



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access by going to <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?p=20>.

Lesson #20: Pronunciation of "lh" Automatic Sprinklers

Dialog

Michelle: Um dia desses eu vi uma mulher toda molhada enquanto trabalhava.
Estos días yo vi a una mujer toda mojada cuando trabajaba.

Recently I saw a woman who got all wet while working.

Valdo: É mesmo? Me conta isso melhor. Quero saber os detalhes.

¿De veras? Cuéntame mejor. Quiero saber con detalles.

Really? Tell me more. I want to know the details.

Michelle: Ela estava recolhendo uns galhos que estavam espalhados em frente de um condomínio quando os esguichos começaram a molhá-la.

Ella estaba recogiendo unas ramas que estaban esparcidas en frente del condominio cuando la regadera empezó a mojarla.

She was gathering some branches that were spread out in front of a condominium when the sprinklers started soaking her.

Valdo: Ela não ouviu o barulho da água molhando as folhas?

¿Ella no escuchó el ruido del agua que mojaba la hojas?

Didn't she hear the noise of the water hitting against the leaves?

Michelle: Não, porque esses aparelhos começam a esguichar água de repente e sem fazer barulho. E isso é muito comum aqui.

No, porque esos aparatos comienzan a regar agua de repente y sin hacer ruido. Y eso es muy común aquí.

No, because these sprinklers begin to spray water all of a sudden and without making any noise. It's really common here.



Valdo: Eh, então talvez valha a pena ficar de olho e escolher bem o lugar onde você pára.

Entonces, vale la pena ver y escoger bien el lugar donde se va a parar.

OK, so it's probably worth it to be on the lookout and choose carefully the place where you stop.

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.

Michelle and Valdo are on to something. When have you ever seen automatic sprinklers in Brazil? Come to think of it... never. No doubt there are places, but in general mother nature takes care of watering the plants in many locations and hoses take care of it in other places. And in some places drought takes precedence over watering. Clearly, the surprise stealth attack from an automatic sprinkler would be alarming.

Pronunciation Notes

The sound that goes with the Brazilian orthographic "lh" does not really have a Spanish equivalent. If you happen to speak some Italian, you will note that words spelled with "gli" sound the same as the Portuguese "lh": *figlia* – *filha*, *aglio* – *alho*, *moglie* – *mulher*. Of course, if you don't speak any Italian this doesn't help much at all. Some say that the "lh" sound is similar to that of **lli** in the English word **million**. Others say that it is similar to the **l y** in the phrase **will ya**.

What we are really describing is the sound of the letter "l" that is pronounced not with the tip of the tongue, but with the top of the tongue. Try saying "alo" with the top dorsal portion of your tongue and it should sound a lot like "alho".

Spanish speakers will note that many times these same words are spelled with **j** in Spanish: *hijo* – *filho*, *ajo* – *alho*, *mujer* – *mulher*, *abeja* – *abelha*, *viejo* – *velho*, *ojo* – *olho*. The trick when pronouncing this sound in Portuguese is to try to do so in just one syllable. That is to say, try saying *fi-lho* and not *fi-li-o*.