



Grandparents 2: Well grandma, there is an easier way to do it

<http://coerll.utexas.edu/brazilpod/cob/lesson.php?p=16>





Ruth's recipe has to be in one of the cookbooks somewhere, right? Well, maybe so, but wouldn't it just be easier to search for it online? At least that's what Débora thinks. And, chances are that most any teenager will find things faster online than their grandma possibly could in the book anyway. Bingo, Débora found the recipe on line and grandma knows how to make it. A perfect combination, and not a bad *Conversa Brasileira* either.

RUTH: Bolo, torta, frango, sorvete...
Cake, pie, chicken, ice cream...

DÉBORA: O que que você tá procurando, ❶ vó?
What are you looking for, grandma?

RUTH: Ah, eu tô procurando uma receita super legal que eu vi ontem um grande chefe de cozinha dando na televisão e eu tô com muita vontade de fazer pra vocês. Mas não tô achando!
Oh, I'm looking for a super cool recipe that I saw a great chef showing yesterday on TV, and I want to make it for you guys. But I can't find it!

DÉBORA: Ué, ❷ olha em outro livro...
Well, look in another book...

RUTH: Ah, mas esse aqui ❸ que é bom! Gastei um dinheirão ❹ nele pra comprar... Um livro tão bom, tão grosso e não tem nada... Ih! Não gostei disso! Boa idéia, vou procurar no outro. Quem sabe eu acho? Ih, Débora, pelo visto, ❺ vai acontecer o mesmo. Não tem!
Oh, but this one is really good! I spend a lot of money on it... Such a good, thick book and there is nothing... Oh! I didn't like this one! Good idea, I'll look in another one. Maybe I'll find it. Oh, Debora, looks like the same thing is going to happen here. They just don't have it.

DÉBORA: Ué, tem um jeito muito mais fácil de fazer...
Well, there is an easier way to do it...

RUTH: Como?
How?

DÉBORA: No computador!
On the computer!

RUTH: Computador?
Computer?

DÉBORA: É.
Yeah.

RUTH: E dá receita?
And it gives you the recipe?

DÉBORA: Hum, hum. É só me dar o nome, eu vou no *site*, ⑥ acho a receita e faço um *download*.
Uh, huh. All you do is to give me the name of it, I'll go to the website, find the recipe and download it.

RUTH: Bom, o nome da receita é... Esqueci! Mas acho que eu lembro. Ah! Camarão na moranga. ⑦ Duvido que você vai ⑧ achar...
Well, the name of the recipe is... I forgot it! But I think I can remember it. Oh! **Shrimp stuffed pumpkin**. I bet you won't find it...

DÉBORA: Mas, vó, quando você era pequena você não fazia pesquisas na escola?
But, grandma, when you were young didn't you do research at school?

RUTH: Não, porque a minha biblioteca era muito longe, fechava às 5 horas da tarde, e era complicado pra ir até lá.
No, because the library was too far away, it closed at 5, and it was too hard to go there.

DÉBORA: Ué, o seu pai não podia levar você no seu carro?
So your dad couldn't take you in your car?

RUTH: Não, meu pai trabalhava até às 6, e não dava tempo de chegar na biblioteca.
No, dad worked until 6, and there was no time to go to the library.

DÉBORA: Nossa, aqui é tão fácil! Tem biblioteca na escola, vai o tempo inteiro, quando você quiser.
Wow, here it's really easy! There is a library at the school, we can go all the time, whenever you want.

RUTH: É, hoje o tempo é outro, ⑨ bem!
Yeah, nowadays everything is so different, sweetie!

DÉBORA: Então, vó.
Anyway, grandma.

RUTH: Hum?
Hum?

DÉBORA: Essa receita de camarão... Você viu na TV?
This shrimp recipe... You saw it on TV?

RUTH: Vi na TV. Tenho certeza! Camarão na moranga.
I saw it on TV. I'm sure! **Shrimp** stuffed **pumpkin**.

DÉBORA: É essa aqui?
This one?

RUTH: E não é que **10** você achou? Não acredito! Ah... Como que um negócio desse pode dar uma receita que eu vi ontem na televisão?
You found it! I don't believe it! Oh... How can something like that find the recipe I saw on the television yesterday?

