

Vocabulary - "pisar"

The Portuguese verb "pisar" can be translated to "to step", "to tread" or "to walk", depending on the context.

1) to step (step / stepped / stepped)

- I stepped in the mud and my foot got stuck.
- Be careful - don't step on the broken glass.
- I accidentally stepped on a spider.
- This is the first time that I have stepped on a plane in 20 years.
- Don't step on my toes. (*abstract meaning*)
- "Please step into my parlour" said the spider to the fly.

2) to tread (tread / trod / trod)

- I accidentally trod in some dog poo.
- I accidentally trod on a spider.
- Fools go where angels fear to tread. (*abstract meaning / a saying*)
- You must tread carefully around Peter. He is extremely sensitive. (*abstract meaning*)
- Expression: "tread grapes" – use your feet to crush grapes

Note: The verbs "step" and "tread" are nearly synonymous, but the verb "tread" is used more frequently in problematic situations.

3) to walk (walk / walked / walked)

- Please don't walk on the grass.
- She's walking on cloud 9. (*abstract meaning*)
- Talking to Mary is like walking on eggshells. (*abstract meaning*)

The Portuguese verb "pisotear" means "to trample" in English. For example:

- The elephants trampled the tea plantation.
- The crowd trampled some kids during the confusion.

Expressions:

- pisar na bola/pisar na jaca = to screw up
- pisar no freio = to step on the brake / to slow down

Exercise. Select an appropriate verb for the following sentences, conjugating as necessary:

1. Please don't _____ on the kitchen floor, it's still wet.
2. My glasses are broken - I accidentally _____ on them yesterday.
3. The masseuse always _____ on my back - it sounds extreme, but I always feel marvellous afterwards.
4. I accidentally _____ on the cat's tail yesterday and he bit my leg!
5. As soon as I _____ through the doorway, the alarm sounded!
6. The girls who _____ the grapes always have purple feet!