

Unit 1

1. Listen to this vowel sound on the tape. Do not repeat it yet.

() ()

2. The sound you just heard is a Portuguese nasal vowel. Listen to it again.

() ()

3. This nasal vowel sound is seldom heard all by itself. Usually it is heard in combination with other sounds. To illustrate, we can put a b sound before it. The result is a one-syllable word. Just listen.

() ()

4. Here is your chance to repeat that word. Mimic the voice on the tape as accurately as you can.

()x ()x

5. Now we will put an s in front of this same nasal vowel. This gives us another Portuguese word. Just listen.

() ()

6. Here is your chance to repeat that word. Mimic the voice on the tape as accurately as you can.

()x ()x

7. Now we will put a d in front of the vowel. This gives us still another word. Just listen.

() ()

8. Now say the word. Mimic the voice on the tape as accurately as you can.

()x ()x

9. In this frame we will review the three words just given, and we will show you what they look like. Mimic the voice on the tape as your eye follows along below.

bom ()x ()x

som ()x ()x

dom ()x ()x

10. This visual stimulus may tempt you to say an m sound when pronouncing these words. This would be wrong. There is no m sound in these words. Be sure that you do not let yourself say one.

bom ()x

som ()x

dom ()x

11. Here is another common word in which this same nasal vowel occurs. Just listen.

com () ()

12. Now repeat the word, making sure that you do not end it with an m sound.

com ()x ()x

13. Here are two common names that contain this nasal vowel. Just listen. Do not repeat yet.

Afonso () ()

Alonso () ()

14. Now repeat. Be careful that you say the nasal vowel and that you do not say an n sound.

Afonso ()x ()x

Alonso ()x ()x

15. Let us now go on to another nasal vowel. Listen to the voice on the tape. Do not repeat yet.

() ()

16. As before, we will prefix several consonant sounds to this nasal vowel in order to form words. First we will prefix an s sound. Just listen.

() ()

17. Now imitate the voice on the tape as well as you can.

()x ()x

18. Listen to this same nasal vowel preceded by an m sound.

() ()

19. Now imitate.

()x ()x

20. Listen to this same nasal vowel preceded by a v sound.

() ()

21. Now imitate.

()x ()x

22. In this frame we will review the three words just given, and we will show you what they look like. Continue to mimic the voice on the tape as your eye follows along below.

sim ()x ()x

mim ()x ()x

vim ()x ()x

23. The sight of the m may tempt you to say an m. Do not let that happen. Pronounce a nasal vowel instead.

sim ()x

mim ()x

vim ()x

24. Here is the same nasal vowel preceded by the l sound. Just listen.

() ()

25. That was the first syllable of a two-syllable word. Now repeat the syllable.

()x ()x

26. The second syllable of the word does not have a nasal vowel. Just listen.

() ()

27. Now repeat the second syllable.

()x ()x

28. By combining the two syllables we produce the word. Listen, then mimic.

() ()x ()x ()x

29. Here is how the word appears in print. Mimic carefully as you look at it.

lindo () ()

30. As you see, in this word an n appears, but you should try not to say an n. Instead, say the nasal vowel.

lindo ()x ()x

31. You will often find this same word said with a different ending. Just listen.

linda () ()

32. Now repeat. Try not to say an n sound.

linda ()x ()x

33. The word you just said can also be a proper name. Repeat it again, being sure to make the vowel nasal.

Linda ()x ()x

34. In a brief conversational exchange that will soon be presented, you will offer the greeting 'Good day.' Here is the word 'good.' It is a word you have already practiced. As you say it again, remember to make the vowel nasal.

bom ()x ()x

35. And here is the word 'day.' It is a new word for you, and there is no nasal vowel.

dia ()x ()x

36. Many Portuguese speakers pronounce the d of dia as you just heard it, very similar to our English d. Other speakers pronounce the d much like the j of English jeep, as you

will hear at this point on the tape.

dia ()x ()x

37. Either pronunciation is correct. Both are common. For the moment we will ask you to copy the j of jeep.

dia ()x ()x

38. It may also be useful to represent this sound with the symbols dg, as in the English word 'fudge.' Say the word 'fudge,' then transfer the dg to the Portuguese word dia.

fudge ()x ()x

dia ()x ()x

39. If we put bom and dia together we have the greeting 'Good day,' or 'Good morning.'

bom dia ()x ()x

40. The person responding to this greeting will likely use the same phrase in returning the greeting.

bom dia ()x ()x

41. In the third line of the conversational exchange to which we are leading you, the speaker says 'The day is beautiful.' You already know 'day.'

dia ()x ()x

42. Here is 'the day.'

o dia ()x ()x

43. Notice that the word 'the' in this phrase is simply the sound u.

o ()x ()x

44. Here again is 'the day.'

o dia ()x ()x

45. The word 'beautiful' is also a word you have already practiced. As you say it again, remember to make its first vowel nasal.

lindo ()x ()x

46. Listen to the way you say 'is.'

está () ()

