



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access at <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?lt=gra&p=16>.

Grammar Lesson #16: Placement of Indirect Pronouns Greeting Friends

Dialog

Michelle: Quando alguém **vai nos apresentar** a outra pessoa aqui nos Estados Unidos, o que acontece?

Cuando alguien nos va a presentar a otra persona aquí en los Estados Unidos, ¿qué sucede?

When someone wants to introduce us to another person here in the United States, how is that done?

Valdo: Aqui, mesmo que as pessoas **queiram te beijar** não é o costume. O máximo que elas vão fazer **é te estender a mão**.

Aquí, aunque las personas quieran besarte, eso no es la costumbre. Lo máximo que van a hacer es extenderte la mano.

Here, even if the people want to give you a kiss, that's not the custom. The most they will do is to hold out their hand to you.

Michelle: Pois é, no Brasil as pessoas são mais informais. Elas já **vão nos beijando e abraçando logo de cara**.

Pues, en el Brasil las personas son más informales. Ellos andan besándonos y abrazándonos desde luego.

You're right, in Brazil people are more informal. Everyone is kissing and hugging each other right away.

Valdo: Então, e é até engraçado às vezes porque elas **vêm me dar um beijo e eu estou acostumado com dois**.



Sí, y es un poco chistoso a veces porque ellos vienen a darme un beso y estoy acostumbrado a recibir dos.

Yea, and it's kind of funny sometimes because they come to give me a kiss and I'm used to getting two.

Michelle: **É verdade! E dependendo da região do Brasil é até três. Pra você ver que quando os americanos vêm nos cumprimentar, a gente sempre espera algo mais informal.**

Es verdad. Y dependiendo de la región en el Brasil hay hasta tres. Verás que cuando los americanos vienen a saludarnos, nosotros siempre esperamos algo más informal.

That's true. And depending on the region in Brasil you can even have three. So you see that when Americans greet us, we're always expecting something more informal.

Valdo: **Nem espere! Aqui nos Estados Unidos as pessoas são bem mais formais do que no Brasil, muitas vezes elas nem vão te tocar e já estão dizendo: desculpa, com licença, por favor, sinto muito...**

Ni lo esperes! Aquí en los Estados Unidos las personas son mucho más formales que en el Brasil, muchas veces ni siquiera te tocan y luego ya están diciendo: perdona, con permiso, por favor, siento mucho...

Don't wait for that! Here in the United States people are much more formal than in Brazil, many times they barely even touch you and they are already saying: sorry, excuse me, please, I'm sorry...

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.

You will often hear Brazilians say, "começa a se despedir" (start getting ready to say goodbye). What they mean by that is it takes a little longer to say goodbye in Brazil.

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<http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/>

Orlando R. Kelm, orkelm@mail.utexas.edu



The math is complicated, but if five women are in the room and each one needs to give all of the others two kisses on the cheek before leaving, how many kisses are there and how long does it take? The point is that Brazilians tend to be more informal in their social relationships and it gives the impression that Americans are less emotional. Notice that in this lesson Michelle, Valdo, and Orlando discuss whether Brazilians give one, two, or three kisses on the cheek. The answer is that it depends on the region.

Grammar Notes

The grammar issue here is where to place pronouns, especially indirect object pronouns. The general rule in both Spanish and Portuguese is that indirect object pronouns go before a single verb.

Spanish

Marta **me** dijo la verdad.

Carlos **nos** dio el libro.

Portuguese

Marta **me** disse a verdade.

Carlos **nos** deu o livro.

The difference is what happens when there are two verbs. In Spanish the indirect pronoun can go before or after the two verbs, but not in between the two verbs. In Portuguese, the Brazilian tendency is to put the indirect pronoun between the two verbs.

Spanish

Marta **me** va a decir la verdad

Marta va a decir**me** la verdad.

Carlos **nos** está dando el libro.

Carlos está dándo**nos** el libro.

Ellos **te** quieren mandar una carta

Ellos quieren mandarte una carta.

Portuguese

Marta vai **me** dizer a verdade

Carlos está **nos** dando o livro.

Eles querem **te** mandar uma carta.



Observation #1: Brazilians often use *para mim*, *para nós*, *para você*, *para ele*, etc. instead of the indirect object pronouns. In such instances the sentences above would be, for example, *Eles querem mandar uma carta para você*.

Observation #2: Notice that the examples above are written with the pronouns *me*, *nos*, and *te*. Since *lhe* is commonly substituted with *para ele* or *para ela*, it is not as common to see phrases such as *Carlos está lhe dando o livro*.

Observation #3: It should be noted that it is not incorrect to put the pronoun after the two verbs (e.g., *Marta vai dizerme a verdade*). However, this sounds extremely formal and old fashioned, although it is typical of European Portuguese.