

Kindly Dr. Powell's Guide to Portuguese

I. Vowels

- a, á, â** are pronounced like the a in cat (but don't sing with a spread vowel)
- e. é, ê** are pronounced like e in bell when (stressed syllable)
- e** is pronounced as a schwa (like e in kitten) when unstressed (start of word)
- e** is usually silent at the end of a word
- i** is pronounced like e in medium (same as Italian or Latin)
- o** can be closed (o in Load) or open (o in pod)
- u, ú** is pronounced like oo in spoon but is silent in gu- or qu- followed by e or i.

II. Consonants

- B, D, F, L, M, N, P, T, V** are pronounced as in English (check combinations below)
- C** when soft (before e or i) is pronounced as "s" in silver, otherwise like k in kick
- CH** is pronounced like "sh" in shop
- D** is pronounced like sh in shop
- G** when soft (before e or i) is pronounced like s in leisure, otherwise-- like g in get
- H** is always silent
- J** is pronounced like s in leisure
- Lh** is pronounced like lli in million
- M** nasalises preceding vowel at end of word, almost silent (as in French).
- Nh** is pronounced like ny in canyon
- Qu** when soft (before e or i) is pronounced like k in kick, otherwise like qu in queen
- R** is always rolled/trilled. No American "r"s. Can be dropped at end of words.
- S** is unvoiced ("s") at beginning of a word or when doubled
- S** is voiced when intervocalic (between vowels), like z in maze
- S** is pronounced like "sh" in shop at end of word
- X** is pronounced like "sh" in shop when starting a word or between vowels
- X** when ex is followed by a vowel, like z in maze
- X** is pronounced as in English in foreign words
- Z** is pronounced like z in zebra when starting a word,
- Z** is pronounced like "sh" in shop at end of word