



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you can access at <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?lt=gra&p=05>.

Grammar Lesson #5: Disappearing Reflexive Verbs Use of Coupons

Dialog

Valdo: Você **deitou** tarde ontem?

¿Te acostaste tarde ayer?

Did you go to bed late yesterday?

Michelle: **Deitei** bem tarde e **levantei** bem cedo.

Me acosté muy tarde y me levanté muy temprano.

I went to bed really late and I got up really early.

Valdo: Por que? **Senta** aqui e me conta.

¿Por qué? Siéntate aquí y cuéntame.

Why? Sit down hear and tell me about it.

Michelle: **Eu lembrei** que tinha um monte de cupons que vencia hoje... daí eu corri pra loja para usá-los.

Me acordé que tenía un montón de cupones que se vencía hoy... así corrí a las tiendas para usarlos.

I remembered that I had a whole bunch of coupons that were expiring today... so I ran to the store to use them up.

Valdo: **Eu acho legal esse sistema de cupons daqui. Sempre aproveito os descontos e ganho várias coisas de graça.**

Me gusta este sistema de cupones de aquí. Siempre aprovecho los descuentos y gano varias cosas gratis.

I love this system of coupons that they have here. I always take advantage of the discounts and I get a lot of things for free.

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

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Michelle: Oh, desculpe, tenho que ir... **esqueci** que tenho mais dois cupons pra usar agora à tarde.

Oh, descúlpaame, tengo que irme... se me olvidó que tengo dos cupones más que necesito usar esta tarde.

Oh, I'm sorry, I've got to go... I forgot that I have a couple of coupons that need to be used this afternoon.

Cultural Notes

Besides the lessons in pronunciation and grammar, all of the dialogs key on some cultural issue that Valdo and Michelle have noticed as Brazilians living in the United States.

Using coupons are not as common in Brazil as it is in the United States. There isn't a tradition of having a coupon section of the newspaper where you can get things at a discount or even for free.

Grammar Notes

Ah, the dreaded definition of reflexive verbs:

A situation where the subject and the object of a sentence is the same person.

A typical description of reflexive verbs makes a comparison between sentences like *Mary dresses her baby* versus *Mary dresses herself*. In English we see that speakers avoid the reflexive pronouns by using the word "get", e.g., *Mary gets dressed*. In Spanish the reflexive pronouns are alive and well, e.g., *Yo me visto, Tú te vistes, María se viste, Nosotros nos vestimos, Ellos se visten*.

And in Brazilian Portuguese? Well..., yes..., you could use reflexive pronouns just like Spanish. However, chances are that most Brazilians drop them in oral speech. So, where a grammar book might say that you should say *Eu me levanto, Você se levanta, Maria se levanta, Nós nos levantamos, Eles se levantam*, the reality is that most Brazilians would simply say *Eu levanto, Você levanta, Maria levanta, A gente levanta, Eles levantam*.

In the dialog from this lesson we see that Valdo and Michelle used the verbs *deitar, levantar, sentar, lembrar, and esquecer*, all without using reflexive pronouns. Is this bad grammar on Valdo and Michelle's part? No, it's just that in oral speech the tendency is that Brazilians drop their reflexive pronouns.