



School 1: I have my very own locker!

<http://coerll.utexas.edu/brazilpod/cob/lesson.php?p=19>





Put yourself in the situation of a high school study abroad student. First of all, chances are that this is your first experience living abroad. And everything is new: teachers, homework, computers, lunchrooms, clothes, and schedules. Wow, what a transition! In this dialog Andréia is about to pick up her niece, Kauane, who is currently in the U.S., attending an American high school. Life has been different for her, and it makes for a cool *Conversa Brasileira*.

FERNANDA: Andréia?!
Andréia?!

ANDRÉIA: Oi, Fer!
Hi, Fer!

FERNANDA: Tudo bem?
How are you doing?

ANDRÉIA: Quanto tempo!
It's been forever!

FERNANDA: Quanto tempo! Que que você tá fazendo aqui?
It's been forever! What are you doing here?

ANDRÉIA: Ai, menina, crianças, né? Tô aqui, vim pegar minha sobrinha que tá estudando aqui agora.
Well, girl, kids, right? I'm here, I came to pick my niece up, she is studying here now.

FERNANDA: Você tá com uma sobrinha aqui?
Do you have a niece here?

ANDRÉIA: É, a Kauane.
Yeah, Kauane.

FERNANDA: Fazendo intercâmbio? ❶
Is she an exchange student?

ANDRÉIA: Chegou, chegou esse ano, chegou esse ano.
She arrived, she got here this year, she arrived this year.

FERNANDA: Vai passar quanto tempo? ❷
How long will she stay?

ANDRÉIA: Ela vai ficar aqui uns três anos pro Ensino Médio, né?

She'll be here during her three years of High School, right?

FERNANDA: Ah, o Segundo Grau.
Oh, High School.

ANDRÉIA: Isso, o famoso "Segundo Grau" que a gente usa...
Yeah, the famous "Segundo Grau" as we call it...

FERNANDA: É, no Rio a gente chama de "Segundo Grau". ❸ Já foi várias coisas diferentes. Mas ela tá aqui então, na escola?
Yeah, in Rio we call it "Segundo Grau". It has had a lot of different names. So, she is here, in school?

ANDRÉIA: Tá! A primeira novidade foi, no primeiro dia de aula: "Ah, eu tenho um armário só pra mim"! ❹
She is! The first new thing was, on the very first day of school: "Hey, I have my very own locker!"

FERNANDA: Ah, isso é uma coisa que a gente não tem no Brasil, na escola.
Yeah, that is something we don't have at schools in Brazil.

ANDRÉIA: Então, assim...
So, you know....

FERNANDA: A gente leva ❺ os livros todo dia e aqui eles deixam...
We take our books home everyday and here they leave them at school...

ANDRÉIA: E ela já colocou a foto dela no armário, entendeu?
And she has already put her picture in her locker, you know?

FERNANDA: Que coisa engraçada!
That's so funny!

ANDRÉIA: Deixou todo no estilo! Porque ela é toda estilosa, né? Toda estilosa! ❻
She's made it all stylish! Because she's all stylish, right? She's all stylish!

FERNANDA: É, é bem diferente aqui, né? Ela deve estar achando ❼ muitas diferenças na escola aqui.
Yeah, it's so different here, right? She is probably seeing a lot of different things here at school.

ANDRÉIA: Sim, sim. Você sabe, por exemplo, depois das aulas regulares, ela tem aula de piano. ❽ Depois vai pra o time de voleibol, né?
Yeah, yeah. You know, for example, after her regular classes, she has piano lessons. After that, she goes to volleyball practice, right?

FERNANDA: Nossa! Deve estar ocupada! ❼
Wow! She must be busy!

ANDRÉIA: Então, assim, ela passa o dia inteiro ocupada, né?
So, you know, she is busy all day long.

FERNANDA: Enquanto lá no Brasil essa garotada⁹ fica mais concentrada no social, né? Na vida social...
When in Brazil these young kids are more focused on a social life, you know? On a social life...

