



## Wedding I: A coisa tava chique!

<http://coerll.utexas.edu/brazilpod/cob/lesson.php?p=13>





Sílvia calls the wedding that Andréia went to a *casamento de grã-fino*, which is a perfect way of saying that it was a big, fancy wedding. There's no denying it, wedding traditions differ from one country to another. Just imagine what might happen when an American marries a Brazilian! So, bring Silvia and Andréia together and watch them talk about weddings. No doubt, we have the makings of a pretty amazing *Conversa Brasileira*.

**ANDRÉIA:** E aí, Sílvia? Tá fazendo algum *paper* pra essa semana? Que que tá rolando aí?  
What's up, Sílvia! Do you have any papers due this week? Tell me, what's goin' on?

**SÍLVIA:** Uai, menina, tô aqui atolada ❶ de trabalho esse, essa semana. Tenho que terminar esse paper. Não fiz, não fiz nada nesse final de semana. Nada!  
Well, girl, I have a lot of work this week. I have to finish this paper. I haven't done anything this weekend, nothing!

**ANDRÉIA:** Ai, relaxa! Que que rolou? Me conta, aí, qual é a novidade?  
Relax! What's up? Tell me, what's new?

**SÍLVIA:** Não, em vez de ficar estudando, sabe o que que eu fiz? Fui pra uma festa.  
Well, instead of studying, do you know what I did? I went to a party.

**ANDRÉIA:** Opa, pera aí. ❷ Uma festa?  
Wait, wait. A party?

**SÍLVIA:** É, uma festa...  
Yeah, a party...

**ANDRÉIA:** Me conta! Me conta tudo!  
Tell me! Tell me everything!

**SÍLVIA:** Então, fui pra um casamento. Aí, óbvio que eu não ia perder a oportunidade de ir num casamento. Tinha esse paper pra fazer mas óbvio que eu não ia perder... of course!  
Well, I went to a wedding. So, of course I wouldn't miss the chance of going to a wedding. I had this paper to write, but of course I wasn't about to miss it ... of course!

ANDRÉIA: Of course!  
Of course!

SÍLVIA: E aí, o que que aconteceu? Eu tive muito trabalho pra preparar as coisas pro casamento... E aí não deu. ③  
So, what happened? I had a lot to do in order to get ready for the wedding... So it didn't work out.

ANDRÉIA: Ah, que horror, ④ que que passou?  
Oh, bummer, what happened?

SÍLVIA: Então, sabe que eles têm um sistema, os noivos têm um sistema diferente aqui de dar presente, né? De, de receber presentes.  
Well, do you know that here they have a way, the bride and groom have a different way to give gifts, right? ... to, to receive gifts.

ANDRÉIA: Ah, sim!  
Oh, yeah!

SÍLVIA: Então, eles colocam os nomes lá em três, em três, colocam num site, três, nome de três lojas... ah ... os presentes que eles querem e os preços. Você compra online e eles... a loja mesmo manda pra casa deles e enfim... Só que ⑤ quando eu entrei no site já não tinha mais nenhum presente disponível. Aí eu fiquei que nem ⑥ uma louca procurando o presente...  
So, they put their names on three, three, they put on a website, three, the names of three stores ... uh ... the gifts they want and the prices. You go online and buy it and they ... the store sends it to their house and so ... But when I visited the website, there were no gifts left. Then I was looking for a gift like crazy...

ANDRÉIA: O que que você fez? Me diga!  
What did you do? Tell me!

SÍLVIA: Ai, fui procurar numa loja brasileira um presente mais específico. Obviamente. Mas aí depois deu tudo certo. Fui pra festa, fiquei lá, dancei, bebi, comi, conversei com as pessoas. Foi ótimo!  
Well, I looked at a Brazilian store for a more personalized gift. Of course. And in the end everything turned out OK. I went to the party, I danced, drank, ate, and talked to people... It was great!

ANDRÉIA: Ai, Sílvia, mas esse tá parecendo casamento de grã-fino! ⑦ Porque casamento de povão não tem nada de lista em internet, nada. Você vai em qualquer armazenzinho ali, no “Xodó” da vida, ⑧ compra alguma coisa, leva, e todo mundo fica feliz e ainda agradece pelo presente, minha filha.

Well, Sílvia, it seems like this was a fancy wedding! Because an ordinary wedding does not have any lists on the internet, not one. You go to some very simple store, like “Xodó”, you buy something, you take it, and everyone is happy and thankful for the gift, my friend.

**SÍLVIA:** Ai, é... Eu, eu, ó, eu sei que dos casamentos que eu já fui, isso é verdade. Porque ah... pros meus amigos, eu vou lá, compro um presente, mando pra eles, lá, pra casa... Às vezes nem manda nada, manda depois. Enfim... Mas esse, esse foi uma casamento que tinha, que tinha três ambientes... A coisa tava, tava chique.  
Well, it's... I, I, look, I know that of the weddings I've been to, that's been true. Because uh..., for my friends, I buy a gift, I send it to them, to their house... Sometimes I don't even send anything, I send something later. Anyway... But this one, this one was a wedding with, with three different decorated rooms... It was very fancy!

