



Lesson 3: Please Por favor.

LESSON NOTES

Today's phrase will help you take matters into your own hands! Today we'll take a look at "Please." as in asking for something.

The phrase we'll learn today is "por favor." In Portuguese "por favor" means "please." The phrase "por favor" literally means "as a favor" but is used just like "please." Brazilians are extremely good guessers and the most rudimentary way of using "por favor" is pointing at something while saying "por favor." But, how about we spice this up just a little bit? Let's start with, "This please." which in Portuguese "isto por favor." In English, "this" comes before "please" and it's the same in Portuguese. So, "this" in Portuguese is "isto."

Looking at the word for "this", warrants a look at the word for "that" which is "isso." So, the phrase "isso por favor" or "that please." is almost identical to the phrase "isto por favor" which is "this please."

"Isto por favor" means "this please".

"Isso por favor" means "that please".

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Por favor.	Please.
Isto por favor.	This please.
Isso por favor.	That please.

QUICK TIP

Now, usually I would give a little culture note right now but there is something important I need to explain. I don't want to use the "g" word but I'm afraid I'm need to explain a bit of "grammar" today. So, here we go.

These phrases we just learned are gender neutral. Gender, as it refers to Portuguese, denotes a particular type of grammatical agreement between the nouns, adjectives, articles, and prepositions. For example, in English you don't say, "She is an actor," you sound like an idiot. You say, "She is an actress." Likewise, we don't say, "He is a stewardess" because "stewardess"

denotes femininity and "He" is not a woman. This is gender agreement and in Portuguese it is much, much more extensive than in English. Because of these gender variations there are 5 ways to say "this" and 10 ways to say "that." But don't worry you don't need to know all 15.

The reason I explained this is that even though "isto" and "isso" are just fine for you to use the Brazilians probably won't because they're natives and understand the complex agreement patterns. And as we go through these lessons and during your trip you'll see several different ways to say "this" and "that." Don't worry don't get stress. It's all just "this" or "that." learn the phrases they way they are written in these lessons and you'll do great!