



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access by going to <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?p=07>.

## Lesson #7: Pronunciation of Nasal Vowels Invitations to Parties

### Dialog

**Michelle:** Olha aqui o convite de casamento que a minha irmã me enviou hoje de manhã.

Mira aquí la invitación de la boda que mi hermana me envió hoy por la mañana.

Look at this wedding invitation that my sister sent to me this morning.

**Valdo:** Mas ela não é muito tua fã, né? Mandou o convite com horário pra começar e terminar? Sem noção!

Pero ella no es fanática tuya, ¿verdad? ¿Mandó la invitación con horario para comenzar y terminar? ¡Difícil de creer!

She must not be much of a fan of yours, right? She sent the invitation with the beginning and an ending time? Hard to believe!

**Michelle:** Sim, quando eu vim pra cá também estranhei.

Sí, cuando vine aquí también pensé que era raro.

Yea, when I first came here I thought it was weird too.

**Valdo:** Bom, no Brasil isso não funcionaria de jeito nenhum.

Bueno, en Brasil eso no funcionaría de ninguna manera.

Well, in Brazil this would never work at all.

**Michelle:** Concordo contigo.

De acuerdo contigo.

I agree with you.



**Valdo:** Tudo bem ter um horário pra começar a festa, mas pra terminar nunca.

Todo bien en tener un horario para comenzar la fiesta, pero para terminar nunca.

No problem with a starting time for a party, but never for an ending time.

### Cultural Notes

Besides the lessons in pronunciation, all of the dialogs key on some cultural issue that Valdo and Michelle have noticed as Brazilians living in the United States.

How weird is it to say when a party is going to end? In Brazil there may be a general time to start a social event (and even that seems pretty flexible, try arriving fashionably late) but they never have a specific ending time. Imagine being at a party, everyone is having a good time and then all of a sudden somebody announces that it's time to stop, clean up, stop singing, stop dancing, stop eating, and go home! In the dialog in this lesson, Michelle and Valdo notice how strange it is to get an invitation to a social event that includes the ending time!

### Pronunciation Notes

Compared to Spanish and English, Portuguese has a number of nasal vowels and nasalized sounds. In this lesson we focus on nasal vowels and in future lessons we'll look at nasalized diphthongs. There are four major ways that Portuguese vowels become nasalized. First, there are many words in Portuguese that are written with a tilde over the nasalized vowel, eg., "vã", irmã". Second, if a vowel is followed by a nasal consonant (m, n, nh) in the same syllable, that vowel will also become nasalized, e.g., "bom", "con.vi.te" and "ca.sa.men.to". If learners pretended that these words were also written with a tilde, the pronunciation would be just as good: bõ, cõvite. Third, not always and depending on the dialect, many times a vowel will become nasalized even if the nasal consonant is not in the same syllable. For example, Brazilians pronounce the word for bed, "cama" with much more nasalization than Spanish speakers do. Finally, sometimes a nasal consonant at the beginning of a syllable will cause the vowels to take on some nasalization too. The pronunciation of the word "muíto" (although this is a diphthong) is a good example of this.



For non-native speakers of Portuguese, the challenge is to not close your lips when you see a word that ends in an "m". The words "sim, sem, som, atum" all end in "m", but the "m" is there to show that the vowel should be nasalized. There really is no consonant "m" at the end of those words.