**ANDRÉIA:** Uau!  
Wow!

**SÍLVIA:** Era chiquerésimo, 9 assim...  
Very, very fancy, like...

**ANDRÉIA:** Ah, não! Lá no Brasil é assim: se você vai 10 num casamento de grã-fino, você vai falar da comida, se foi gostosa, se teve canapé ou se não teve, do vinho, se foi do bom... Que tipo de buffet, que tipo de música, se teve banda, se não teve... Casamento do povão você sabe, né? É tudo mecânico mesmo, você coloca a música, o povo dança... E eu já fui em um que até acabou a comida e o povo saiu falando... 11  
Oh, no! In Brazil, it's like this: if you go to a fancy wedding you're going to talk about the food, if it was good, if there were hors d'oeuvres or not, talk about the wine, if it was a good one... What kind of catering, what kind of music, if there was a band or not... At an ordinary wedding, you know how it is, right? Everything is very simple, you play some music, people dance... I've been to one where there wasn't even enough food and everyone left talking about it...

**SÍLVIA:** Ahn, ahn...  
Ahn, ahn...

**ANDRÉIA:** E aí, o que que você faz?  
And then, what do you do?

**SÍLVIA:** É, não nesse caso...  
Yeah, but not in this case...

**ANDRÉIA:** Ah, não! Esse foi dos bons!  
Oh, no! This one was a good one!

**SÍLVIA:** Nesse caso tava tudo perfeito. Tinha, a comida era comida nigeriana, tinha uma banda ao vivo...  
In this case everything was perfect. There was, the food was Nigerian, there was live music...

**ANDRÉIA:** Esse foi dos bons!  
It was a good one!

**SÍLVIA:** É, ó, banda ao vivo!  
Yeah, live music!

**ANDRÉIA:** Ó, tô falando! É casamento de grã-fino! A grã-finada é tudo frescurite!  
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Look, that's what I'm talking about! It's a fancy wedding! Fancy people are all about fanciness!

**SÍLVIA:** O negócio tava bom lá! **13**  
It was really good over there!

**ANDRÉIA:** Frescurite total!  
Total fanciness!

**SÍLVIA:** Mas aí tava legal. No mais, é só que agora que eu fiquei apertada **14** aí com esses *papers* e agora tenho que... tenho que correr!  
But it was cool. The only thing is that now I'm in a rush with these papers and I need to hurry up!

**ANDRÉIA:** Ah, deixa eu te falar!  
Oh, let me say something!

**SÍLVIA:** Tenho que correr atrás do prejuízo! **15**  
Now I just have to hurry up and catch up.

**ANDRÉIA:** Menina, preciso te contar! Escuta! Escuta!

Girl, I need to tell you something! Listen, listen!

**SÍLVIA:** O quê?  
What?

**ANDRÉIA:** Porque o mês que vem eu estou indo num casamento americano, lá em Boston!  
Because next month I'm going to an American wedding, in Boston!

**SÍLVIA:** Hum! Ai, nós vamos comparar!  
Hum! Then, we can compare the two!

**ANDRÉIA:** Preciso pensar numa roupa, num modelito, 16 assim... Preciso pensar nos presentes e tudo isso... Essa tradição...  
I need to think about the outfit I'm going to wear... I need to think about the gifts and everything... This tradition...

**SÍLVIA:** Olha, tá frio. Vai com cuidado. Compra uma roupa que serve, que sirva pro inverno.  
Look, the weather is cold. Be careful. Buy something that you can wear in the winter.

**ANDRÉIA:** Ai, beleza! Olha, eu vou pra casa tirar um soneca que eu tô com muito sono agora!  
Oh, sweet! Look, I'm going home to take a nap because now I'm very sleepy!

**SÍLVIA:** E eu vô terminar isso. Que já acabou a morcegagem, 17 então, vamos trabalhar!  
And I'm going to finish this. Enough of this laziness, so, let's do it!

**ANDRÉIA:** Beleza, amiga. Beleza!  
Sweet, my friend. Sweet!

**SÍLVIA:** Ok, então. Bye-bye.  
Ok, then. Bye-bye.



## Usage Notes

### 1. ... *menina*, tô aqui *atolada* de trabalho...

This is an interesting use of the word *atolada* (literally “bogged”). *Sílvia* says *tô atolada de trabalho* (I have a lot of work) a way to emphasize she has a lot of work to do.