47. Now repeat.

está ()x ()x

48. Here, then, are the last two words of this sentence: 'is beautiful.'

está lindo ()x ()x

49. And here is the complete sentence: 'The day is beautiful.'

O dia está lindo ()x ()x

50. In the fourth line of this exchange the speaker agrees that it is a beautiful day. He says, 'Yes, it is.' You already know 'it is.'

está ()x ()x

51. And you have already practiced the word 'yes.' As you say it again, remember to make the vowel nasal.

sim ()x ()x

52. Here, then, is the fourth and final line of the exchange: 'Yes, it is.'

Está sim ()x ()x

53. The normal sequence in Portuguese is 'It is, yes' rather than 'Yes, it is.'

Está sim ()x ()x

You are now ready for the first of a series of brief conversational exchanges. The exchange appears on the next page and it is pre-recorded at this point on the tape. As with all the exchanges which are to follow, we have recorded it twice, once with a pause after each sentence, to enable you to repeat while the tape is still running, and once straight through, without pauses, so you can hear the exchange as a bit of normal conversation. Work through the recorded presentations several times, especially the one with pauses, mimicking and practicing both roles until you feel you know the material well enough to participate in it with your instructor in the check-out session. Then go on to frame 54.

Exchange # 1

_____ Bom dia.

_____ Bom dia.

_____ O dia está lindo.

_____ Está sim.

_____ Good morning.

_____ Good morning.

_____ The day is beautiful.

_____ Yes, it is.

54. As part of the next exchange one of the speakers asks if 'everything is well.' Here is the word for 'everything.' Do not repeat it yet.

tudo () ()

55. The first syllable is tu-. Just listen.

tu- () ()

56. This syllable sounds a lot like our English word 'too,' but the 't' is different. If you say English 'too' and put your hand about an inch from your mouth you will feel a puff of air. Try it.

too ()x ()x

57. This puff of air is a part of the English 't' sound when it comes at the beginning of a word. Say these English words and feel the air hitting your hand.

tall ()x ()x

tan ()x ()x

tin ()x ()x

ten ()x ()x

toe ()x ()x

too ()x ()x

58. The Portuguese 't' does not have this puff of air. Try to say the following Portuguese syllables without it.

ta ()x ()x

to ()x ()x

tu ()x ()x

59. A degree of control is required to keep the air flow in check. Practice the syllables again.

ta ()x ()x

to ()x ()x

tu ()x ()x

60. Here again is the word 'everything.' Say it without the puff of air on the 't.'

tudo ()x ()x

61. The second syllable is much like our English word 'do.'

tudo ()x ()x

62. Now listen to the word 'well.' Do not repeat it yet.

() ()

63. We can approach the pronunciation of the word 'well' via the English word 'bay.' First, say the English word 'bay.'

bay ()x ()x

64. Second, pronounce just the '-ay' portion of 'bay.'

-ay ()x ()x

65. Third, say the '-ay' with nasalization. Mimic carefully.

nasalized -ay ()x ()x

66. Finally, put a b sound in front of the nasalized '-ay.'

This should give you the Portuguese word 'well.'

b plus nasalized -ay ()x ()x

67. Continue to mimic the word as you now see it for the first time.

bem ()x ()x

68. Seeing the way the word is written might tempt you to pronounce it with an m sound. There is no m sound. Continue to mimic.

bem ()x ()x

69. Now let us put tudo and bem together so that we can ask 'Is everything well?' or 'Is everything okay?'

Tudo bem? ()x ()x

70. No verb is needed in this expression. Observe that in English too we can do without the verb: 'Everything okay?'

Tudo bem? ()x ()x

71. The response to this question is likely to consist of the very same words delivered as a statement: 'Everything (is) fine.'

Tudo bem ()x ()x

Exchange # 2

_____ Bom dia.
_____ Bom dia.
_____ Tudo bem?
_____ Tudo bem.

_____ Good morning.
_____ Good morning.
_____ Is everything okay?
_____ Everything is okay.

72. A useful variation in the above exchange is to have the second speaker respond with 'So-so' rather than 'Everything is fine.' In Portuguese 'so-so' is said literally as 'more or less.' First, just listen to the phrase 'more or less.'

() ()

73. Here is the word 'more.' Listen and repeat.

() ()x ()x

74. Here is the word 'or.'

() ()x ()x

75. Now we put them together: 'More or' Notice the z sound between the two words.

() ()x ()x

76. And finally here is the word 'less.'

() ()x ()x

77. Now we have the complete phrase: 'More or less.'

()x ()x

78. This is what the phrase looks like.

a. mais.... ()x

Be sure you pronounce a z sound here.

b. mais ou.... ()x

c. mais ou menos ()x ()x

Exchange # 3

_____ Bom dia.

_____ Bom dia.

_____ Tudo bem?

_____ Mais ou menos.

_____ Good morning.

_____ Good morning.

_____ Everything okay?

_____ So-so (more or less).

79. So far our exchanges have concentrated on greetings in the morning. In the next exchange we will direct ourselves to the afternoon. Here is the word 'afternoon.' Listen, but do not mimic yet.

tarde () ()

80. The first syllable of the word is tar-. Just listen.

tar- () ()

81. The pronunciation of an r at the end of a syllable varies a bit from region to region. Many speakers pronounce it in a way that suggests a strong English h sound, that is, an h sound with a bit of friction or rasping added to it. Try to mimic that pronunciation here.

tar- ()x ()x

82. That is the pronunciation we will use in these frames. Mimic it again.

tar- ()x ()x

83. The second syllable is -de. Just listen.

-de () ()

84. The consonant sound here is the j sound of 'jeep,' or the dg of 'fudge.'

-de ()x ()x

85. Many speakers will have a d sound here, much like our English d, but for the moment we will ask you to use the j of 'jeep' or the dg or 'fudge.' Mimic again.

