

Portuguese Language Essentials Cheat Sheet

A handy reference guide to Portuguese grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation, designed to help learners quickly grasp the fundamentals.



Basic Grammar

Nouns and Articles

Gender	Nouns are either masculine or feminine. This affects article and adjective agreement.
Masculine Article	o (the), um (a)
Feminine Article	a (the), uma (a)
Example (Masculine)	o livro (the book), um livro (a book)
Example (Feminine)	(a casa) (the house), (uma casa) (a house)
Plural Forms	Generally, add -s to singular nouns. Add -es to nouns ending in -m , - r , or -z .
Plural Examples	o livro -> os livros , a mulher -> as mulheres

Pronouns

Eu	I
Tu	You (informal, Portugal)
Você	You (formal/informal, Brazil)
Ele/Ela	He/She
Nós	We
Vós	You (formal, plural, Portugal)
Vocês	You (formal/informal, plural, Brazil)
Eles/Elas	They (masculine/feminine)

Basic Verb Conjugation (Present Tense of 'Ser' - To Be)

Eu	Sou (I am)
Tu	És (You are - Portugal informal)
Você/Ele/Ela	É (You/He/She is)
Nós	Somos (We are)
Vós	Sois (You are - Portugal formal plural)
Vocês/Eles/Elas	São (You/They are)

Essential Vocabulary

Greetings and Basic Phrases

Olá	Hello
Bom dia	Good morning
Boa tarde	Good afternoon
Boa noite	Good evening/night
Como está? (formal) / Como você está? (Brazil)	How are you?
Tudo bem?	Everything okay? / How's it going?
Obrigado/Obrigada	Thank you (masculine/feminine)
De nada	You're welcome
Por favor	Please

Common Verbs

Ser	To be (permanent characteristics)
Estar	To be (temporary states)
Ter	To have
Fazer	To do/make
Ir	To go
Querer	To want
Poder	To be able to/can
Dizer	To say/tell

Useful Nouns

Homem	Man
Mulher	Woman
Criança	Child
Casa	House
Trabalho	Work/Job
Dinheiro	Money
Tempo	Time/Weather
Comida	Food

Pronunciation Guide

Vowel Sounds

a - Usually pronounced like the 'a' in 'father'. In some dialects, it can be more open like the 'a' in 'cat'.
e - Can be pronounced like the 'e' in 'bed' or like the 'a' in 'say', depending on the word and dialect.
i - Pronounced like the 'ee' in 'see'.
o - Can be pronounced like the 'o' in 'go' or like the 'o' in 'hot', depending on the word and dialect.
u - Pronounced like the 'oo' in 'moon'.

Consonant Sounds

- c Soft like 's' before 'e' and 'i' (e.g., 'cidade' city). Hard like 'k' before 'a', 'o', 'u' (e.g., 'casa' house).
- ç Always pronounced like 'ss' in 'miss'.
- \boldsymbol{j} Pronounced like the 's' in 'measure'.
- **nh** Pronounced like the 'ny' in 'canyon'.
- Ih Pronounced like the 'lli' in 'million'.
- r Can be rolled (especially at the beginning of a word) or pronounced like the 'h' in 'house' in some dialects (Brazil).
- ${f s}$ Voiced like a 'z' between vowels. Otherwise, typically like the 's' in 'sun'. At the end of a word (especially in Brazil) often sounds like 'sh'.

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Diphthongs

- **ão** Nasal sound, similar to the 'ow' in 'how' followed by a nasal 'n'
- ei Pronounced like the 'ay' in 'say'.
- ou Pronounced like the 'oa' in 'boat'.

Useful Phrases for Travel

Page 1 of 2 https://cheatsheetshero.com

At a Restaurant

Emergency Phrases

Onde fica?	Where is?
Como chego a?	How do I get to?
À direita	To the right
À esquerda	To the left
Em frente	Straight ahead
Perto	Near
Longe	Far

A carta, por favor.	The menu, please.
Eu gostaria de	I would like
A conta, por favor.	The bill, please.
Água	Water
Vinho	Wine
Cerveja	Beer
Café	Coffee

Socorro!	Help!
Preciso de ajuda.	I need help.
Chame a polícia.	Call the police.
Chame uma ambulância.	Call an ambulance.
Perdi-me.	I am lost.
Estou doente.	I am sick.