



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access by clicking <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?p=01>.

Lesson #1: Pronunciation of /i/ Getting the Check at a Restaurant

Dialog

- Valdo:** **Que bife gostoso. Acho que vou pedir mais.**
Qué biftec sabroso. Creo que voy a pedir más.
What a tasty steak. I think I'll ask for more.
- Michelle:** **Mas ele já trouxe a conta. E agora?**
Pero él ya trajo la cuenta. ¿Y ahora?
But he already brought the check. Now what?
- Valdo:** **Eh, você me disse que aqui era assim. Acho isso uma falta de educação.**
Me dijiste que aquí era así. Creo que esto es una falta de educación.
Yea, you told me that this is what they do here. I think that it's really rude.
- Michelle:** **É o sistema deles, né? Mas se você continua com fome, pede.**
Es el sistema de ellos, ¿verdad? Pero si tú sigues con hambre, pída-lo.
That's the way they do things here, right? But if you're still hungry, go ahead and ask.
- Valdo:** **Ah, vou pedir um monte então.**
Ah, voy a pedir un montón, entonces.
OK, I'm going to ask for a whole bunch then.
- Michelle:** **É isso aí.**
Eso es.
You go for it.



Cultural Notes

Besides the lessons in pronunciation, all of the dialogs key on some cultural issue that Valdo and Michelle have noticed as Brazilians living in the United States.

In many restaurants in the US the waiter tries to leave the check on the table, as a courtesy, so that the customer can leave when ready. In Brazil waiters bring the check only when the customer asks for it, otherwise it would seem that the waiter is rushing the customers and telling them to leave.

Pronunciation Notes

This dialog focuses on the sound /i/. This sound is similar to what is heard in English in words such as "heed, heat, bead, beat".

Excluding diphthongs and nasalization, this sound is found in two main locations:

- Any word written with the vowel "i": isso, sistema, disse
- Any word written with a final "e": fome, bife, trouxe

The challenge for learners who speak English is to avoid pronouncing "i" as one would in the words "hid, hit, bid, bit". Compare for example the English "visit" with the Portuguese "visita".

The challenge for learners who speak Spanish is to avoid pronouncing the word-final "e" as one would in Spanish "bebe, dice, come". Compare for example the Spanish "vive" with the Portuguese "vive".