



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access by going to <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?p=19>.

Lesson #19: Pronunciation of "nh" Laundromats, really?

Dialog

Michelle: Amanhã sem falta tenho que voltar aqui para lavar minhas roupas de linho que estão manchadas de vinho.

Mañana sin falta tengo que regresar aquí para lavar mi ropa que está manchada de vino.

Tomorrow without fail I need to come back here to wash my clothes that have wine stains on them.

Valdo: Eu não tenho visto você aqui ultimamente.

No te he visto aquí últimamente.

I haven't seen you here lately.

Michelle: Eu vinha geralmente à noite, mas agora eu venho de manhã sempre depois do banho.

Yo venía generalmente en la noche, pero ahora vengo en la mañanas siempre después de tomar el baño.

I used to come mostly at night, but now I've been coming in the mornings after taking a bath.

Valdo: Eh, assim você ganha tempo, né? Pra mim ainda é estranho quando tenho que sair de casa pra lavar e secar minhas roupas.

Sí, así tú ahorras tiempo, ¿no? Para mí todavía es raro cuando tengo que salir de la casa para lavar e secar mi ropa.

Yes, that way you save time, right? It's still weird to me to have to leave my house to wash and dry my clothes.



Michelle: **Pra mim também. No Brasil, não existe lavanderia coletiva com moedinhas.**

Para mí también. En Brasil no existen lavanderías públicas en que se paga con monedas.

For me too. In Brazil we don't have coin operated public laundromats.

Valdo: **É verdade... ou a gente lava em nossa própria máquina em casa ou paga pra uma senhora fazer tudinho pra gente.**

Es verdad.. o se lava en nuestra propia máquina en casa o se paga a una señora para que lo haga todo.

That's right, either we wash them in our own machines at home or we pay to have someone do all of it for 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.

First off, are we talking about "laundry mats" or "laundrymats"? Trick question, I believe the correct form in English is "Laundromat". Either way, they aren't very common in Brazil. If you don't have your own washer or dryer, chances are that you will hire someone to wash and iron your clothes for you. So you can see why Valdo and Michelle were a bit surprised at the idea of taking their dirty clothes to a Laundromat where they wash the clothes themselves.

Pronunciation Notes

We wish it were as easy as saying that the Spanish "ñ" and the Portuguese "nh" are the same, but they really aren't. However, it is a good starting point, as in *señor* – *senhor*, *baño* – *banho*.

There are two difficulties that arise with our starting point. First, not every instance of "nh" in Portuguese correlates with "ñ" in Spanish. Truth told, for historical reasons any word that had a nasal consonant in Latin may or may not have a variety of possibilities in modern Spanish and Portuguese. As a result there are examples among Spanish and Portuguese like *ganar* – *ganhar*, *ponía* – *punha*, *caña* – *cana*, *vino* – *vinho*, *luna* – *lua*,

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donar - doar. Confusing, isn't it? Our advice is to just be open to a large amount of flexibility. And if you want to know why and how, plan on studying more about the development of Spanish and Portuguese from its original Latin.

Second, even in words like *señor* – *senhor* and *baño* – *banho* the Spanish "ñ" and the Brazilian "nh" do not sound exactly alike. In Spanish the "ñ" is made when the tip of the tongue pushes **hard** against the palate. By contrast, the tip of the tongue with "nh" in Portuguese doesn't push near as hard. In fact, sometimes it just gets close to the palate, but never actually makes contact. You might say that it is a much softer sound.