



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access by going to <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?p=08>.

Lesson #8: Pronunciation of Nasal Diphthongs Buying Fruits and Vegetables at the Supermarket

Dialog

Valdo: **Em que seção estão as frutas e verduras?**

¿En que sección están las frutas y verduras?

What section do you find the fruits and vegetables in?

Michelle: **Bem atrás daquele balcão.**

Están bien detrás del balcón.

Back behind that counter over there.

Valdo: **Então põe aqui no carrinho uns pães, uns melões, e um montão de limão.**

Entonces, pon aquí en el carrito unos panes, unos melones, y una gran cantidad de limones.

OK, put here in my cart some bread, mellons, and a whole bunch of lemons.

Michelle: **Tem muita gente na fila. Vamos logo pro caixa.**

Hay mucha gente en la fila, vamos luego a la caja.

There are a lot of people in line. Let's head to the check out.

Valdo: **Mas tem uma condição. Aqui quem pesa são os clientes.**

Mas hay una condición. Aquí quienes pesan son los clientes.

But there is one more thing. Here it's the customers who have to weigh things.

Michelle: **Ah, então me dá uma mão aqui senão as nossas mães vão nos matar!**

Ah, entonces dame una manita aquí sino nuestras madres nos van a matar.



OK, give me a hand here or else our mom's will kill us!

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 Brazilian supermarkets there is always a person there who weighs the fruits and vegetables. In the United States it is generally the customers who have to weigh their purchases in the produce section. To our Brazilian friends, don't worry. If you don't weigh your fruit beforehand, the cashier can usually do it at the check out. To our non-Brazilian friends, get ready for some additional lines that you'll need to wait in at the supermarket.

Pronunciation Notes

In the previous lesson we looked at nasalized vowels, here we look at nasal diphthongs. These can be a little trickier. There are 5 nasalized diphthongs:

1. "ão" [ɐw̃], as in words like "são, pão, canção." This sound is fairly similar to the way that English speakers pronounce the second part of the word "sound" or "pound." (Although I'm sure that linguists and language experts cringe when they hear this!) A common error is to not give these words enough nasalization, pronouncing "pão" more like "pow". This nasal diphthong is also heard in Portuguese words that end in "am", as in "falam, cantam, digam."
2. "ãe" [ɛ̃j], as in words like "mãe, pães, alemães." Think of repeating the English word "my, my, my, my" but give it a strong nasal quality.
3. "õe" [õj], as in words like "põe, canções". This sound is similar to what is said in the English word "coins." This nasal diphthong is also heard among many speakers from Rio de Janeiro in words like "bons, sons" which are pronounced [bõjs], [sõjs].
4. "em" [ẽj], as in the word "bem, porém, também." This one is a little trickier because it looks like it should be just a nasal vowel and not a nasal diphthong. However, most Brazilians will pronounce these words with a strong diphthong. Words like "sempre", especially from speakers from São Paulo, actually sound more like "sejempre". Their nasal diphthong is especially strong.
5. "mui" [ũj], as in "muito." "Muito" is pronounced with a lot of nasalization in Portuguese and so we include it here as one of the nasal diphthongs.