

# SEVEN TIPS TO INSTANTLY IMPROVE YOUR PORTUGUESE PRONUNCIATION

If there's one thing my students of European Portuguese ALWAYS ask me for, it's help with pronunciation, so they can:

- ✔ Stop sounding like a confused tourist
- ✔ Finally understand what's being said to them

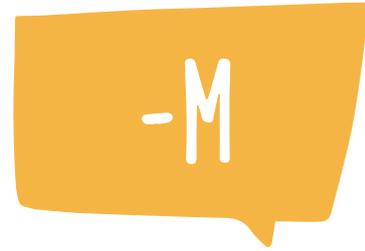
There are many different sounds in European Portuguese you need to master, but if you just learn these SEVEN sounds, it will be game-changing.

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...AND START  
SOUNDING LIKE  
A LOCAL!





This is one of the most common "nasal sounds" in Portuguese. The tilde accent (the squiggle above the -A) tells me I need to nasalise this vowel. That means I have to make the sound using my throat AND nose – check out my YouTube channel for further explanation. So, this is pronounced like a nasalised "-OW" like "COW". Practice using these seven words:

<b>cão</b> (dog)	<b>não</b> (no)
<b>mão</b> (hand)	<b>João</b> (John)
<b>são</b> (Saint)	<b>verão</b> (summer)
<b>pão</b> (bread)	

One of the most commonly mispronounced letters in Portuguese! When words END in -M, we do not pronounce the -M! Instead, this is a signal that I have to nasalise the VOWEL BEFORE the -M. This means you will barely hear the final letter, the -M becomes soft. Practice using these seven words:

<b>bom</b> (good)	<b>quem</b> (who)
<b>com</b> (with)	<b>sim</b> (yes)
<b>sem</b> (without)	<b>fim</b> (end)
<b>também</b> (also)	



You can roll a double -R in Portuguese, but it's also very common to use a voiced uvular fricative. This sounds more like the way the French pronounce their -Rs with a guttural "HHH" sound. It also applies when words begin with -R. Practice using these seven words:

<b>carro</b> (car)	<b>erro</b> (error)
<b>terra</b> (land)	<b>rua</b> (street)
<b>correr</b> (to run)	<b>real</b> (royal)
<b>bairro</b> (neighbourhood)	

The -S in Portuguese is one of the trickiest sounds, as you have several options for what it could sound like. An easy one to remember, is that if an -S sits BETWEEN two vowels, it is pronounced like "Z". Practice using these seven words:

<b>casa</b> (house)	<b>coisa</b> (thing)
<b>mesa</b> (table)	<b>preso</b> (trapped)
<b>defesa</b> (defence)	<b>pisso</b> (floor)
<b>princesa</b> (princess)	



An -S becomes a "SH" in Portuguese, when it is at the end of a word (easy) or when it sits BEFORE a consonant and after a vowel (not so easy). Getting this latter one right will make you sound super Portuguese, so practice with these words:

<b>está</b> (it is)	<b>isto</b> (this)
<b>espera</b> (wait)	<b>todos</b> (all)
<b>fresco</b> (fresh)	<b>muitos</b> (many)
<b>pastel</b> (tart)	



This one is very simple, but will make a big difference to how much like a local you sound when speaking Portuguese. When a word ends in -O, it is actually pronounced like a Portuguese "U" or, in English, an "-OOH". Practice with these words:

<b>bolo</b> (cake)	<b>giro</b> (cool)
<b>posso</b> (I can)	<b>tudo</b> (everything)
<b>fofo</b> (cute)	<b>pequeno</b> (small)
<b>garfo</b> (fork)	



This is what we call a DIGRAPH, when two letters work together to make one sound. It's quite unlike anything we have in English. Think of it as pronouncing the letters L and Y phonetically: "luh-yuh". Now say it super fast until it merges into one sound. That's -LH. Practice using these words:

<b>olho</b> (eye)	<b>trabalho</b> (work)
<b>alho</b> (garlic)	<b>barulho</b> (noise)
<b>filho</b> (son)	<b>bacalhau</b> (cod)
<b>folha</b> (sheet)	



So, how did you find it?  
Easy when you know  
how, right?

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- ✔ Take your Portuguese to the next level
- ✔ Navigate every day life in Portuguese more comfortably
- ✔ Understand Portuguese as it is spoken in real-life
- ✔ Build confidence in the way you speak

I hope to see you there!  
Ciao for now, beijinhos,

Liz x