

THE SPEAK CLEARLY METHOD

FREE PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

English Pronunciation

for Brazilian Portuguese Speakers

para falantes de português do Brasil · built around your first language

/θ/ TH

endings

the H

dark L

NG

vowels

You don't have to lose your accent.

You have to be understood.

by Evangeline Smith & Miriam Smith · authors of Speak Clearly

THE PRACTICAL ENGLISH SERIES

English Pronunciation for Brazilian Portuguese Speakers

A Speak Clearly Method guide

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Companion to "Speak Clearly: A Practical Guide to English Pronunciation."

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Built for Brazilian Portuguese speakers

Your accent isn't random — it's Portuguese, a warm and musical language, showing through in English. Because Portuguese follows clear rules, the places it shapes your English are predictable. And predictable means fixable.

This guide skips the sounds you already handle well and goes straight to the handful that most affect whether English listeners understand you the first time.

The promise

This is not about erasing your accent or sounding American. Only about 1 in 4 English speakers learned it as a first language — you're the majority, not the exception. We keep your accent and fix only what gets in the way of being understood.

How to use it

Read the strengths on the next page first, then work through the fix cards one at a time. Say everything OUT LOUD — into your phone's recorder or a mirror. A sound only counts when it survives outside the page.

Sounds you already own

Portuguese gives you a real head start. Several sounds that defeat other learners are already yours — trust them.

ch → SH

Your ch in chave, chuva is exactly English “sh” in she, wash, nation.

j / g → measure

Your j in janela, gente is the tricky /ʒ/ in measure, vision, usually.

z → Z

Your z in zebra, casa already buzzes — so “zoo” and “eyes” come easily.

qu → W

Your u in quando, qual gives you English ‘w’ — “west” is easy for you.

Nasal awareness

Portuguese nasals (ão, ã) tune your ear — useful for English ‘ng’ and ‘n’.

Start from these. When a new English sound feels hard, remember how many you already make perfectly.

Fix cards · 1 of 3

-C

endings

Don't add a vowel

BRAZILIAN HABIT Brazilian Portuguese words end in vowels, so one escapes: "book"→"booki," "dog"→"dogui."

THE FIX Stop cleanly ON the final consonant. Say "book" and freeze — don't let a vowel follow it.

book

dog

big

stop

TH

/θ ð/

The TH sound

BRAZILIAN HABIT Portuguese has no TH, so "think" becomes "tink/sink" and "this" becomes "dis/zis."

THE FIX Put your tongue tip between your teeth and push air. In a mirror you should see it peek out.

think

three

this

mother

R H

/r h/

R at the start

BRAZILIAN HABIT Brazilian r at the start of a word sounds like English 'h', so "red" comes out as "hed."

THE FIX English r: curl your tongue up and back, touching nothing, lips slightly rounded. It never sounds like h.

red

right

around

car

Fix cards · 2 of 3

L w

dark L

The dark L

BRAZILIAN HABIT Brazilian final l becomes 'u/w', so "Brazil"→"Braziw" and "full"→"fuw."

THE FIX Keep the tongue tip touching behind your top teeth to the very end. Feel the contact for the l.

full

school

people

well

ti di

/tʃ dʒ/

Ti and Di

BRAZILIAN HABIT Brazilian ti/di become 'chi/dji', so "party"→"parchy" and "day" can start like "djay."

THE FIX Keep t and d as plain, dry stops before i and e. Tongue taps and releases — no 'ch' or 'j' slide.

party

time

day

did

-ED

/t d ɪd/

The -ED ending

BRAZILIAN HABIT -ED often gains a vowel: "walked"→"walk-edji," or the ending gets dropped entirely.

THE FIX Three sounds only: /t/ after air (kissed), /d/ after a buzz (loved), /ɪd/ after t or d (wanted).

kissed

loved

wanted

Fix cards · 3 of 3

i:

/ɪ i:/

Ship vs Sheep

BRAZILIAN HABIT Short “ship” and long “sheep” can blur into one Portuguese “i”.

THE FIX Short /ɪ/: relaxed and quick. Long /i:/: spread your lips like a smile and hold it longer.

ship/sheep

live/leave

fill/feel

NG

/ŋ/

The NG sound

BRAZILIAN HABIT Portuguese nasalises the vowel instead, so “sing” loses its ending or gains a hard g.

THE FIX Lift the back of your tongue and let the sound out through your nose — then stop. No hard g.

sing

singer

running

H

/h/

The H sound

BRAZILIAN HABIT Portuguese h is silent, so “house” becomes “ouse” and “happy” becomes “appy.”

THE FIX Push a gentle breath before the vowel — like fogging a mirror. Feel the air leave.

house

happy

hello

behind

PRACTISE

Your 7-day plan

Ten minutes a day. Record yourself on day 1 and day 7 — hearing your own progress is the most motivating thing you'll do.

DAY
1

Endings

Stop on the consonant: book, dog, big, stop. No vowel after. Record 3 sentences.

DAY
2

TH

Tongue between teeth: think, three, this. In the mirror.

DAY
3

The R

Float the r — never an h: red, right, around.

DAY
4

Dark L

Tongue tip stays touching: full, school, people.

DAY
5

Ti / Di

Dry t and d: party, time, day, did — no 'ch' or 'j'.

DAY
6

-ED & NG

kissed /t/, loved /d/, wanted /ɪd/; nose test for sing.

DAY
7

Together

Re-record your day-1 sentences. Compare. Pick your hardest sound to keep polishing.

WHEN YOU'VE GOT THESE

Ready for all 22 sounds?

This guide covers the sounds Brazilian Portuguese speakers most need. *Speak Clearly* — the full book — covers all 22 sounds and speech patterns, with minimal pairs and tongue twisters for every one, guides for six first languages, and a complete 30-day plan.

Speak Clearly

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Boa sorte! You don't have to lose your accent — just be understood.

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**Speak clearly.
Speak as yourself.**

Fala como você é.

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