



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access by going to <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?p=15>.

## **Lesson #14 and #15: Pronunciation of "r" sounds Good Tippers**

**Note: This lesson is repeated to hear different regional dialects.**

### **Dialog**

**Michelle:** Essa carne e esse arroz de forno estão de matar!

Esa carne y ese arroz al horno están de rechupete.

This meat and this oven-baked rice are to die for.

**Valdo:** Concordo. Que pena que é tão caro! Estou tão duro que não dá nem pra te chamar pra beber uma cerveja.

De acuerdo. Que pena que sea tan caro. Estoy sin dinero y no tengo ni lo suficiente para invitarte a beber una cerveza.

I agree. Too bad it is so expensive. I'm so broke I can't even call you up to go have a beer.

**Michelle:** E o pior é que ainda tem a gorjeta do garçom.

Y lo peor es que todavía hace falta la propina para el mesero.

Even worse, we still have the tip for the waiter.

**Valdo:** Aqui se dá gorjeta pra tudo. No Brasil, os dez por cento já vem embutido na conta e só nos restaurantes.

Aquí se da propina para todo. En Brasil el diez por ciento ya está incluído en la cuenta, y eso sólo en los restaurantes.

You've got to tip for everything here. In Brazil ten percent is already included in the bill, at only at restaurants.

**Michelle:** Eh, mas vamos esquecer isso, vamos dividir a conta de qualquer jeito.

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Sí, pero olvidemos todo eso, vamos a dividir la cuenta de toda manera.

Don't worry about it... let's split the check anyway.

**Valdo:** **Perfeito. Então vamos fechar nosso jantar com chave de ouro.**

**Garçom, quatro cervejas por favor!**

Perfecto. Entonces vamos a cerrar esta comida con broche de oro. Señor, cuatro cervezas por favor!

Perfect. So, let's finish off this meal in style. Waiter, four beers please!

## 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.

Americans, despite possible flaws in other areas, are actually known as good tippers. It can be extremely uncomfortable and confusing when tipping customs are different in other countries or in other cultures. From restaurants to taxi drivers, from porters, valets to hair stylists, it's just hard to know who may expect (or even require) a gratuity. Valdo and Michelle see things from the perspective of a country that tips less. And now they find themselves in a culture that tips more. It is true that in Brazil people are not accustomed to giving tips for a number of services where tips are the norm in the U.S. For example, it wouldn't be normal to give a tip to a taxi driver or to a hair stylist. In restaurants, tips are normally included in the check and they represent about 10% of the bill. Our advice is to check the bill to see if the tip has already been included. If so, there is no need to add an additional tip, unless of course, you want to keep alive the positive image of great American tippers.

## Pronunciation Notes

First of all, if you are a native speaker of Spanish, we all envy your ability to "roll your r". What a great feature of Spanish: "rápido corren los carros"! Non-native speakers of Spanish like to divide themselves into one of two camps: those that can and cannot roll their "r". If we were to give the rules to the pronunciation of "r" in Spanish, we would simply say that a double "rr" and an "r" at the beginning of a word have the trilled sound. Everywhere else it will be a simple tap. The caution for English speakers is to avoid rolling your tongue back and not make that "rrrr" sound that imitates car engines.

Things in Portuguese are similar, but a bit more complex. Not only that, the way that a Brazilian pronounces his or her "r" sounds tells a lot about regional and social

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differences. It is amazing to hear how different the various "r" sounds can be from one speaker to another in Brazil. (Not unlike British, East Coast, Midwest, and Southern varieties in English). Let's break down the "r" pronunciations to a few basic rules.

- Rule #1: A double "rr" and a word initial "r" sound something similar to an English [h], e.g., roupa, rato, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, carro, arroz, socorro. For native speakers of Spanish, this "h"-like sound is similar to the Spanish sound in words that are spelled with a "j". Consider, for example, the Spanish word for ham, "jamón". If your name in Spanish is "Ramón" it will sound like Brazilians are calling you "jamón". At the same time, in some regions of Brazil, the double "rr" and the initial "r" are trilled, just like in Spanish.
- Rule #2: A single "r" at the beginning of a syllable will sound just like the Spanish tap, e.g., cara, Sara, para, branco, preto.
- Rule #3: Whenever an "r" is found at the end of the syllable, Brazilians have a wide range of possibilities that go from the single tap to a sound that is equal to the double "rr". Again these varieties change from one region to another, e.g., carne, forno, gorjeta, cerveja, cantar, beber, matar, partir. As a general rule, the "r" at the end of a syllable may be very weak and disappear all together. This is especially true if the word is the infinitive form of a verb.

These are the three basic rules and you should use them as your starting point. From there, the differences are mainly related to dialects, regions, and social factors. For native speakers of English, the challenge is to avoid the American "r". Don't curl your tongue to the back of your mouth. For native speakers of Spanish, the challenge is to pronounce the double "rr" as [h] and not as a trill.

In these lessons we hear a variety of dialects. Michelle is from the interior of São Paulo and her syllable-final "r" sounds are almost like an American "r". However her double "rr" is usually pronounced [h]. Valdo is from Bahia and his syllable-final "r" sounds are pronounced [h] and often they are extremely reduced and disappear. Vivian is from Rio and she has a strong "h"-like sound to her syllable-final "r" and her double "rr". If you were to go back and listen to the lesson with Alfredo, who is from Pernambuco, his syllable-final "r" sounds a lot like Valdo's, but his double "rr" is more trilled (like in Spanish). The point is, listen to speakers from Brazil and one of the characteristic features of their dialect will be the way that they pronounced "r".