### 2. Opa, *pera aí!* Uma festa?

*Pera aí!* (Wait a minute!). This is a great expression to be used in Portuguese in spoken language, and it has some different effects. One of them is when you think of something important during the conversation and want to interrupt your interlocutor to say something—and this is the case here. Another one is when you disagree with your interlocutor and use the expression to make it clear. In this case, it is usually pronounced with a rising intonation.

### 3. E aí *não deu*.

*Sílvia* had a paper to write during that weekend, but she went to the wedding party instead e *aí não deu* (and so she could not make it; she just wasn’t going to make it). When Brazilians express the idea of something working out or not working out, they often use the verb *dar*. *Dar para fazer*: “to be possible / able to do or make something.”

### 4. ... *que horror!*

This is a good expression to be used as a response to a situation in which something undesirable occurs or when you listen to the misfortune of something or someone.

5. *Só que* quando eu entrei no site...

A non-native speaker can have a hard time with this one: *só que*, in the case here, means “but”. In English we often use the phrase “it’s just that” and this is similar to *só que*.

6. *Aí eu fiquei que nem* uma louca procurando o presente...

What a great expression this one is! *Sílvia* says she was looking for a gift *que nem uma louca* (like crazy)... Notice that *que nem* means “like not even,” and here you could also use the word *como*.

7. ... casamento de *grã-fino* X casamento de *povão*

*Grã-fino* is a relatively recent expression in Portuguese, probably from the '60s, and it means “someone or something fancy, luxurious.” It is an informal expression and can be used either as a noun (*o grã-fino chegou* [arrived]) or an adjective (*casamento grã-fino*). The expression *de grã-fino* works as an adjective phrase.

*Povão*, also an informal word, means the opposite: “populace, rabble.” It is a noun, and the correspondent adjective phrase is *de povão* (ordinary). It is as if you were to say, the common or everyday people.

8 ... qualquer *armazenzinho* ali, no “*Xodó*” da vida...

Talking about *casamento de povão*, *Andréia* says she used to buy the gift at a very simple store, *armazenzinho*, the diminutive of *armazém* (general store). “*Xodó*” is the name of a chain store in Brazil just like that. The word *xodó* itself means “love, passion, affection.”

Notice also the use of the expression *da vida* by *Sílvia* after the name of the store: *Xodó da vida*. It is an interesting (informal) way to say that something is really ordinary. It can also mean “very”: *danado da vida* (very angry); *feliz da vida* (very happy).



9. A coisa tava chique; chiquerésimo...

The wedding was elegant, chic... Well, more than that: chiquerésimo! Here we have a great informal and funny way to express – and also emphasize - the superlative of the word *chique*. Regarding this superlative, you can also listen to Brazilians saying: *chiquíssimo(a)*, *chiquérrimo(a)* or *chiquerésimo(a)* – the first one being the most formal.

10. ... se você vai num casamento de grã-fino, você vai falar da comida...

Notice here the use of the indicative (*vai*) instead of the future subjunctive (*for*), even with the use of se. This sentence could easily be *se você for num casamento*, but maybe because it is a habitual action, repetitive, it is in the present tense.

11. ... acabou a comida e o povo saiu falando...

Andréia talks about one wedding she has been to where there wasn't even enough food and everyone left talking (badly) about it. *O povo saiu falando...* So, *falar*, here, is much more than simply “to speak.”

12. A grã-finada é tudo frescurite!

What an awesome sentence! Actually, *grã-finada* is a kind of neologism (very informal) for “fancy people,” as well as *frescurite* is another one for *frescura* (which is proper of someone or something fussy, picky, choosy; and also fanciness). Well, fancy people are all about fanciness!

13. O negócio tava bom lá!

It (*o negócio, a coisa*) was really good over there! *Negócio* has nothing to do with business here... Brazilians tend to use the word *negócio* in phrases where North Americans just use the generic word “thing.”

14. ... eu *fiquei apertada* aí com esses papers...

Sílvia went to the wedding party and now she is really in a rush with her paper, she has an urgent need to finish it, she is *apertada*. The expression *estar, ficar apertado(a)* is also commonly used to describe someone in financial difficulties or even with an urgent need to go to the restroom. Literally the word *apertada* means “tight.”

15. Tenho que *correr atrás do prejuízo!*

Yeah, it was a very good wedding party... But now, poor thing, Sílvia is paying for putting her paper off and needs to hurry up to catch up. So, *Correr atrás do prejuízo* means “to catch up”, but in a very special way. Probably the expression comes from the reduction of something like *Correr atrás de recuperar o que se perdeu devido ao prejuízo* (To do your best to catch up on something you’ve lost because of damages).

16. ... pensar num *modelito*...

What a fancy way to refer to a “fashionable outfit!” Andréia needs to decide about her outfit for the wedding party she was invited to...

17... já acabou a *morcegagem*...

Enough of this laziness! Probably, it is a reference to the way bats (*morcegos*) spend hours (or months, when they hibernate...) grooming, sleeping and resting.