DÉBORA: Ué, tecnologia de hoje...
Well, today's technology...

RUTH: É... Nada como viver nos tempos de hoje, né? Obrigada, querida. É essa mesma. Gostei. Camarão na moranga. Vou fazer hoje pra você! Você quer experimentar?
Yeah, there's nothing like living in modern times, huh? Thanks, sweetie. This is the one. Nice. I'll make it for you today! You want to try it?

DÉBORA: Hum!
Yeah!

RUTH: Ah, vai ser hoje. Prepare-se!
Yes, we'll do it today. Get ready!



Usage Notes

1. O que que você tá procurando, vó?

In this example, Debora asks Grandma what she is looking for, and she uses the Portuguese verb *procurar*. For a non-native speaker, sometimes it is difficult to see the difference between *procurar* and *buscar*, since both can mean “to look for, search, seek.” Actually, there are several situations where both can be used as synonymous, but we could point an important difference between them:

- a) *Procurar*: usually means to look for something that you don't know where it is, trying to find it—and that is the case in Debora's question. Another example: *Estou procurando as chaves que eu perdi* (I'm looking for the keys I've lost).
- b) *Buscar*: besides “to look for,” it can also mean “to pick up, transport.” Ex: *Vou buscar meu marido no aeroporto*. (I'm going to pick up my husband at the airport).

2. Ué, olha em outro livro...

“Ué (well), look in another book” says Debora to Grandma. Ué is a good interjection to use in Portuguese to express several different emotions: amazement, astonishment, admiration, surprise, irony or even irritation. How can it express such different things? It is all about intonation!

3. Ah, mas esse aqui que é bom!

Although the grammar books and dictionaries can say that the demonstrative *este* means “this, very close to me” and *esse* means “this, nearby,” *este* and *esse* are essentially interchangeable in common Brazilian Portuguese. And here we have a great example of it: *esse aqui*. The same thing is valid for the feminine and plural version of these pronouns. The difference between them is only well defined when they are used as a reference to something previously written or said in a text.

4. Gastei um dinheirão nele pra comprar...

We already had talked a lot about how Brazilians love the diminutive. Well, they do love the augmentative too – and, like the diminutive, it can be used to express much more than only aspects related to the size of things... Here we see Grandma saying that she spent um dinheirão on that book, that is, she spent a lot of money on it.

5. Ih, Débora, pelo visto, vai acontecer o mesmo.

“Oh, Debora, looks like the same thing is going to happen here” says Grandma when she realizes that the recipe she wants is not in the other book as well. Notice the expression pelo visto: it is a short version of something like “from what can be seen,” or “by the look of things” and it can be used to talk about something that, based on a previous situation, supposedly will happen

6. ... eu vou no site (...) e faço um download.

It is interesting to notice that, when talking about a website, Brazilians say “saj.tj” but maintain the written form as it is in English. Notice also the use of the English word “download” as a noun in Portuguese, with the article (um) before it.

7. Camarão na moranga.

“Winter squash with shrimp” or “Shrimp stuffed pumpkin”... Got the idea? It is a delicious Brazilian meal made with baked winter squash stuffed with shrimp stew, decorated with jumbo shrimp and served with white rice. The recipe calls for requeijão or catupiry, creamy cheese unfortunately not available in the United States. Cream cheese can be a reasonable substitute, but definitely not the same...

8. Duvido que você vai achar...

“The present subjunctive tense is used in clauses introduced with que”... Well, at least this is what the textbooks say... But here we have a good example showing that, in common spoken Brazilian Portuguese, this is not always the case.

9. É, hoje o tempo é outro, bem!

Hoje o tempo é outro - what a great expression from Grandma! Her point is that nowadays everything is so different from her time... In the case here, it is easier and faster to search for any new subject...

10. E não é que você achou?

“Isn’t it that you found it?” says Grandma, surprised, after Debora found in the internet the recipe she could not find in the books. Very similar to the structure in English, this is a good way to express surprise in Portuguese, when facing unexpected results: (e) não é que...

