



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access by going to <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?p=23>.

## Lesson #23: Cool Little Words, Nicknames

### Dialog

**Michelle:** **Cê sabe** que os americanos acham estranho certos apelidos que a gente coloca nas pessoas.

Sabe que los americanos consideran raros los apodos que les damos nosotros a outros.

You know that Americans think it is strange the way we give nicknames to other people.

**Valdo:** **Diga aí... vem cá, eles não usam apelidos?**

Dime, ven acá, ¿no utilizan ellos apodos?

Come on, tell me, you mean they don't use nicknames?

**Michelle:** **Então, veja só... quando eu digo que meu apelido no Brasil é "bruxa" ninguém acredita. Eles acham estranho, um pouco cruel, sabe?**

Entonces, mira, cuando les digo que mi apodo en Brasil es "bruja" nadie lo cree. Ellos piensan que es muy raro y un poco cruel, ¿sabe?

So, look, when I tell them that my nickname in Brazil is "witch" nobody believes it. They think it is strange and a little cruel, you know?

**Valdo:** **Peraí... eles não usam apelidos como "gordo", "magrela", "baixinho", "alemão"? Pô, isso é uma forma de demonstrar, tipo, amizade no Brasil, né?**

Espera, ¿no usan ellos apodos como "gordo", "flaquito", "bajito", "alemán"? Pues, eso es una forma de mostrarles, a ver, amistad en Brasil, ¿no?



Hold on... you mean they don't say things like "fat", "skinny", "short", "German"? Wow, this is the way that we show, you know, friendship in Brazil, right?

**Michelle:** **Viu, não é que eles não usam apelidos aqui, mas é diferente, entende? Geralmente é só um diminutivo do nome, como "Liz" para Elizabeth, "Bob" para Robert, tá vendo?**

Ves, no es que no utilizan apodos aquí, pero es diferente, ¿sabe?

Generalmente es una forma diminutivo del nombre, como "Liz para Elizabeth, "Bob" para Robert, ¿lo ves?

You know, it's not that they don't use nicknames, but it's different, you know? Generally they just use diminutive forms of a name like "Liz for Elizabeth, "Bob" for Robert, you see?

**Valdo:** **Ah, tá... não é um nome engraçado como os que a gente usa e que vem de uma característica física que a pessoa tenha, por exemplo. Ah, sei... Bom, então a gente se fala mais tarde, falô?**

Está bien, no sería un nombre chistoso como los que nosotros usamos, estos que vienen de las características físicas que la persona tenga por ejemplo. Bien, entonces podemos hablar más de eso más tarde, ¿está bien?

OK then, so it's not a funny name like the ones that we use that come from some physical characteristic that the person has for example. I've got it, OK, we'll talk more later, OK?

### **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.



If you happen to be an extremely tall American with red hair, get ready for some interesting nicknames when you go to Brazil. If you are self-conscious about the size of your nose or the amount of acne, leave that sensitivity at the airport in Miami. If you are the only minority in a group of Caucasians, plan on a nickname related to race. Valdo and Michelle have hit on something here. American nicknames are usually shortened versions of real names, but they are rarely given based on physical features. In Brazil people love to give funny nicknames to their friends. We do have one question for Michelle, why do her friends call her "witch"?

### Pronunciation Notes

This pronunciation lesson is a little different in that we are not focusing on a specific sound, but we are focusing on the little phrase chunks that people add to speech. This is not a trivial matter. Part of learning how to speak is knowing how to make that speech sound more natural. Almost nobody ever says in isolation "*Mark speaks Portuguese.*" Usually what happens is that we add words before and after the phrase, something like "*You know, Mark speaks Portuguese, doesn't he?*" The same is true of Portuguese. The phrase "*Marcos fala português*" is a pretty boring sentence. However, "*Sabe, Marcos fala português, não é?*" sounds fantastic.

Here is a list of some of the chunks that you can put at the beginning and end of a phrase:

Bem,	Well		
Bom,	Good		
Cê sabe,	You know		
Diga aí,	Tell me here		
Então,	So		
Oh vem cá,	Hey, come here	Marcos fala português,	entendeu? you understand?
Olha,	Look		falô? get it?
Per aí,	Wait up		não é? right?
Pô,	Shoot, Jeez		né? right?
Sabe,	You know		viu? ya see?
Tá bom,	It's OK		tá vendo? ya see?
Tipo,	Type, Like		tá? OK?
Veja só,	Just look		tendeu? you understand?
Viu,	See		viu? ya see?