



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access at <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?lt=gra&p=19>.

## Grammar Lesson #19: Present Perfect Naming People

### Dialog

**Valdo:** O que você **tem percebido** de diferente **nesses últimos tempos** em relação a gravidez e filhos aqui nos Estados Unidos?

¿Qué has notado de diferente en esos últimos tiempos en relación a la gravidez y los hijos acá en los Estados Unidos?

Have you been noticing anything different lately as related to pregnancy and having children here in the United States?

**Michelle:** Eu **tenho visto ultimamente** que a questão dos nomes é bem diferente do que no Brasil.

He notado últimamente que la cuestión de nombres es muy diferente que en el Brasil.

Lately I've been noticing that the issue of names has been very different from in Brazil.

**Valdo:** Você **já teve** problemas com isso **alguma vez**?

¿Has tenido problemas alguna vez con eso?

Have you ever had any problems with this?

**Michelle:** **Já tive, sim. Eu tenho tido** dificuldade **recentemente** em explicar para as pessoas aqui que minha filha tem dois sobrenomes.

Sí, Recientemente he tenido dificultades en explicarles a las otras personas que mi hija tiene dos apellidos.

Yes I have. Lately I've had some problems in explaining to people here that my daughter has two last names.



**Valdo:** Eh, você tem que se acostumar com isso, porque aqui as pessoas **sempre têm usado** o sistema de nome do meio e último nome em vez de só sobrenomes.

Sí, hay que acostumbrarte con eso, porque aquí las personas han usado el sistema de usar un segundo nombre y apellido en vez de dos apellidos.

Yes, you need to get used to that, because here people have used the a system where they have a second name and a last name instead of two last names.

**Michelle:** E é isso que é confuso aqui. Em todos os lugares que eu **tenho ido nesses últimos meses** as pessoas não entendem que minha filha não tem o segundo nome.

Es eso lo que me confunde aquí. En todos los lugares que he ido estos últimos meses, las personas no entienden que mi hija no tiene un segundo nombre.

That is exactly what confuses me here. In all the places I've gone during these last few months, people don't understand why my daughter doesn't have a second name.

## 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.

A rose by any other name would still smell as sweet, but having different ways of naming people sure causes confusion. In Brazil, people normally have two last names: the first one from their mother and the last one from their father, as in João Silva Souza. And this person would be called Sr. Souza. In most of the Spanish-speaking world we also see that people have two last names. However, they usually put the paternal name first and then the maternal name. So in this case João would probably be “Juan” and his complete name would be Juan Souza Silva, and he would still be Sr. Souza. In the United States, people generally only have one last name (paternal), but they do have middle names. And that is why Orlando's full name is Orlando René Kelm (Kelm from his German



father, René as a good French name—given that he was born in Canada, and Orlando, well that's a long story!)

We should mention that this description is general, but also filled with exceptions. The best is to ask someone what they prefer to be called.

### **Grammar Notes**

The major difficulty found with the present perfect in Portuguese is that "tenho estudado" does not mean "has studied" but rather "have been studying." It is frequently used with words like "ultimamente, esses dias, desde aquele dia" etc. There is no morphological way to say "have studied" in Portuguese. Instead Portuguese speakers use the word "já" (already) with the preterite form of the verb.

Marcos **estudou** aquele livro ontem.

(Marcos studied that book yesterday.)

Marcos **já estudou** aquele livro uma vez.

(Marcos has studied that book once before.)

Marcos **tem estudado** aquele livro ultimamente.

(Marcos has been studying that book lately.)

Marcos **tinha estudado** aquele livro antes.

(Marcos had studied that book before.)