

a–z phrasebuilder

construindo frases

This chapter is arranged alphabetically and is designed to help you make your own sentences. If you can't find the exact phrase you need in this book, remember, a couple of well-chosen words, a little grammar and a gesture or two and you'll generally get the message across.

a/an

The Brazilian Portuguese words *um* and *uma* correspond to the English article 'a/an'. Whether you use the article *um* or *uma* depends upon the gender of the thing, person or concept talked about. If what you're referring to is masculine you use *um*, if it's feminine you use *uma*.

I'd like a pastry and a beer.

*Quero um pastel
e uma cerveja.*

(lit: I-like a pastry and a beer)

*ke-ro oom paas-tel
e oo-maa serr-ve-zhaa*

Also see **gender**.

adjectives see describing things

any see some

articles see a/an and the

be

Brazilian Portuguese has two words which can be translated as 'be' in English: *ser* and *estar*. Learning to use them perfectly will take some time and effort, but the basic difference in their usage is not too difficult to grasp. They're both irregular verbs

(just as 'be' is in English) so you need to remember by heart the various forms they take.

The verb *ser* refers to states that have a degree of permanency or durability about them.

I	am	Australian	<i>eu</i>	<i>sou</i>	<i>australiano m</i>
you sg	are	kind	<i>você</i>	<i>é</i>	<i>gentil m&f</i>
he/she	is	an artist	<i>ele/ela</i>	<i>é</i>	<i>artista m&f</i>
you pl	are	crazy	<i>vocês</i>	<i>são</i>	<i>loucos m</i>
we	are	students	<i>nós</i>	<i>somos</i>	<i>estudantes</i>
they	are	crazy	<i>eles/elas</i>	<i>são</i>	<i>loucos/ loucas m/f</i>

The verb *estar* generally refers to events which are temporary in nature.

I	am	on holiday	<i>eu</i>	<i>estou</i>	<i>de férias</i>
you sg	are	drunk	<i>você</i>	<i>está</i>	<i>bêbado m</i>
he/she	is	sick	<i>ele/ela</i>	<i>está</i>	<i>doente m&f</i>
you pl	are	lost	<i>vocês</i>	<i>estão</i>	<i>perdidos m</i>
we	are	travelling	<i>nós</i>	<i>estamos</i>	<i>viajando</i>
they	are	busy	<i>eles/elas</i>	<i>estão</i>	<i>ocupados/ ocupadas m/f</i>

comparing things

To compare one thing to another, use the words *mais* (more) and *menos* (less) in the following ways:

mais ... do que ...

more ... than ...

menos ... do que ...

less ... than ...

mais ... do ke ...

me-nos ... do ke ...

This shirt is nicer than that one.

*Esta camisa é mais
bonita do que esta.*

(lit: this shirt is more nice of
that this)

*es·taa kaa·mee·zaa e mais
bo·nee·taa do ke es·taa*

To refer to something as the most or least (eg, biggest) use *mais* (more) and *menor* (less) in the following ways:

o/a ... mais ... m/f
the ... most ...

o/aa ... mais ...

o/a ... menor ... m/f
the ... least ...

o/aa ... me·nor ...

I'd like the cheapest room.

*Quero o quarto mais
barato.*

(lit: I-like the room most cheap)

*ke·ro o kwaar·to mais
baa·raa·to*

demonstratives see this & that**describing things**

Adjectives are generally placed after the noun. They vary in form depending on the gender and number of the noun that they describe:

the pretty young woman

a jovem bonita

(lit: a young-woman beautiful)

aa zho·veng bo·nee·taa

the pretty young women

as jovens bonitas

(lit: the young-girls beautiful)

as zho·vengs bo·nee·taas

the handsome young man

o rapaz bonito

(lit: a young-man handsome)

o haa·paas bo·nee·to

the handsome young men

os rapazes bonitos

(lit: the young-men handsome)

os haa·paa·zes bo·nee·tos