

# PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Below we present a summary of the sounds of Brazilian Portuguese. It is not expected that learners should know all those sounds before starting to work with *Bons Negócios*; rather, the information below is to be used as reference whenever needed.

Note that symbols within square brackets ([ ]) represent sounds, not letters. The examples given illustrate key vocabulary in business; for their meanings the learner can check the glossary at the end of the book or a good dictionary.



## 1 Listen to the examples, repeat them, and check the comments for further information about those sounds.

Note: Eng = English.

	EXAMPLES	COMMENTS
A	agenda data água hora banco dinâmica	The letter <i>a</i> is pronounced [a], close to Eng <i>market</i> , in the beginning of a word ( <i>agenda</i> ) or when it is stressed ( <i>data</i> , <i>água</i> ). It is pronounced close to Eng <i>money</i> when it is unstressed ( <i>hora</i> ). When it is nasalized ( <i>banco</i> , <i>dinâmica</i> ), the letter <i>a</i> sounds somewhat like Eng <i>number</i> .
B	bolsa aberto	The letter <i>b</i> is always [b].
C	carro cliente acesso cheque ação	The letter <i>c</i> is pronounced [k], as in Eng <i>client</i> , when it appears before <i>a</i> , <i>o</i> , <i>u</i> or a consonant ( <i>carro</i> , <i>cliente</i> ). It is pronounced [s], as in Eng <i>circulation</i> , when it appears before the vowels <i>e</i> and <i>i</i> ( <i>acesso</i> ). <i>Ch</i> is pronounced [ʃ], as in Eng <i>share</i> . Note that <i>ç</i> sounds like [s] ( <i>ação</i> ).
D	dados demissão pedra dividir grande	The letter <i>d</i> is always pronounced [d], as in Eng <i>debt</i> , before the vowels <i>a</i> , <i>o</i> , <i>u</i> , before <i>e</i> when it sounds [e], and before <i>r</i> ( <i>dados</i> , <i>demissão</i> , <i>pedra</i> ). In several Brazilian dialects, <i>d</i> is pronounced [dʒ], as in Eng <i>job</i> , before the sound [i] ( <i>dividir</i> , <i>grande</i> ). In other dialects, <i>d</i> is always [d].
E	preço mês chefe café gerente	In many dialects, the letter <i>e</i> is pronounced [e], close to Eng <i>pay</i> , in several words (e.g., <i>preço</i> ) and when it bears the circumflex accent ( <i>mês</i> ). The letter <i>e</i> is pronounced [ɛ], as in Eng <i>sell</i> , in certain stressed syllables ( <i>chefe</i> ) and when it bears the acute accent ( <i>café</i> ). The letter <i>e</i> is also pronounced [i], as in Eng <i>easy</i> , in certain unstressed contexts ( <i>chefe</i> , <i>gerente</i> ). Finally, the letter <i>e</i> can be nasalized, close to Eng <i>vendor</i> ( <i>gerente</i> ).
F	fraude	The letter <i>f</i> is always [f].