-de ()x ()x

86. Here are both syllables, forming the word for 'afternoon.'

tarde ()x ()x

87. The word tarde requires a different form of the word for 'good.' We can not use the form bom. Instead we use the form boa. Just listen.

boa () ()

88. There is no nasal vowel in boa. Mimic what you hear.

boa ()x ()x

89. Here is the complete phrase 'Good afternoon.'

boa tarde () ()x ()x

90. The person addressed is likely to respond with the same greeting.

boa tarde () ()x ()x

91. In a previous exchange we said that the day was beautiful. Here we will say that the afternoon is beautiful. Here is 'the afternoon.'

a tarde ()x ()x

92. As you say the word 'beautiful' remember to make the first vowel nasal.

linda ()x ()x

93. Notice that the word in this instance is linda and not lindo.

linda ()x ()x

94. Here is the sentence: 'The afternoon is beautiful.'

A tarde ()x

A tarde está ()x

A tarde está linda ()x ()x

95. The response to that sentence is translatable as 'It certainly is,' or 'It is, indeed.' Here is the word which serves as the equivalent of 'certainly' or 'indeed.'

mesmo () ()x ()x

96. Notice the z sound in mesmo.

mesmo ()x ()x

97. And here is the response: 'It certainly is.'

Está mesmo () ()x ()x

Exchange # 4

_____ Boa tarde.

_____ Boa tarde.

_____ A tarde está linda.

_____ Está mesmo.

_____ Good afternoon.

_____ Good afternoon.

_____ The afternoon is beautiful.

_____ It certainly is.

98. Now we will go on to an appropriate greeting for evening or night. Here is the first syllable of the word for 'night.'
- () ()x ()x
99. Here is the whole word.
- () ()x ()x
100. Here is what the word for 'night' looks like.
- noite ()x ()x
101. The word can be pronounced with a t sound, as above, or it can be pronounced with a sound resembling the ch of 'cheese'.
- noite ()x ()x
102. Either way is correct, but for the moment we will ask you to use the ch of 'cheese.'
- noite ()x ()x
103. You already know the proper form for 'good.'
- boa ()x ()x
104. So here is the greeting 'Good evening.'
- boa noite ()x ()x
105. The person responding to this greeting is likely to use the same greeting in return.
- boa noite ()x ()x
106. In the next exchange the first speaker wants to know if it is raining. Listen to the word for 'raining.'
- () ()
107. Mimic the first syllable of the word.
- ()x ()x

108. Mimic the second syllable. The vowel here is nasal.

()x ()x

109. Here is the third syllable.

()x ()x

110. Now mimic the whole word.

()x ()x

111. Here is what the word 'raining' looks like.

chovendo ()x ()x

112. Notice that the ch spelling calls for an sh pronunciation.

chovendo ()x ()x

113. Try to make the second vowel nasal and try not to pronounce an n.

ven... ()x ()x

chovendo ()x ()x

114. We already know the word 'is.'

está ()x ()x

115. So we can ask 'Is it raining?'

Está chovendo? ()x ()x

116. The answer is one that you have seen before: 'Yes, it is.'

Está sim ()x ()x

117. Or, as a variation, and depending on the weather, the answer might well be 'No, it is not.' In this frame listen to the Portuguese word that serves for both 'no' and 'not.'
Do not repeat it yet.

() ()

118. Now let's pronounce the word. First, say an n sound followed by a nasalized uh sound. Be sure you nasalize the uh. Mimic carefully.

n + nasalized uh ()x ()x

119. Now, proceed to add a u sound to the above, and continue the nasalization.

n plus nasalized uh plus nasalized u ()x ()x

120. The above maneuvers should give you the Portuguese word that serves for both 'no' and 'not.' Mimic the word again.

()x ()x

121. Here is what the word looks like.

não ()x ()x

122. And here is the alternate answer, 'No, it is not.'

Não, não está ()x ()x

123. The first não corresponds to English 'no,' the second to English 'not.'

Não, não está ()x ()x

Exchange # 5

___ Boa noite.

___ Boa noite.

___ Está chovendo?

___ Está sim.

___ Good evening.

___ Good evening.

___ Is it raining?

___ Yes, it is.

Exchange # 6

___ Boa noite.

___ Boa noite.

___ Está chovendo?

___ Não, não está.

___ Good evening.

___ Good evening.

___ Is it raining?

___ No, it's not.