



## Wedding: Mixing it up. When Brazilians marry Americans.

<http://coerll.utexas.edu/brazilpod/cob/lesson.php?p=14>





## Dialog

So what's more nerve-wracking than preparing for a wedding? How about preparing for a wedding between an American and a Brazilian! You never really realize how many things are traditional about weddings until you start planning for one that involves people from different cultures. From the proposal to the ring bearers, Denise and Fernanda get to compare notes on how the preparation is going. Opps, Denise has forgotten all about the invitations, but until that point we were part of a very interesting *Conversa Brasileira*.

DENISE: Olha esse, Fer! Olha!  
Look at this one, Fer! Look!

FERNANDA: Tá lindo, tá lindo!  
It's gorgeous! It's gorgeous!

DENISE: Olha, ela não vai ficar linda, aqui? Imagina **1**?!  
Look, isn't she going to look gorgeous in this one? Can you imagine it?!

FERNANDA: Realmente, tá lindo! Tomara que caia **2**...  
It's really truly gorgeous! Strapless...

DENISE: Ai, meu Deus, meu bebê...  
Oh, my God, my baby...

FERNANDA: Agora todo mundo tá usando **3**!  
Everybody is wearing this kind of dress these days!

DENISE: Ai, eu acho que ela tava falando que quer mesmo!  
Well, I think she was saying that this is what she wants!

FERNANDA: E eu gosto assim também.  
I like dresses like this one too!

DENISE: Ela não gosta muito de bordado, não, mas...  
She is not much into embroidered dresses, but...

FERNANDA: E aí, como é que vão os preparativos?  
So, how is the prep going?

DENISE: Ai, o maior frio na barriga **4**! Casar filho você sabe como é que é **5**...  
Quer dizer, você não sabe como é que é! E eu também não sabia!  
Mas, enfim **6**...  
Oh, I have butterflies in my stomach! You know how it is to marry off

one of your children... I mean, you don't know! Neither did I! But, anyway...

**FERNANDA:** Você parece que tá mais nervosa que a noiva **7**!  
It looks like you are more nervous than the bride is!

**DENISE:** Ah, eu tô. Eu tô! Só de falar, minha mão fica fria **8**... Mas eu acho que no fim vai dar tudo certo, né?  
Yeah, I am. I am! Just talking about it, gives me chills... But I think everything will end up OK, right?

**FERNANDA:** Como é que vai ser a cerimônia?  
What is the ceremony going to be like?

**DENISE:** Olha, eles tão querendo fazer uma coisa misturada... Assim, do jeito brasileiro... Porque ele é americano e ela é brasileira. Então eles tão querendo misturar um pouco as tradições daqui com as de lá. E, você sabe que, nesse aspecto, a gente que é brasileiro acaba gostando mais de um casamento no estilo tradicional, né?  
Well, they want to have a combination of the two... In typical Brazilian style... Because he is American and she is Brazilian. So, they want to mix some of the traditions from here with some of them from there. . And, you know, in this respect, we Brazilians prefer a more traditional ceremony you know?

**FERNANDA:** Tradicional!  
Traditional!

**DENISE:** Diferente daqui, né?.  
Different from here, you know?

**FERNANDA:** Como é que ele pediu ela em casamento **9**?  
How did he propose to her?

**DENISE:** Menina **10**, foi tão lindo! Num restaurante, o garçom trouxe a champanhe, tava lá o anel!  
Girl, it was so cute! In a restaurant, the waiter brought the champagne, and there the ring was!

**FERNANDA:** Nossa, que lindo!  
Wow! That's so cute!

**DENISE:** Isso é uma coisa diferente aqui também, né?  
This is something else that's different here, you know?

**FERNANDA:** É diferente. Aqui, essa pergunta tem que ser feita de uma maneira criativa, tem que ser uma surpresa, uma coisa especial...  
It is. Here, the proposal needs to be done in a very creatively, it has to be a surprise, a very special thing...

- DENISE:** Uma coisa! É, tem que ser diferente mesmo.  
It's something else! Yeah, it has to be something really different!
- FERNANDA:** E no Brasil a gente não tem a tradição disso. A gente mais combina...  
In Brazil, we don't have this tradition. We just arrange things...
- DENISE:** É...  
Yeah...
- FERNANDA:** Quer dizer então que a cerimônia vai ser ... ele sendo americano...  
So, you were saying that the ceremony will be... he being an American...
- DENISE:** Eles vão tentar misturar. Então, por exemplo, a entrada<sup>11</sup>... Eles vão querer casar numa igreja, bem tradicional, e a entrada vai ser: a noiva com o pai da noiva...  
They'll try to mix the traditions. So, for instance, the way the bride will go down the aisle... They want to be married in a church, in a very traditional way, and the bride will go down the aisle with her father...
- FERNANDA:** Isso.  
Right.
- DENISE:** ... e o noivo com a mãe dele.  
...and the groom will go down the aisle with his mom.
- FERNANDA:** Com a mãe dele.  
With his mom.
- DENISE:** E aí os que sobram vão juntos...  
And the rest will walk with each other...
- FERNANDA:** É, ficam no cortejo.  
Right, they walk together...
- DENISE:** ... que são: o pai do noivo com a mãe da noiva. Aí os dois vão juntos, né?  
... that is: the groom's father with the bride's mother. Then, they both go down the aisle together, right?
- FERNANDA:** E tem as daminhas<sup>12</sup> também que vão entrar?  
And are there going to be ring bearers?
- DENISE:** É, essa parte de daminha aí eles ainda tão decidindo...  
Well, regarding the ring bearers, they are still deciding ...
- FERNANDA:** Decidindo...  
Deciding...
- DENISE:** ... como é que eles vão fazer. Mas acho que vai ter a daminha de aliança, que no meio vem trazendo<sup>13</sup> a aliança, né?