EXAMPLES		COMMENTS
<b>G</b>	<b>garantia</b> <b>grande</b> <b>gerir</b> <b>reagir</b>	The letter <i>g</i> is pronounced [g], as in Eng <i>goal</i> , when it appears before <i>a, o, u</i> ( <b>garantia</b> ), and also before the consonants <i>l</i> and <i>r</i> ( <b>grande</b> ). The letter <i>g</i> is pronounced [ʒ], as in Eng <i>pleasure</i> , when it occurs before the vowels <i>e</i> and <i>i</i> ( <b>gerir, reagir</b> ).
<b>H</b>	<b>hora</b> <b>cheque</b> <b>trabalho</b> <b>engenharia</b>	When it occurs in the beginning of a word, the letter <i>h</i> is silent ( <b>hora</b> ). <i>Ch</i> is pronounced [ʃ], as in Eng <i>share</i> ( <b>cheque</b> ). <i>Lh</i> is pronounced [χ], close to Eng <i>million</i> ( <b>trabalho</b> ). <i>Nh</i> is pronounced [ɲ], close to Eng <i>onion</i> ( <b>engenharia</b> ).
<b>I</b>	<b>igual</b> <b>investir</b>	When it is not nasalized, the letter <i>i</i> is pronounced [i], as in Eng <i>lease</i> ( <b>igual</b> ). The letter <i>i</i> is nasalized [ĩ], close to Eng <i>invest</i> , when it occurs before <i>m</i> or <i>n</i> ( <b>investir</b> ).
<b>J</b>	<b>juros</b>	The letter <i>j</i> is always [ʒ], as in Eng <i>pleasure</i> .
<b>K</b>	<b>marketing</b>	The letter <i>k</i> is normally used in loan words.
<b>L</b>	<b>lei</b> <b>legal</b> <b>detalhe</b>	In the beginning of a syllable, the letter <i>l</i> is pronounced [l], as in Eng <i>law</i> . At the end of a syllable, the letter <i>l</i> is commonly pronounced [u] in Brazil, as in Eng <i>low</i> ( <b>legal</b> ). With an <i>h</i> , it forms the sound [ʎ], close to Eng <i>million</i> ( <b>detalhe</b> ).
<b>M</b>	<b>máquina</b> <b>importar</b>	In the beginning of a syllable, the letter <i>m</i> is pronounced [m], as in Eng <i>machine</i> . When it follows a vowel at the end of a syllable, the letter <i>m</i> signals that the vowel is nasalized ( <b>importar</b> ).
<b>N</b>	<b>nome</b> <b>índice</b> <b>ganhar</b>	In the beginning of a syllable, the letter <i>n</i> is pronounced [n], as in Eng <i>name</i> . When it follows a vowel at the end of a syllable, the letter <i>n</i> signals that the vowel is nasalized ( <b>índice</b> ). With an <i>h</i> , it forms the sound [ɲ], close to Eng <i>onion</i> ( <b>ganhar</b> ).
<b>O</b>	<b>ótimo</b> <b>pôr</b> <b>expor</b> <b>banco</b> <b>conta</b> <b>ações</b>	A stressed <i>o</i> can sound like [ɔ], as in Eng <i>loss</i> ( <b>ótimo</b> ), or [o], close to Eng <i>low</i> ( <b>pôr, expor</b> ). At the end of a word, if it is unstressed, <i>o</i> is pronounced [u], as in Eng <i>lose</i> ( <b>banco</b> ). The letter <i>o</i> can also represent a nasalized sound [õ], close to Eng <i>bond</i> ( <b>conta, ações</b> ).
<b>P</b>	<b>plano</b>	The letter <i>p</i> is pronounced [p].
<b>Q</b>	<b>quantia</b>	The letter <i>q</i> is pronounced [k].
<b>R</b>	<b>reunião</b> <b>carreira</b> <b>seguro</b> <b>emprego</b> <b>setor</b>	In the beginning of a word, in <i>rr</i> , or after <i>l, n, s</i> the letter <i>r</i> is pronounced somewhat like the letter <i>h</i> in Eng <i>hot</i> ( <b>reunião, carreira</b> ). Between vowels and after consonants (other than <i>l, n, s</i> ), the letter <i>r</i> is pronounced as in American Eng <i>petty</i> ( <b>seguro, emprego</b> ). At the end of a syllable/word ( <b>setor</b> ), the pronunciation for <i>r</i> varies within Brazil.
<b>S</b>	<b>salário</b> <b>profissão</b> <b>visita</b> <b>mês</b>	In the beginning of a word or in <i>ss</i> , the letter <i>s</i> is pronounced [s], as in Eng <i>salary</i> ( <b>salário, profissão</b> ). When it appears between vowels, <i>s</i> is pronounced [z] as in Eng <i>visit</i> ( <b>visita</b> ). At the end of a syllable/word ( <b>mês</b> ), pronunciation of <i>s</i> depends on what follows it. If it is followed by a vowel it is pronounced [z]. If it is followed by a voiced consonant sound (such as [b], [d], [g], [l], [m], etc.), it is also pronounced [z] (in most dialects). If it is followed by a voiceless consonant sound (such as [p], [t], [k]) or if it is not followed by another word, it is pronounced [s] in most dialects.

EXAMPLES		COMMENTS
<b>T</b>	<b>tarifa</b> <b>discutir</b>	Before <i>a, o, u, l, r</i> and sometimes <i>e</i> , the letter <i>t</i> is pronounced [t], as in Eng <i>stay</i> ( <i>tarifa</i> ). In several dialects of Brazilian Portuguese, <i>t</i> is pronounced [tʃ] as in Eng <i>voucher</i> , before the sound [i] ( <i>discutir</i> ). In other dialects, <i>t</i> is always [t].
<b>U</b>	<b>uma</b> <b>funcionar</b> <b>igual</b> <b>que</b>	The letter <i>u</i> is pronounced [u] as in Eng <i>do</i> in many instances ( <i>uma</i> ). It can also be nasalized ( <i>funcionar</i> ). After <i>g, q</i> and before <i>a, o</i> , it is pronounced [w], as in Eng <i>wait</i> ( <i>igual</i> ). After <i>g, q</i> and before <i>e, i</i> , the letter <i>u</i> is not pronounced, since it signals a "hard" <i>g</i> [g] or <i>q</i> [k] ( <i>que</i> ).
<b>V</b>	<b>versátil</b>	The letter <i>v</i> is pronounced [v].
<b>W</b>	<b>web</b> <b>download</b>	The letter <i>w</i> is normally used in loan words.
<b>X</b>	<b>taxa</b> <b>aproximação</b> <b>exigir</b> <b>flexível</b>	The letter <i>x</i> can be pronounced as four different sounds: (1) [ʃ] as in Eng <i>share</i> ( <i>taxa</i> ); (2) [s] ( <i>aproximar</i> ); (3) [z] ( <i>exigir</i> ); (4) [ks] as in Eng <i>flexible</i> ( <i>flexível</i> ).
<b>Y</b>	<b>delivery</b>	The letter <i>y</i> is normally used in loan words.
<b>Z</b>	<b>organizar</b> <b>capaz</b>	The letter <i>z</i> is pronounced [z] before a vowel ( <i>organizar</i> ). It may be [s] or [z] at the end of a word ( <i>capaz</i> ), depending on the word that follows it (if any). If it is followed by a word starting with a vowel, <i>z</i> is pronounced [z]. If it is followed by a voiced consonant sound (such as [b], [d], [g], [l], [m], etc.), <i>z</i> is pronounced [z] in most dialects. If it is followed by a voiceless consonant sound (such as [p], [t], [k]) or if it is not followed by another word, it is pronounced [s] in most dialects.

