

# Why Learn Portuguese?



**Join a global trend!** Portuguese is spoken by almost 220 million people worldwide. The sixth most popular language in the world, Portuguese is widely spoken on four continents and is the official language of eight countries: Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Cape Verde, East Timor, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé e Príncipe.



**Distinguish yourself!** Portuguese is not usually the first language of choice for second language learners, and that's a good thing for you! Distinguish yourself by learning an important yet not often studied language.



**Cover more of the globe with two!** Pairing Portuguese with Spanish will multiply your chances for success whether as a tourist or for business—a great addition to your language repertoire. These two languages cover all of South America plus many other regions of Europe, Africa and Asia.



**Enhance your career!** Brazil is the world's fifth largest country by population and has the fourth largest economy. Speaking Portuguese will jumpstart your job opportunities in fields such as energy, food safety, engineering, construction, telecommunications or the music business!



**Get into nature!** Whether you want to explore the tropical rainforest or Amazon basin in Brazil or the marine ecology of Mozambique as a tourist or study a variety of plants, animals and insects for future health cures and conservation, speaking Portuguese will be a critical factor in your success.



**Make a difference!** Brazil, Cape Verde, East Timor and other Portuguese-speaking nations are at crucial inflection points for the environment, human rights, education and population. Knowing Portuguese will help you “do well by doing good,” making contributions that can also help build your career.



**Feel the rhythm!** Portuguese is fun and jazzy—one of the most melodious, musical languages in the world, with one of the richest vowel phonologies of all Romance languages. Maybe that's why so much music and dance, from *samba* and *bossa nova* to *capoeira* and *fado* hails from Portuguese-speaking lands.



**Spice up your life!** Love food? You'll enjoy it more when you can hear from the chef how to make the *receita* yourself: rich Portuguese *pasteis de nata*, meaty Brazilian *feijoada*, and spicy Angolan *Moamba de galinha*.



**Strengthen your vocabulary!** Tapioca, piranha, cashew and toucan come from Portuguese because of centuries of exchange between English and Portuguese-speaking nations. Besides these “perfect cognates,” the many near-cognates like *dentista*, *criticismo* and *inteligência* will ease your learning of Portuguese and help you understand how much of English stems from Latin roots.



#LivetheLanguage

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