



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access at <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?lt=gra&p=13>.

Grammar Lesson #13: Masculine vs. Feminine in Portuguese & Spanish Minimum Age to Buy Alcohol

Dialog

Valdo: **O leite, o mel e o sal** que você pediu para eu comprar já estão aqui.

La leche, la miel, y la sal que pidió que comprara ya están aquí.

The milk, the honey, and the salt that you asked me to buy are already here.

Michelle: **E o vinho, a cerveja e a água, você não trouxe? E o computador, onde está?**

Y el vino, la cerveza y el agua, ¿no los trajiste? Y la computadora, ¿dónde está?

And the wine, beer, and water, didn't you bring them? And the computer, where is it?

Valdo: **Eta, esqueci da água e do computador. Mas as bebidas alcoólicas não me deixaram trazer porque eu estava sem minha identidade.**

Ay, se me olvidó el agua y la computadora. Pero no permitieron que comprara las bebidas alcohólicas porque no llevaba mi identificación.

Shoot, I forgot the water and the computer. But they didn't let me buy the alcohol because I didn't have my ID.

Michelle: **Mas como assim? Qual a origem disso?**

¿Pero como así? ¿Cuál es el origen de eso?

What do you mean? What's going on here?

Valdo: **Pois é, eles fizeram uma análise equivocada do meu rosto. Acharam que eu tinha menos de 21 anos.**

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Pues, se equivocaron en el análisis de mi rostro. Pensaron que tenía menos de 21 años.

Right, well they missed analyzed things based on my face. They thought I was less than 21 years old..

Michelle: **Mas isso é um bom sinal, Valdo. Acharam que você era de menor! Mas você sabe que independente da idade você sempre tem que mostrar a identidade para comprar álcool aqui.**

Pero eso es una buena señal Valdo. Pensaron que eras más joven! Y tú sabes que no importa la edade que tengas, hay que siempre mostrar la identificación para comprar alcohol aquí.

But that's a good sign Valdo. They thought you were younger! But you know that it doesn't matter how old you are, you always have to show ID to by alcohol here.

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, the minimum age to buy alcoholic drinks is 18, as opposed to the U.S., where the minimum age is 21. It should be noted, however, that in general young people in Brazil have easier access to alcoholic drinks regardless of their age.

Grammar Notes

All native speakers of English who learn Latin-based languages have to go through the process of learning about gender agreement. The mystery behind why some words are masculine and others are feminine can be a gigantic barrier at times. Of course the good news is that generally the gender of nouns is the same between Spanish and Portuguese. There are a few words, however, that are different. There is no logical reason and usually there is probably some historical explanation, but those words that are different seem to stand out. The dialog in this lesson provides a short list of some of the more common words that have different gender between Spanish and Portuguese and we add a few more as well.



o leite – la leche
o mel – la miel
o sal – la sal
o computador – la computadora
a análise – el análisis
o sinal – la señal
a ponte – el Puente
a internet – el internet
o sangue – la sangre
a árvore – el árbol
o cárcere – la cárcel
o ramo – la rama

One special note about a água – el água. Spanish has a rule where any feminine word that begins with a stress letter 'á' is used with the masculine article, even though the word continues to be feminine. This rule does not apply in Portuguese.

A água está fria.
El agua está fría.