



These notes accompany the Podcast lesson that you may access at <http://tltc.la.utexas.edu/brazilpod/tafalado/lesson.php?lt=gra&p=18>.

Grammar Lesson #18: Word Order Buses and Services

Dialog

Michelle: Eu acho interessante que **existam pessoas** que colocam suas bicicletas na frente dos ônibus.

Yo creo que es interesante que existen personas que ponen su bicicleta en frente de los autobuses.

I think that it's interesting that there are people who put their bicycles in front of the buses.

Valdo: Pois é, aqui nos Estados Unidos **tem lugares específicos** nos ônibus pra carregar bicicletas.

Sí, aquí en los Estados Unidos hay lugares específicos en los autobuses para llevar bicicletas.

Yes, here in the United State we have specific places in front of the buses to carry bicycles.

Michelle: Eh, e **sobram motivos** aqui para as pessoas levarem suas bicicletas na frente dos ônibus e irem sentadas.

Sí y eso les dá el incentivo a las personas aquí para que lleven su bicicleta en frente del autobús para que se puedan sentar.

Yes and it give people a reason to carry their bicycles in front of the bus so that they can sit down.

Valdo: É verdade! Sempre **acontecem coisas inesperadas** quando se anda de bicicleta, por exemplo: chuva, o sol muito quente, ladeiras.



Es verdad. Siempre nos suceden cosas inesperadas al andar en bicicleta, por ejemplo: la lluvia, el sol muy fuerte, escaleras.

That's true. Unexpected things always happen when riding a bicycle, for example: rain, hot sun, ladders.

Michelle: **De fato, sempre surge algum imprevisto que nos faz preferir o conforto do ar condicionado dos ônibus.**

Además, siempre surge algo imprevisto que hace que se prefiera el confort del aire acondicionado del autobús.

In fact, some unexpected thing always comes up that makes you prefer the comfort of the air-conditioned bus.

Valdo: **Puxa, falta só esse serviço para o transporte público no Brasil ficar ótimo.**

Caramba, nos falta ese servicio para el transporte público en Brasil para que sea excelente.

Gee, that's what we're missing in Brazil to make our public transportation system the best.

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.

Although the bus systems in Brazil are well developed, and with thousands of lines that intersect, there are no provisions for bicycle racks. In fact, because the bus system is so developed, you never see people who want to put a bicycle on a bus.

Grammar Notes

Generally sentences in Portuguese follow a patter of Subject - Verb - Object. Language teachers usually call this an SVO pattern. This is indeed the case for most sentences:

Maria compra as frutas.
S V O

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

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



Marcos estuda francês.

S V O

However, there are some verbs, based on their meaning, that do not allow for direct objects. In these cases the default word order is Verb– Subject, or VS. This is especially true if the subject is a long phrase. For example,

Existem três cachorros bem pequenos em casa.

V S

(There are three little dogs in the house.)

Note that we do not say,

* Três cachorros bem pequenos em casa existem.

Faltam boas instruções para poder entender tudo isso.

V S

(We are missing good instructions to be able to understand all of this.)

Note that we do not say,

* Boas instruções para poder entender tudo isso faltam.

Chegaram todos esses emails ontem.

V S

(All the emails arrived yesterday.)

Note that we do not say,

* Todos esses emails ontem chegaram.

Acabou a reunião com todos os grandes líderes do congresso.

V S

(The meeting with all of the great leaders of congress ended.)

Note that we do not say,

* A reunião com todos os grandes líderes do congresso acabou.

Truth told, this is not really a big difference between Spanish and Portuguese as much as it is a difference between Portuguese and English. So, for all of the native speakers of English, for those verbs that don't have direct objects, use the VS word order.