



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you can access at <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?lt=gra&p=07>.

Grammar Lesson #7: "Para" with Indirect Pronouns Serving Ice Water at Restaurants

Dialog

Valdo: Por que o garçom trouxe tanta água para aquele povo da outra mesa?
¿Por qué el camarero les trajo tanta agua a aquellas personas de la otra mesa?

Why did the waiter take so much water to those people at that other table?

Michelle: Aqui é um costume servir água nos bares e restaurantes para os clientes mesmo quando se pede outra coisa pra beber.

Aquí a los clientes es normal servirles agua en los bares y restaurantes aún cuando piden otra cosa para beber.

Here it's customary to serve customers water in bars and restaurants even when they have asked for something else to drink.

Valdo: Garçom, traga duas cervejas pra gente, por favor. Nada de água!

Camarero, tráiganos dos cervezas por favor. Y nada de agua!

Waiter, bring us two beers please. And no water!

Michelle: Valdo, e pede pra ele uma salada de palmito também.

Valdo, pídele que traiga una ensalada de palmito también.

Valdo, ask him to bring a heart of palm salad too.

Valdo: Puxa! O garçom só fica dando água pra eles, olha lá. Eles vão ficar bêbados com tanta água!

Uau, el camarero continúa dándoles agua, mira. Se emborracharán con tanta agua.



Wow! The waiter keeps on giving them water, look at that. They are going to get drunk on so much water.

Michelle: **Aqui é impressionante... assim que você chega, a primeira coisa que eles fazem é entregar um copo cheio de água com gelo pra você.**

Aquí es impresionante... luego que vengas, la primera cosa que hacen es entregarte un vaso lleno de agua con hielo.

It's impressive here... as soon as you arrive the first thing they do is bring you a glass full of ice water.

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.

"What's a guy got to do to get a glass a water in this restaurant?" Well, in Brazil, you've got to ask! In Brazil waiters never automatically bring water to customers. They only bring what you order. Furthermore, if you want ice in your water, good luck.

Grammar Notes

Quick grammar review 1: An indirect object is the part of the sentence that answers the question "to whom". For example, "I gave the apple **to Mary**" or "I gave **Mary** the apple." What did you give? An apple. Who did you give it to? Mary. So, "Mary" is the indirect object.

Quick grammar review 2: An indirect object pronoun is a word that takes the place of an indirect object. For example, "I gave the apple **to her**" or "I gave **her** the apple."

So, what does this have to do with Spanish and Portuguese? In Spanish there is a greater tendency to use indirect object pronouns (me, te, les, nos, les) but in Portuguese there is a greater tendency to avoid them. That is to say, Brazilians say something more like "I gave the apple **to her**" more than "I gave **her** the apple." Note the following examples:

O garçom trouxe a água para ela.

El camarero **le** trajo el agua.

or

El camarero **le** trajo el agua **a ella**.

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

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



*The waiter brought the water **to her**.*

O garçom está dando água **para eles.**

El camarero **les** está dando água.

or

El camarero **les** está dando água **a ellos**.

*The waiter is giving water **to them**.*

This ends up being a huge difference between the two languages. Where Spanish speakers use *le* and *les* so much that they even redundantly repeat the indirect object and the indirect object pronoun in the same sentence (*le doy a ella*), Brazilians on the other hand, almost never use the pronouns *lhe* and *lhes*. Note another exchange:

Spanish:

- ¿Le diste a Carlos la carta?

- Sí, se la di ayer.

Portuguese:

- Você deu a carta para Carlos?

- Dei sim, ontem.

English

- Did you give Carlos the letter?

- Yea, I gave it to him yesterday.

So, get used to hearing sentences without pronouns, and if the indirect object is necessary, use the phrase with *para* and you'll sound more Brazilian.