

English Tongue Twisters

In English, the words “tongue-twister” literally translate to “torcedor de língua”. In Portuguese, the words “trava-língua” translate to “tongue-lock”. Both have a similar idea – your tongue can have difficulty in pronouncing the words!

Exercise 1. Read these tongue twisters without twisting your tongue!

1. Sally sold seashells by the seashore.
2. If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose?
3. Lesser leather never weathered wetter weather better.
4. If two witches watch two watches, which witch watches which watch?
5. The great Greek grape growers grow great Greek grapes.
6. On a lazy laser raiser lies a laser ray eraser.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1mwreTOJq0> (4 mins)

Exercise 2. These sentences contain sounds which can be challenging for Brazilians (‘r’, ‘th’, ‘y’ and ‘w’). Practice saying them.

1. The head rabbit had a Red Label habit.
2. He threw three free throws.
3. Where were you when your yellow yo-yo went wild?
4. Around the rugged rocks the ragged rascal ran.

Exercise 3. Repeat these short phrases many times, quickly!

1. Irish wristwatch.
2. Sushi session.
3. Red leather, yellow leather.
4. Kitchen, chicken, chicane, key-chain

Exercise 4. Read these verses which have many repeated or rhyming words.

1. Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
A peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked.
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
Where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?

2. To sit in solemn silence in a dull, dark dock
In a pestilential prison with a lifelong lock
Awaiting the sensation of a short sharp shock
From a cheap and chippy chopper on a big, black block.

3. A tutor who tooted the flute tried to teach two young tooters to toot.
Said the two to the tutor: “Is it harder to toot or to teach two young tooters to toot?”

4. How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?
It would chuck all the wood that a woodchuck could if a woodchuck could chuck wood.
(a “woodchuck” is a “ground-hog” – see image above)(PT: *marmota* ou *tuco-tuco*)



5. What a to-do to die today at a minute or two to two!
A thing distinctly hard to say, but a harder thing to do.
For they'll beat a tattoo at two today, a ratatatat tattoo.
And the dragon will come when it hears the drum
At a minute or two to two today, at a minute or two today!

Here are some Portuguese “trava-línguas”:

1. O rato roeu a roupa real do rei de Roma.
A Rainha Rita raivosa rasgou o resto.
2. O rato roeu a rolha da garrafa do rei da Rússia.
3. Em um ninho de mafagafos haviam sete mafagafinhos;
quem amafagafar mais mafagafinhos, bom amagafanhador será.
4. A Xuxa acha a Sasha chata e a Sacha acha a Xuxa chata!
5. O chará chora. Em Araxá o chará achará chá.
6. Não confunda Ornitorrinco com Otorrinolaringologista,
Ornitorrinco com Ornitologista,
Ornitologista com Otorrinolaringologista.
Porque Ornitorrinco é Ornitorrinco,
Ornitologista é Ornitologista
e Otorrinolaringologista é Otorrinolaringologista.



Ornitorrinco	=	Platypus
Ornitologista	=	Ornithologist
Otorrinolaringologista	=	Otolaryngologist or ENT doctor