

# Portuguese

Portuguese is spoken in many countries throughout the world, e.g. Brazil in South America, Angola and Mozambique in Africa, Portugal in Europe and Goa in India. The Portuguese language in each country differs significantly from each other in respect of spelling and accent but rules for the basic grammar are the same. It is fair to say that Portuguese grammar is more complex than English, mainly due to verb inflection.

## Script

- The pronunciation of the vowel "e" in Portuguese sounds like the vowel "a" in English;
- The vowel "i" sounds like the vowel "e" in English.

## Sentence structure and word order

- The basic word order in a sentence is subject + verb + object + complements;

## Nouns and pronouns

- All nouns are either masculine or feminine;
- The articles agree with the noun gender and number;

**Adjectives** agree in number and gender with the noun and are usually placed after the noun.

## Verbs

- Portuguese verbs in the infinitive form fall into 3 groups according to their endings ie. "ar", "er", "ir";
- Verb inflection indicates person pronouns and tense.

## Typical errors

- Misplacement of adjectives; these are usually put after the noun: "trousers black";
- Use of plural in adjectives: "two yellows shirts";
- Use of third person pronouns (he/she) when referring to a neutral one (it): "the table is big" = "she is big";
- Incorrect use of possessive: "He went to the hospital to see her mother";
- Omission of auxiliary verbs in interrogative and negative sentences: " You speak English?" or "I not speak English"
- Misspelling or mispronunciation of words because of confusing vowels sounds.