ANDRÉIA: Como que é lá no Rio? Como que é lá no Rio?
What's it like in Rio? What's it in Rio?

FERNANDA: Não, lá no Rio é praia de manhã, Shopping de tarde, cinema, festa... É agenda cheia. E celular...
Well, in Rio you go to the beach in the morning, the mall in the afternoon, then movies, parties... It's a busy schedule. And cell phones...

ANDRÉIA: É tudo maneiro... É tudo maneiro no Rio...¹⁰
It's way cool. Things in Rio are way cool...

FERNANDA: Com certeza!
For sure!

ANDRÉIA: É, aqui a única coisa que ela tem sentido falta é das amizades, né? Porque no Brasil os colegas iam lá pra casa dela, passavam o fim de semana, né?
Yeah, here the only thing she has been missing is her friends, you know? Because in Brazil her friends used to come over to her house, spend the whole weekend, you know?

FERNANDA: Mas aqui ela vai fazer amigos também, né?
But here she is going to make friends too, right?

ANDRÉIA: Come, bebe, dorme... Aqui o processo é um pouco mais lento, eu diria, né? É cultural mesmo; é diferença cultural...
Eat, drink, sleep... Here I'd say that things go a little slower, you know? It's a cultural thing; it's a cultural difference...

FERNANDA: Ah, mas esse pessoal vai muito rápido. Num instante¹¹ ela vai ter um grupo de amigos... fazendo um monte de coisas juntos...
Yeah, but these young kids are quick to adapt. Soon she'll have a group of friends... all doing a bunch of things together...

ANDRÉIA: Tomara! Tomara! Porque ela se sente um pouco só, eu acho, ainda.
I hope so! I hope so! Because I think she is still feeling a bit lonely.

FERNANDA: Ah, mas num instante ela vai se enturmar,¹² você vai ver. Com certeza!
Well, but soon she'll get integrated in, you'll see. That's for sure!

ANDRÉIA: Eu acho até que é ela que tá me ligando. É ela mesmo que tá me


ligando. Alô, Kau? Pera aí.

I even think it's her calling. Yeah, it's her calling. Hello, Kau? Wait a minute.

FERNANDA: Deixa eu ir... Beijinho, a gente se encontra.
I gotta go... Kisses, we'll get together soon.

ANDRÉIA: Tchau, Fer.
Bye, Fer.

FERNANDA: Tchau!
Bye.

ANDRÉIA: Oi, minha linda! Sim! Ah, você vai estar um pouquinho atrasada? Tá bom. Eu tô aqui na entrada, naquele portão, perto daquela grande árvore, onde eu sempre te  pego. Beijo, tchau.
Hi, sweetie! Oh, are you going to be a bit late? That's fine. I'm here at the entrance, by the front doors, close to the big tree, where I usually pick you up. Kisses, bye.



Usage Notes

1. *Fazendo intercâmbio?*

Notice the interesting use of the verb *fazer*: when talking about someone studying abroad or participating in a student exchange program, Brazilians use the verb *fazer* (to do) + *intercâmbio* (exchange). So, to study abroad is *fazer intercâmbio*.

2. *Vai passar quanto tempo?*

Passar - what a great verb in Portuguese, with several different meanings... In this case, it means "to stay" or "to spend time" and "quanto tempo" is the way to express "how long." Notice that in Portuguese the order can be either *Vai passar quanto tempo?* or *Quanto tempo vai passar?* (How long will she [stay here]?). You can use either one. Note: *Passei três anos no Brasil* (I spent three years in Brazil) and also *O tempo passa* (Time goes by).

3. *É, no Rio a gente chama de "Segundo Grau". Já foi várias coisas diferentes.*

Did you notice that, referring to High School, Andréia uses the expression *Ensino Médio* while Fernanda says *Segundo Grau*? This reflects the several changes Brazil has had in its educational system in the last few decades, including changes in the names of the schools, depending on the grades that they have. So, for High School, you can hear things like *Ensino Médio* (the current name), *Segundo Grau* or even *Colegial* (former names). Be careful not to mistake this last one (*Colegial*) as a cognate for College, which is *Faculdade* in Brazil.

