

Vocabulary – Unique Words

Most languages have words that do not exist in other languages. Here are some examples:

Word	Language	Meaning
Samar	Arabic	Stay up all night and have a good time with friends.
Glaswen	Welsh	A smile that is not genuine. A sarcastic smile.
Meraki	Greek	Do something with your whole heart, lovingly and creatively.
Pisanzapra	Malay	The time you need to eat a banana.
Fika	Swedish	Drink coffee and eat pastries with friends for many hours.
Komorebi	Japanese	The sunlight that filters through the leaves of the trees, creating a beautiful image.
Kummerspeck	German	The excess weight you gain from emotional overeating.
Boketto	Japanese	Look vacantly into the distance without thinking about anything.
Trepverter	Yiddish	A funny response that you think about only when it is too late to use.
Struisvogelpolitiek	Dutch	Pretend that you don't notice something bad and you continue as normal.
Nunchi	Korean	The art of assessing another person's mood.
Ohrwurm	German	When you can't get a song or tune out of your head.
Ubuntu	Bantu	The belief in universal sharing that benefits all humanity

Ten unique German words: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUVtkWfzWCs> (20 mins)

More unique words: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs7HnNPgQR0> (7 mins)

Here are some Portuguese words which don't have a one-word translation to English:

- **acidental-se** to have an accident
- **afinal** in the end / after all / at the end of the day
- **almoçar** to have lunch
- **acertar** to get right
- **acertos** things which I got right
- **afastar** to move away / to push away
- **aliás** by the way
- **aniversariante** person whose birthday it is, birthday person/boy/girl
- **anteontem** the day before yesterday
- **antigamente** in the old days, a long time ago
- **apanhar** to be beaten / to take a beating / to get beaten up
- **apostila** work book, course book, study book
- **aprontar** to get ready / to get up to mischief / to be up to mischief
- **aproveitar (de alguém)** to take advantage (of somebody)
- **aproximar** to get close to (something / somebody)
- **arvorismo** tree climbing
- **atrasar** to be late

- **brigadeiro** candy made from condensed milk and chocolate
- **borracharia** tyre repair shop
- **cafuné** passing your fingers through somebody's hair
- **carteirada** one who seeks advantage or privilege due to their position
- **comadre** a child's mother's relationship with his/her godparents
- **compadre** a child's father's relationship with his/her godparents
- **concunhado(a)** brother/sister-in-law of your spouse
- **consogro(a)** relationship between the two sets of parents of a married couple
- **conterrâneo** fellow countryman
- **conviver** to live together
- **cunhado(a)** brother-in-law / sister-in-law
- **sogro(a)** father-in-law / mother-in-law
- **demorar** to take a long time
- **desabafar** to let off steam
- **despedir** to say goodbye
- **dialogar** to make a dialogue
- **disponibilizar** to make (something) available
- **divertir-se** to have fun / to have a good time
- **emagrecer** to lose weight
- **encrencar** to get into trouble
- **engordar** to gain weight
- **enrolar** to put (something) off
- **esforçar** to make an effort
- **estranhar** to find (something) strange
- **estrelismo** prima donna-ish behaviour
- **facilitar** to make (something) easier
- **flagrar** to catch (someone) in the act / to catch (someone) red-handed
- **gabaritar** to get all the questions correct (in a test)
- **jantar** to have dinner
- **leito (*ônibus*)** a reclining seat on a bus for overnight journeys
- **madrugar** to stay up late / to get up early
- **marmita/ex** lunch box
- **mensalidade** monthly payment
- **passar** to take a walk / to take a drive
- **pernoitar** to spend the night
- **presentear** to give (something) as a present
- **prestar** to be any good
- **responsabilizar** to hold accountable
- **rodízio** meal where you eat as much as you want ("All you can eat")
- **saudades** a sad feeling of missing somebody
- **sobrado** terraced house with two floors
- **soltar** to become loose
- **suicidar** to commit suicide
- **tomara** Let's hope that
- **valorizar** to gain value (desvalorizar = to lose value)
- **ventar** to be windy
- **vestibular** university entrance exam
- **vocês** you (plural) (Australia/NZ: "youse", USA: y'all)

Video: <https://english.insl.com.br/files/videos/Voces.mp4> (1 min)

Here are some English words which don't have a one-word translation to Portuguese:

- **aloud** em voz alta
- **to befriend** fazer amizade com
- **burglar** ladrão de casa
- **coroner** investigador de mortes violentas
- **crux** ponto crucial
- **to cram** rachar de estudar / estudar intensivamente
- **to defect** passar para o outro lado (de um país comunista para um outro país)
- **doorway** o buraco na parede onde você colocou uma porta
- **to endanger** pôr em perigo
- **to father** ser o pai de
- **to floss** passar fio dental
- **to gaze/stare** olhar fixamente
- **gobbledygook** linguagem incompreensível
- **to halve** partir ao meio
- **homesick** com saudades de casa
- **to hop** pular num pé só
- **hourly** de hora em hora
- **to jaywalk** travessar a rua com imprudência (jaywalker = pedestre imprudente)
- **jingle** a short tune or song used in advertising
- **knighthood** título da classe dos cavaleiros
- **leeway** liberdade de ação (carta branca)
- **lest** para (que) não
- **to lighten** aliviar o peso
- **meaninglessness** falta de sentido
- **to mistime** calcular mal o tempo de
- **to mother** ser a mãe de
- **to nod** concordar com a cabeça
- **nowadays** hoje em dia
- **once, twice** uma vez, duas vezes
- **ordeal** experiência traumática
- **to outwit** mais ficar mais esperto que
- **overconfident** confiante em excesso
- **overgrown** coberto de mato
- **painlessly** de forma indolor
- **to panic** entrar em pânico
- **roadworthy** em condições de trafegar/rodar
- **serendipity** a ocorrência de um evento por acaso, de uma maneira feliz ou benéfica
- **shrug** dar de ombros
- **sophomore** estudante do segundo ano de faculdade (freshman = calouro)
- **to starve** morrer de fome / matar de fome
- **summit** reunião de cúpula
- **to tend** ter a tendência
- **tenfold** dez vezes maior
- **toes** dedos do pé
- **variously** de várias maneiras
- **wearable** que se pode usar/vestir
- **weightlessness** ausência de peso
- **worthwhile** vale a pena