



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access by going to <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?p=16>.

Lesson #16: Pronunciation of "b", "d", and "g" Adding Tax to Purchased Items

Dialog

Michelle: Preciso comprar algumas coisas lá pra casa. Tudo o que eu comprei na semana passada já acabou.

Necesito comprar algunas cosas para la casa. Todo lo que compré la semana pasada se acabó.

I need to buy some things for the house. Everything I bought last week is gone.

Valdo: Você não tem mais nada? Eu não agüento mais toda semana ter que te levar cada vez para um lugar diferente.

No tienes nada más? No aguanto más, cada semana tengo que llevarte siempre a un lugar diferente.

You don't have anymore? I can't stand having to take you to different places every week.

Michelle: Deixa de bobagem e me ajuda antes que minha comida e minha água acabem!

Déjate de bobadas y ayúdame antes que la comida y el agua se nos acaben. Stop being silly and help me before my food and water run out.

Valdo: Tudo bem. Eu também preciso comprar umas goiabas e um abacate.

Todo bien. Yo también necesito comprar unas guayabas y un aguacate.

That's OK. I also need to buy some guavas and an avocado.



Michelle: Nossa, mas essa loja está lotada! Vamos logo pegar uma escova de cabelo pra bebê. Não posso abusar porque eu trouxe o dinheiro contado.

Ay, esta tienda está llena. Vamos a comprar luego un cepillo para el cabello del bebé. Hay que tener cuidado porque traje solo efectivo.

Wow, this store's got everything. Let's go get a brush for the baby. Let's not go overboard because I just brought cash.

Valdo: Não abuse mesmo, pois você sabe que aqui os preços não vêm com as taxas embutidas!

Con cuidado, pues tú sabes que aquí los precios no traen el impuesto incluido.

Yes, do be careful because you know that here that prices don't include the additional taxes.

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 are accustomed to the idea that a 6% - 8% tax will be added to the price of most items, even if that idea is subconscious. In Brazil, however, taxes are included in the prices of products. What you see on the price tag is what you pay. When Americans purchase items in Brazil, it's a pleasant surprise to not have to add tax. On the other hand, clearly Michelle and Valdo are still adjusting to the tax that is added to their purchases.

Pronunciation Notes

A lesson on the Brazilian pronunciation of "b" "d" and "g" is no big deal for native speakers of English. All one needs to say is that they sound almost identical to their English counterparts. In Spanish, however, "b" "d" and "g" are usually pronounced as fricatives. That is to say, they have a continual soft flow of air instead of the burst of air that is heard in English. When a native speaker of Spanish says the word "nada" (nothing), to an American's ear, the "d" sounds more like a "th". Similarly the "g" in "agua" is so soft that it almost disappears, resulting in ['awa]. The "b" is also that way in Spanish, as in "abusar". This is one of the most characteristic features of Spanish. This



is a characteristic of Spanish that just doesn't apply to Portuguese. A Brazilian will say "abusar", "nada", and "agua" with a clear strong "b" "d" and "g". It may sound like bad Spanish, but it is great Portuguese. This, by the way, is true for all dialects and regions of Brazilian Portuguese.