **are** Brazilian.

He **is** a drunk.

She **is** a pretty girl.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ba3SrQbmWXw&t=510s> (08:30 – 09:50)

To ask about somebody’s well-being (temporary context), we say:

“**How are** you?” (“Como **está** você?”)

“**How is** John?” (“Como **está** o João?”)

But to ask about a place or situation (permanent context), we say:

“**What is** Chicago **like**?” (“Como **é** Chicago?”)

“**What is** your job **like**?” (“Como **é** o seu trabalho?”)

### 2. “saber” & “conhecer”

The English language uses the verb “to know” to cover all forms of knowledge, but it doesn’t have two verbs to differentiate between “know something” and “know somebody”. To help differentiate the two contexts in English, we use the verb “to know” as an intransitive verb (needs no object) for knowledge about things, or as a transitive verb (needs **an object**) for knowledge about people.

#### Intransitive (= saber)

I **know**.

Do you **know**?

Did you **know**?

I didn’t **know**.

Do you **know** how to speak English?

Did you **know** that Beethoven was deaf?

#### Transitive (= conhecer) (object shown in red)

I **know** **him**.

Do you **know** **him**?

Did you **know** **him**?

I didn’t **know** **him**.

Do you **know** **English grammar**?

Do you **know** **Beethoven’s 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony**?

### 3. “você” & “vocês”

Old English had words for these – “thou” (singular) and “ye” (plural), but Modern English lacks the plural version of “you”. When we want to say “you” (plural) we have to make use of the context, use body language or use extra words. For example:

- you all (USA: y’all)
- all of you
- you lot
- you both (two people)
- you folks / you boys / you girls
- you guys (USA)
- youse (New Zealand)



How to say “vocês”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cxily75GV2I> (3 mins)

#### 4. Other useful words

Portuguese has a lot of words which would be very useful in English. For example:

<b>eles &amp; elas</b>	=	them (M) / them (F)
<b>amigo &amp; amiga</b>	=	friend (M) / friend (F)
<b>gabaritar</b>	=	to get all the questions correct in a test
<b>passar</b>	=	to take a walk or a drive, just for fun
<b>prestar</b>	=	to be any good / to be of any value
<b>rodízio</b>	=	a meal where you eat as much as you want for a fixed price
<b>saudades</b>	=	the sad feeling you have when you miss somebody or something