... how they are going to do it. But I think they'll have a ring bearer girl, who brings the ring in the middle [of the ceremony], you know?

**FERNANDA:** Que legal! E os convites? Porque...  
Cool! And the invitations? Because...

**DENISE:** Menina, os con... Os convites!! Nossa, Fer, eu tenho que ir pegar os convites. Tô atrasada!  
Girl, the invi... The invitations! Oh my, Fer, I gotta go pick the invitations up! I'm late!

**FERNANDA:** Esqueceu?!  
Did you forget?!

**DENISE:** Tchau.  
Bye.

**FERNANDA:** Tchau.  
Bye.



## Usage Notes

### 1. Olha, ela não vai ficar linda, aqui? Imagina?!

Here we see Denise saying Imagina?!, meaning “Can you imagine it?!” or even “Imagine that!” – something very close to the English form. But it is interesting to point that in Portuguese there is another very common use to this expression but with a very peculiar meaning, something like “no way, no problem”.

### 2. Tomara que caia...

Denise and Fernanda are talking about a gorgeous strapless bridal dress: a ‘tomara que caia’ one. Literally, the expression means ‘I hope/wish it falls’... What a gorgeous name for a gorgeous dress!

### 3. Agora todo mundo tá usando!

A non-native speaker can have a hard time with the verb “usar” in Portuguese: it can mean *to use*, but it can also mean *to wear* or *to dress* – and that is the case here. Everybody is wearing (a strapless dress) these days...

### 4. Ai, o maior frio na barriga!

When Denise thinks about her daughter’s wedding, she has – literally - a “chilly stomach”... Well, this is the Brazilian way to say you have butterflies in your stomach.

5. ... você *sabe como é que é*...

You know how it is... This is a beautiful example of the syntax in Portuguese. One could say only “*sabe como é...*”, but the “*que é*” at the end really adds emphasis and it is very used in the oral and informal speech.

6. Mas, *enfim*...

The word “*enfim*” in Portuguese is very commonly used as an adverb meaning ‘*last, finally, after all, ultimately*’. But here it has a different use: it works as a discursive marker, used to continue or resume the thread of a story or account. It is something like “*anyway*”.

7. Você parece que tá *mais nervosa que* a noiva!

Use “*mais... (do) que*” or “*menos ... (do) que*” to express comparisons of inequality in Portuguese. Notice that either “*do que*” or “*que*” may be used to express “*than*”. When talking about numbers, use only “*de*” instead of “*do que*”: “*Havia mais de vinte pessoas naquela sala.*” (There were more than 20 people in that room).

## 8. ... minha mão fica fria...

Just talking about her daughter’s wedding, gives Denise the chills... But notice the way she says this in Portuguese: “*minha mão fica fria*” – literally, “*my hand gets cold*”. But if you hear that someone is a “*pé frio*”, be careful: it means he/she is a *bad luck bringer*...

9. Como é que ele *pediu ela em casamento*?

How did he *propose to her*? Notice that “*to propose*”, in Portuguese, is “*pedir em casamento*” – literally “*to ask in marriage*”. One can also say “*pedir a mão em casamento*”, “*to ask the hand of*”. Often “*pedir*” is followed by the indirect object “*para ele*” or “*para ele.*” In this case, however, “*ela*” is the direct object.

It’s interesting to notice that there is a big difference between the Brazilian and the American way to make a marriage proposal. In US this is really a big deal, something that requires a lot of creativity and cleverness from the groom in order to make it very memorable, unique and special. In Brazil, this is not such a big deal; usually the couple just talks about their desire to get married and decide together how to set things up.

10. *Menina*, foi tão lindo!

Oh, the vocative in Portuguese... Vocative is a specific noun form (it can be a proper name/noun) that is used in addressing the interlocutor during the dialog. Brazilians just love using it! So, if you want to sound like a Brazilian, use it, *my friend*!

11. Então, por exemplo, *a entrada*...

In this dialog, Denise and Fernanda are talking about the differences between a wedding in Brazil and one in US. In Brazil, traditionally, the bride goes down the aisle in a church with her father – the bride’s “*entrada*” (*entrance*). But before that, the groom goes down the aisle with his mom, followed by the groom’s father with the bride’s mother. After them, the “*padrinhos*” (*bestman+groomsmen*) and “*madrinhas*” (*maid of honor+bridesmaids*) walk with each other, as partners (it is usual to invite couples for this role/position). Half of them are from the bride’s side and the other half from the groom’s side. Then a child comes, usually a girl (“*daminha*”), although it is not unusual to have boys (“*pajem*”) as well, and it can be more than one child. And finally, the bride!



12. E tem as *daminhas* também...

In Brazil, it is not usual to have the flower girl, but usually there is one (or more) *child* that goes down the aisle before the bride, called “*daminha de honra*” (if a girl) and “*pajem*” (if a boy). Typically in the middle of the ceremony, another child (usually a girl) walks down the aisle bringing the rings, called “*daminha de aliança*” (*ring bearer girl*).

13. ...que no meio *vem trazendo* a aliança.

What a nice example of Brazilian syntax! The gerund here (“*trazendo*”) is used with a verb of motion (*vir*) as a way to emphasize the continuous aspect of the action, what would not be accomplished if Denise had just said “*traz*” (*brings*).

