



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you can access at <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?lt=gra&p=06>.

Grammar Lesson #6: The verb Ficar Studying in Cafes

Dialog

Valdo: Eu **fico pensando** como as pessoas aqui conseguem se concentrar nos estudos **ficando** horas e horas **sentadas** nos cafés.

Sigo pensando como las personas aquí consiguen concentrarse en los estudios pasando horas y horas sentadas en los cafés.

I keep wondering how people here can concentrate on their studies while sitting around for hours in cafes.

Michelle: **É mesmo! No Brasil a gente geralmente fica em casa ou na biblioteca estudando.**

De acuerdo. En el Brasil generalmente nos quedamos en casa o en una biblioteca para estudiar.

I know. In Brazil we generally stay at home or study in the library.

Valdo: Eu **fico meio distraído** com o movimento das pessoas entrando e saindo.

Me distrai con el movimiento de personas que entran y salen.

I get distracted with all the movement of people coming in and out.

Michelle: **Fora que você fica mais pobre, porque pra ficar lá você sempre tem que consumir algo.**

Y además uno pasa a ser más pobre porque para sentarse allí uno siempre tiene que tomar algo.

Besides that, you end up poorer because in order to stay there you have to keep drinking something.



Valdo: E ainda **ficar de molho** na fila pra comprar qualquer coisa.

Y todavía tienes que esperar en la fila para comprar alguna cosa.

And you've also got to wait in line just to buy something.

Michelle: É, às vezes eu **fico com um pouco de receio** de ir estudar nos cafés exatamente por isso..

Sí, a veces me siento un poco reticente en estudiar en los cafés precisamente por eso.

Yea, sometimes I feel a little reticent to study in cafes precisely because of that.

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.

In Brazil people go to cafes to socialize with friends, but they don't normally go to cafes to study. The idea of opening up your books and studying in cafes seems a little strange. Brazilians prefer to study at home or at a library.

Grammar Notes

If there is one verb that we wish we could transfer to Spanish it would be *ficar*. There is a wide range of uses for *ficar* in Portuguese that just leaves you wondering what to use in Spanish. Here are a few of those uses:

To stay, remain: Eu **fiquei** no Brasil por 8 meses. (I stayed in Brazil for 8 months.)

To be located: O banco **fica** na esquina. (The bank is located on the corner.)

To become, get: Marcos **ficou** doente. (Marcos got sick.)

To keep on, continue: Alex **fica falando** e não diz nada. (Alex keeps on talking, but doesn't say anything.)

Note that Spanish has different ways of dealing with each of the instances where *ficar* is used in Portuguese.

To stay, remain: Me quedé en Brasil. (*Quedar* is often used for the meaning of stay or remain.)



To be located: El banco está en la esquina. (The verbs *ser* and *estar* are often given as *ficar* in Portuguese.)

To become, get: Marcos se puso enfermo or se enfermó. (Spanish uses reflexive pronouns to give the idea of becoming, something that is not common in Portuguese.)

To keep on, continue: Alex continúa hablando y no dice nada. (The ongoing sense to keep on is better rendered with *continuar* or *seguir* in Spanish.)

Welcome to the verb *ficar*! Once you start using it, you'll wish you could add it to your Spanish collection too.