4. *Ah, eu tenho um armário só pra mim!*

Well, it's all about the locker when American kids enter Middle School... It reflects the way the classes are organized in US during Middle and High School: each teacher has his own classroom and the students change classes along the day. That's why the kids need their own locker to put their things in. In Brazil, usually the teacher is the one who moves around and the kids remain in the same classroom, keeping their things in their individual desks. That's why Kauane is so excited about having her own locker: it is her very first one!

5. A gente leva os livros todo dia e aqui eles deixam...

The verbs levar and trazer can sometimes be a little confusing for an English speaker, since we can translate levar as both "to take" or "to bring." Use levar to indicate a movement away from you or from the place where you are at the moment of speaking. Use trazer (to bring) to indicate a movement toward you or toward the place where you are at the moment of speaking. So in Portuguese you take something there and you bring it here.

To make it easier, think about it this way:

- levar (to take) lá/áí (over there or where the listener is): Vou levar as crianças lá/áí. (I'll take the kids over there/where the listener is).
- trazer (to bring) aqui (here): Vou trazer as crianças aqui. (I'll bring the kids here/where I am).

6. Deixou todo no estilo! Porque ela é toda estilosa, né?

Deixar no estilo (to make something stylish) - that's what Sílvia's niece did to her locker. You can either say no estilo or estiloso(a) (both meaning "stylish"). It's a good slang to use.

7. a) Ela deve estar achando muitas diferenças na escola aqui.
b) Nossa! Deve estar ocupada!

Notice here the use of verb dever: Ela deve estar achando muitas diferenças (She is probably seeing a lot of different things). In these examples, dever doesn't just mean "should," but it is more accurately translated as "probably" and "must."

8. ... depois das aulas regulares, ela tem aula de piano.

Notice that Andréia says aulas regulares and aula de piano when talking about her niece's classes and lessons. Although the Portuguese word classe could be used to express lesson or class, usually it is not the one Brazilians prefer, but aula is the most commonly used word in this case. Classe, on the other hand, usually is used to express: a) classroom or b) group of students who are in the same class.

9. Enquanto lá no Brasil essa garotada fica mais concentrada no social, né?

When referring to young people considered as a group, Brazilian have several particular words: garotada, meninada, rapazeada, molecada. Notice the recurrent suffix **-ada**, typical of a collective noun in Portuguese. It is not the case here, but sometimes this suffix also can be used in a pejorative or depreciative way.

10. É tudo maneiro no Rio...

Talking about slangs, here we have another one: maneiro (cool, stylish), very common in Rio de Janeiro and other parts of Brazil. Do you want to sound like a real *carioca* using slang? Try this: *É isso aí, me'rmão; ficou maneiro!* (That's it, bro; it's way cool!).

11. Num instante ela vai ter um grupo de amigos...

Still making the point that Andréia's niece will be well adapted very soon, Fernanda uses the expression: num instante, something like "really soon, in a second, in a jiffy." This expression is also commonly used in the diminutive: num instantinho.

12. Ah, mas num instante ela vai se enturmar.

When talking about Andréia's niece, Fernanda points out that soon she'd get integrated in. Note the verb she uses here: "**enturmar-se**" - a great verb to mean "to become part of the turma (group, gang)."

13. Ah, você vai estar um pouquinho atrasada? (...) Eu tô aqui na entrada, (...) onde eu sempre te pego.

In spoken Portuguese, it is usual the placement of direct pronoun before the verb: eu te pego (I pick you up). Notice also that, in order to refer to the subject pronoun você (you), Sílvia uses the direct pronoun te (you) instead of a (eu a pego), which would be the "correct" form according to the grammar books. This use of te is very common and acceptable in the colloquial form.