

Vocabulary: "Combinar"

The verb "combinar" in Portuguese has several translations in English, depending on the context. Consequently, it is difficult to translate the word alone, so we must consider each phrase in context. Here are some examples:

1) to agree/arrange/plan/schedule/set up (an arrangement between people)

- Eu **combinei com** o Pedro uma reunião às 18h.
I've **agreed** a meeting with Pedro at 6pm.
I've **arranged** a meeting with Pedro at 6pm.
I've **planned** a meeting with Pedro at 6pm.
I've **scheduled** a meeting with Pedro at 6pm.
I've **set up** a meeting with Pedro at 6pm.
- Vamos **combinar** ?
Let's **agree** something ?
Let's **arrange** something ?
Let's **plan** something ?
Let's **schedule** something ?
Let's **set up** something ? / Let's **set** something **up** ?
- Você **combinou** algo **com** o Pedro ?
Have you **agreed** something with Pedro ?
Have you **arranged** something with Pedro ?
Have you **planned** something with Pedro ?
Have you **scheduled** something with Pedro ?
Have you **set up** something with Pedro ? / Have you **set** something **up** with Pedro ?
- **Combinado!**
Deal. / It's a **deal.** / **Agreed.**
- Estamos **combinados** ?
Deal? / Is it a **deal?** / Do we have a **deal?** / Is that **OK?** / Are we **agreed?**

Example conversation:

A: Hi Tom. We need to talk about the new project.
B: Of course.
A: Let's **arrange** something for next week. When can we meet?
B: How about Tuesday morning?
A: Excellent. Is 10am OK?
B: Perfect.
A: OK. See you next Tuesday at 10.
B: **Deal!**

2) to suit somebody (well) (personal objects with people)

- O seu carro **combina bem com** você.
Your car **suits** you **well**.
- Seu trabalho **combina com** você.
Your job **suits** you.
- Roupas formais sempre **combinam bem com** meu pai.
Formal clothes always **suit** my father **well**.

- Você e sua esposa **combinam** muito **bem**.
You and your wife **suit** each other very **well**.
- Your shirt **suits** you.
- Your shoes **suit** you.
- Your glasses **don't suit** you.
- Your tie **doesn't suit** you.



3) **to go with/to match/to go together** (well) (clothes, colours)

- Os seus sapatos **combinam bem com** sua blusa.
Your shoes **match** your blouse.
Your shoes and your blouse **match**.
- Você acha que minha camisa e minha gravata **combinam bem** ?
Do you think that my shirt and my tie **go together well** ?
- Você acha que minha camisa **combina bem** com minha gravata ?
Do you think that my shirt **matches** my tie ?
- Your shirt **doesn't go with** your tie.
- Chips **go well with** beer.
- You have a **match!** Her name is Jane. (*dating app*)

Note: The verb “to combine” is only used when we “mix” things together, for example food ingredients.

Exercise 1. Complete the following sentences:

1. Can you please _____ a meeting with our biggest client?
2. My boss always _____ a business lunch on Mondays.
3. My wife and her dog _____ each other well!
4. Darling, do you think that this dress _____ these shoes?
5. I would like another English class tomorrow. Can we _____ something?

Exercise 2. Complete the following conversation:

- A: We need to talk about the new client.
 B: Sure.
 A: Can we _____ something for tomorrow?
 B: I prefer Wednesday.
 A: No problem. How about 2pm?
 B: That's fine.
 A: _____ !
 B: _____ !