



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access by going to <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?p=17>.

Lesson #17: Pronunciation of "j", "ge", and "gi" Wearing that tiny bikini

Dialog

Michelle: **Gente! Veja aquele cara com aquela sunga laranja gigantesca e aquela mulher com aquele biquini bege enorme!**

Mira, ve aquel hombre con el traje de baño anaranjado gigante y aquella mujer en el bikini beige enorme.

Oh my! Look at that guy with the gigantic orange swimsuit and that woman with the enormous beige bikini!

Valdo: **Aquilo não é sunga de jeito nenhum. Imagina... aquilo lá é uma bermuda.**

Aquello no es un traje de baño para nada. Imagínate, eso es una bermuda.

That's not a swimsuit, no way. Really... that thing there is Bermuda shorts.

Michelle: **Você já reparou que aqui geralmente o tamanho das roupas é bem maior que lá no Brasil?**

¿Ya ves que aquí generalmente el tamaño de la ropa es mucho más grande que en Brasil?

Have you noticed that here generally the size of clothes is a lot bigger than in Brazil?

Valdo: **Lógico... principalmente nesses meses de junho e julho que as pessoas vão pra piscina, tomam uma cerveja gelada e observam umas às outras em trajes de banho.**



Lógico... principalmente durante los meses de junio y julio cuando la gente va a la piscina, toman una cerveza helada y se miran en trajes de baño.

Right... especially during the months of June and July when people go to the pool, have a cold beer, and watch one another in their bathing suits.

Michelle: Eh, mas isso é uma coisa mais **generalizada**, porque as roupas em **geral, inclusive as íntimas, são gigantes aqui. Mas não me importo... vou continuar com o meu biquini do Brasil.**

Sí, pero eso es una cosa generalizada, porque las ropas en general, inclusive la ropa íntima, son gigantes aquí. Pero no me importa, voy a continuar con mi bikini de Brasil.

Yes, but this generally applies to most things because most clothes, even underwear, are gigantic here. But I don't care, I going to keep on using my Brazilian bikini.

Valdo: **Então tá jóia! Michelle, dê uma giradinha aí pra todo mundo ver e eu também vou desfilas com a minha sunga.**

Entonces está bien. Michelle, modélame para poder verte y yo también modelo el traje de baño mío.

All right then! Michelle, turn around so that we can all see and I'll also show off my speedo.

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 general, clothing sizes in the US are much bigger than those in Brazil. North Americans wear loose fitting clothing, not to mention over-sized clothing. Brazilian styles are more tight-fitting. This is also true of swimwear. At the beaches women generally wear tiny bikinis and men often wear Speedo-like suits. Valdo and Michelle

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<http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/>

Orlando R. Kelm, orkelm@mail.utexas.edu



have both had the experience of going to work out in a gym in the US and when getting there, feeling like they were out of place because of how little they were wearing, as compared to others. Be prepared for the opposite feeling when you go to the beaches in Brazil.

Pronunciation Notes

True story, Orlando once thought of naming his daughter "janela". The thought of naming your child "window" is a little weird, but the word itself sounds great. One possible reason is because of the way that Brazilians pronounce their "j" (as well as words that are spelled "ge" and "gi"). These are pronounced just like the English "s" in words like pleasure, measure, treasure. The sound is not difficult for native speakers of English. The only difference really is that this sound is not found at the beginning of any English word, but it is in Portuguese. (Of course we do have the name Zha Zha Gabor, but that certainly does not qualify as a native English word.)

The challenge is really more for speakers of Spanish who would like to pronounce "j", "ge" and "gi" as they would in Spanish, which in phonetic terms is the velar fricative [x] or [h]. Compare the pronunciation of the following words: gente, geral (general), lógico, gigante, junho (junio), jaula.

Years ago Sesame Street had a song to teach the "hard" and the "soft" pronunciations of "g". The song mentioned "g" as in Grover and "g" as in George. It's not quite the same sounds, but orthographically Portuguese has a way of showing its "hard" and "soft" pronunciations. In Portuguese "g" followed by "a, o, u" has the hard sound: ga (gado), go (gota), gu (gudes). When "g" is followed by "e, i" it has the soft sound: ge (gente), gi (gibi). If you want the hard sound with "e, i" Portuguese speakers insert a "u", which is silent: gue (segue), gui (seguir). Although the rule is straight forward, non-native speakers seem to trip over this at times. The final question is what to do if one wants the "soft" sound with "a, o, u". In those cases, chances are that a word will be spelled with a "j", e.g., jato, jóia, julgar.

So, if there are any girls named "Janela" out there, send us an email. We'd love to tell you how beautiful your name is!