

English Pronunciation Tips for Portuguese Speakers

1) Be careful of False Friends (between English and Portuguese).

Watch the video from English with Ronnie: EnglishLessons4U with engVid on YouTube (Link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0DBKTME0Mk>) to learn more about the idea of false friends.

1. Cafeteria
2. Café
3. pasta
4. dent
5. balcony
6. pretender
7. push
8. pull
9. collar
10. library
11. fabric

This list is simply a summary from the video above.

2) Be Careful of Vowels & Pronouncing -ed

“The first and foremost point to address with respect to what the typical Portuguese speaker has ingrained as an instinct with respect to the pronunciation of words as they see them in writing certainly has to be, in my opinion, the simple fact that in the Portuguese language, every single vowel is pronounced as either an alphabetical vowel sound, or a relative vowel sound. There does not exist within the Portuguese language the concept of a schwa, or a silent letter, which can be in the form of a vowel.

Therefore, as an example, we see a massive problem with the pronunciation of any verb that a Portuguese ESL student encounters that they find to be in the simple past. Here I am discussing those verbs in the simple past that are also regular verbs and not irregular, therefore ending with an -ed, as in walked, or rented. Looking at walked and rented as examples they would both be pronounced in a completely phonetic manner, maybe with the exception of the L in walked as many of these students would most likely have encountered the verb in any beginner course. This point is just the tip of the iceberg with respect to the issues facing Portuguese ESL learners in terms of the way they approach the pronunciation of unknown written words that undoubtedly arise from the difference in the rules of pronunciation that are instilled in these students from their native language; Portuguese.”

From the website International TEFL and TESOL Training, at <https://www.teflcourse.net/blog/the-most-common-problems-portuguese-native-speaking-students-when-learning-english-ittt-tefl-blog/> , and written by Brian P.