



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you can access at <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?lt=gra&p=01>.

Grammar Lesson #1: Gostar vs. Gustar Sitting on the Grass

Dialog

Michelle: Valdo, olhe pro gramado. Veja como os universitários americanos **gostam de livros, de música...**

Valdo, mira la grama. Ve como a los universitarios americanos les gustan os libros, y la música...

Valdo, look at the lawn. You see how American university students like music, book...

Valdo: E você **gosta de sentar** na grama como eles para estudar?

Te gusta sentarte en el césped como ellos para estudiar?

Do you like to sit on the lawn to study like they do?

Michelle: Não, não estou acostumada. Mas os alunos aqui nos Estados Unidos **adoram.**

No, no estoy acostumbrada. Pero a los alumnos de aquí de los Estados Unidos les encanta.

No, I'm not used to it. But the students here in the United State love it.

Valdo: Pois é, **não gosto disso** não. É um pouco desconfortável e tem muita formiga.

Pues, a mí no me gusta. Es un poco incómodo y hay muchas hormigas.

Yea, I don't like it either. It is kind of uncomfortable and there are a lot of ants.

Michelle: Eh, eu também **não gosto de formiga** não. Onde você prefere estudar?



De acuerdo. Tampoco me gustan las hormigas. ¿Dónde prefieres estudiar?

Yea, I don't like ants either. Where do you like to study?

Valdo: **Eu gosto muito de estudar no conforto da minha casa ou na biblioteca.**

Me gusta mucho estudiar en la comodidad de mi casa o en la biblioteca.

I really like to study in the comfort of my home or in the library.

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 it is not common for college students to lie down on the grass on campus to study, to chat or hang out in general. In fact the whole idea of "lawns" is different in Brazil. College campuses rarely have what North Americans identify as lawns. As such, there isn't a tradition of going outside to sit on the lawn.

Grammar Notes

The verb "to like" in Portuguese is *gostar* and it is basically what is called a "regular verb, meaning the conjugation is simply:

Eu	gosto	Nós	gostamos
Você		Vocês	
Ele	gosta	Eles	gostam
Ela		Elas	

So, you think that the lesson should be easy, and it is. But, there are two other factors to consider.

First, some verbs require specific prepositions. For example, in English we depend **on** people. We would never say that we depend **of** people. In English we think **about** people. We don't think **in** people. Sometimes there are verbs in Portuguese that require a preposition that our English-speaking brain doesn't want to accept. This is the case with *gostar* that requires the preposition *de*. So, for example, in Portuguese we say,

Eu **gosto de** você. (I like you.)



Michelle não **gosta de** formigas. (Michelle doesn't like ants.)
Valdo **gosta de** estudar. (Valdo likes to study.)

This is similar to English phrases with the verb "to be fond of". In English we say things like, "I am fond **of** strawberries and cream." We would never say in English, "I am fond strawberries and cream." In the same way, in Portuguese we have to include the preposition *de* "of".

We should make you aware of one small exception. If the last word in the sentence is the verb *gostar*, there is no need to add the word *de*. For example:

Voce **gosta de** estudar? **Gosto.**
Marcos **gosta de** livros? **Gosta, sim.**

Second, for all of the native speakers of English who have had to learn how to use *gustar* in Spanish, congratulations! However, none of it applies to Portuguese. The Spanish forms with the indirect objects are simply not a part of Portuguese. For example:

Me gusta el libro.	Eu gosto do livro.	I like the book.
Me gustan los libros.	Eu gosto dos livros.	I like the books.
Te gusta cantar.	Você gosta de cantar.	You like to sing.
Les gusta cantar.	Eles gostam de cantar.	They like to sing.