



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you can access at <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?lt=gra&p=09>.

## **Grammar Lesson #9: Possessive Pronouns**

### **How to dress like an American**

#### **Dialog**

**Michelle:** Valdo, olha pra aquela menina... veja a bolsa **dela!**

Valdo, mira aquella chica... mira su bolsa.

Valdo, look at that girl... look at her purse!

**Valdo:** O que é que tem a bolsa **dela**? É parecida com a **sua** bolsa.

¿Cuál es el problema con su bolsa? Se parece a tu bolsa.

What wrong with her purse? It looks like your purse.

**Michelle:** Você sabe, no Brasil a gente nunca usaria uma bolsa de paetê como a **dela** durante o dia.

Tú sabes, en el Brasil nunca usaríamos una bolsa de lentejuelas como la de ella durante el día.

You know, in Brazil we'd never use a sequined purse like she's got during the daytime.

**Valdo:** É verdade! Olha a calça **dela**... jeans com chinelo!

Es verdad! Mira sus pantalones... vaqueros con chinelas!

You're right! And look at her pants... jeans with flip flops!

**Michelle:** Eh, por aí a gente percebe a diferença entre a roupa **deles** e a **nossa**.

Por aquí te das cuenta de la diferencia entre su ropa y la nuestra.

Yea, around here you notice the difference between their clothing and ours.



**Valdo:** Mas esse é o **nosso** conceito, como brasileiros, sobre a roupa **deles**. Será que aos olhos **deles** as **suas** roupas também não são um pouco bregas?

Pero esa es nuestra idea, como brasileños, sobre su ropa. ¿Será que para ellos la ropa tuya sería un poco rara también?

But that is our idea, as Brazilians, about their clothes. Don't you think that in from their perspective your clothes might seem a little tacky too?

### 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.

For a Brazilian, the way some Americans dress would sometimes be a little cheesy, like wearing jeans with flip-flops, shiny dresses, a lot of make up and extravagant hairdos during the day time etc.

### Grammar Notes

Possessive pronouns are those that mean *my, your, his, her, our, and their*. In Spanish things are fairly direct: *mi, tu, su, nuestro*, etc. Things are a little more complicated in Portuguese. Look at the following charts to summarize things.

Chart #1: my

em	Portuguese	English	Spanish
Masc & Sing	<b>meu livro</b>	my book	mi libro
Fem & Sing	<b>minha casa</b>	my house	mi casa
Masc & Plural	<b>meus livros</b>	my books	mis libros
Fem & Plural	<b>minhas casas</b>	my houses	mis casas

Chart #2: your

em	Portuguese	English	Spanish
Masc & Sing	<b>seu livro</b>	your book	tu libro
Fem & Sing	<b>sua casa</b>	your house	tu casa
Masc & Plural	<b>seus livros</b>	your books	tus libros
Fem & Plural	<b>suas casas</b>	your houses	tus casas
Note: Some speakers use <i>teu</i> and <i>tua</i> , but generally <i>seu</i> and <i>sua</i> are used.			



Chart #3: his

em	Portuguese	English	Spanish
Masc & Sing	<b>o livro dele</b>	his book	su libro
Fem & Sing	<b>a casa dele</b>	his house	su casa
Masc & Plural	<b>os livros dele</b>	his books	su libros
Fem & Plural	<b>as casas dele</b>	his houses	su casas
Note: Some speakers could <i>seu</i> and <i>sua</i> but most Brazilians eliminate ambiguity with <i>dele</i> .			

Chart #4: her

em	Portuguese	English	Spanish
Masc & Sing	<b>o livro dela</b>	her book	su libro
Fem & Sing	<b>a casa dela</b>	her house	su casa
Masc & Plural	<b>os livros dela</b>	her books	su libros
Fem & Plural	<b>as casas dela</b>	her houses	su casas
Note: Some speakers could <i>sua</i> and <i>suas</i> but most Brazilians eliminate ambiguity with <i>dela</i> .			

Chart #5: our

em	Portuguese	English	Spanish
Masc & Sing	<b>nosso livro</b>	our book	nuestro libro
Fem & Sing	<b>nossa casa</b>	our house	nuestra casa
Masc & Plural	<b>nossos livros</b>	our books	nuestros libros
Fem & Plural	<b>nossas casas</b>	our houses	nuestras casas
Note: Speakers could also use <i>da gente</i> , as in <i>o livro da gente</i> .			

Chart #6: their

em	Portuguese	English	Spanish
Masc & Sing	<b>o livro deles</b>	their book	su libro
Fem & Sing	<b>a casa deles</b>	their house	su casa
Masc & Plural	<b>os livros deles</b>	their books	sus libros
Fem & Plural	<b>as casas deles</b>	their houses	sus casas
Note: Brazilians will also say <i>o livro delas</i> , <i>a casa delas</i> , <i>o livro delas</i> , <i>as casas delas</i> , if we are talking about females who possess things.			



Things are more complicated in Portuguese because Brazilians try to avoid ambiguity that is allowed in Spanish. In Spanish a phrase like su casa could mean you, his, her, or their house. Context usually takes care of things. In Portuguese the ambiguity is directly resolved with different forms.