



## Directions I: Tô perdido – I'm lost

<http://coerll.utexas.edu/brazilpod/cob/lesson.php?p=24>





We've all been in the same situation as Alexandre, '*Acabei de chegar. Tô perdido.*' (I just arrived. I am lost). Fortunately for Alexandre, Lucas is not only willing to help him out, Lucas will even take him to the place he needs to go. And why not? We all sympathize with others because we know what it feels like to be in a new place and to be a bit disoriented too. No doubt Alexandre made it to his orientation meeting, and along the way he had a great *Conversa Brasileira*.

ALEXANDRE: E aí, cara? Tudo bem?  
What's up, man? How are you doing?

LUCAS: Opa, fala! ❶  
Hey, what's up?

ALEXANDRE: Tudo jóia?  
How you doing?

LUCAS: Tudo bem?  
How are you?

ALEXANDRE: Rapaz, eu tô procurando esse lugar aqui, International Office.  
Man, I'm looking for this place here, International Office.

LUCAS: International Office.  
International Office.

ALEXANDRE: Cê sabe onde fica? ❷  
Do you know where it is?

LUCAS: É... Wooldridge Building?  
Ahn... Wooldridge Building?

ALEXANDRE: Ahn... Não sei, cara.  
Ahn... I don't know, man.

LUCAS: Hum... cê não sabe? É pra... é pro ③ quê?  
Hum... You don't? It's for... what is it for?

ALEXANDRE: É uma orientação. Eu tô chegando agora ④ nos Estados Unidos...  
It's an orientation. I've just arrived in the US...

LUCAS: Cê acabou de chegar?<sup>4</sup>  
Have you just arrived?

ALEXANDRE: Acabei de chegar. Tô perdido.  
I've just arrived. I'm lost.

LUCAS: Tem a, a Drag there. E você pega ⑤ a Drag e continua na 24, ⑥ vai, cê sai...<sup>5</sup>  
There is... Drag there. And you take Drag and continue on 24th, you'll end up at...

ALEXANDRE: Ah, o que que é isso? É uma loja?  
Ah, what is it? Is it a store?

LUCAS: Não. A Drag, na verdade, é ... eu devia falar é a Guadalupe, na verdade, né? Eles chamam de 'Drag', mas é a Guadalupe. Cê já sabe qual é?  
No, the Drag, the truth is, is... I should have said, it is, in fact, Guadalupe, you know? They call it 'the Drag', but it's Guadalupe. Do you already know which one it is?

ALEXANDRE: Não, não sei. Onde a gente tá ⑦, exatamente? Cê sabe?  
No, I don't. Where are we, exactly? Do you know?

LUCAS: A gente, a gente tá aqui perto da, da Business School, aqui, né? No Mezes Hall. Cê tá no Sul. A... a Drag, cê tem que seguir pra frente, aqui assim. ⑧ Vai ao Norte, ⑨ né? Depois, Oeste.  
We, we're here close to, to the Business School, right? At Mezes Hall. You're on the South side. For the Drag, you gotta go straight, this way. Go North, ok? Then West.

ALEXANDRE: Certo. Mas...  
Ok, but...

**LUCAS:** E é uma rua, assim, tem lojas, restaurantes...  
It's a street, like, with stores, restaurants...

**ALEXANDRE:** Mas é muito longe? Vou ter que pegar ônibus?  
But is it far? Do I need to take the bus?

**LUCAS:** Não, não, não. Cê vai a pé, só. É...  
No, no, no. You can walk there, that's it. It's...

**ALEXANDRE:** Ah, ok.  
Ah, ok.

**LUCAS:** ... é muito perto. Você, cê tá atrasado?  
... it's very close. Are you, are you late?

**ALEXANDRE:** Cara, eu tô totalmente atrasado e não sei se eu consigo chegar até lá.  
Man, I'm very late and I don't know if I can get there.

**LUCAS:** Ah, se você quiser eu te levo até lá. ⑩  
Ah, if you want I'll take you there.

**ALEXANDRE:** Pô, cê vai pra lá?  
Hey, are you going that way?

**LUCAS:** Eu tô indo pra lá, mas eu posso te levar. ⑪ Tô tranquilo, tô com tempo<sup>12</sup> aqui.  
I'm going this way, but I can take you there. I'm good, I have enough time.

**ALEXANDRE:** Pô, se você pudesse me levar até lá... Eu ficaria agradecido.  
Hey, if you could take me there... I'd be very thankful.

**LUCAS:** Vamo lá então. Vamo lá.  
Let's go then. Let's go.

**ALEXANDRE:** Bom, então vamo nessa. ⑬  
Well, let's go then.

**LUCAS:** Vamo lá. ⑬  
Let's go.



## Usage Notes

### 1. *Opa, fala!*

Notice the way Lucas answers Alexandre's greetings: *Opa, fala!* (something like *Hey, what's up?*). *Opa!* itself is an interjection that means *oh!* or *wow!* - but it can also be used as a slang to greet, in a very informal way. *Fala* (*talk*) is another slang used to greet, a short version for *fala aí*.

### 2. *Cê sabe onde fica?*

The verb *ficar* is used a lot by Brazilians, in several different ways. Here we have an example of *ficar* meaning "*to be situated or located*". Do you know where it is? Lucas could just as easily use *ser* in this instance as well.

### 3. *É pra... é pro quê?*

Brazilian contractions... They can give a non-native speaker a hard time... You already know *pra*, the contraction of the preposition and the article (*para + a; to/for + the*). Here we have *pro*, that is the contraction of *para + o*, usually used before masculine nouns. But notice that in this example we have: *É para + o quê? = É pro quê?* (What is it for?), which can be even more confusing for an English speaker since the word order in this structure is very different in both languages and there is no explicit object (*it*) in the Portuguese sentence.

4. a) Eu tô chegando agora nos Estados Unidos...  
b) Cê acabou de chegar?

Let's explore these two sentences together since they both have a similar verbal structure/tense in English, but not in Portuguese: a) I've just arrived in the US; b) Have you just arrived? Note that in Portuguese you can express this verbal tense either using Present Continuous + the adverb agora (*estou/tô chegando agora*) or the Past Tense of acabar de: *acabou de chegar*.

5. E você pega a Drag e continua na 24, vai, cê sai...

There are some important Portuguese verbs for you to know in order to give directions. Here we have two of them: pegar (to take) and sair (to end up). Another verb very common in this last case is cair (lit. to fall, but not in this context). Lucas could easily have said: *.. você pega a Drag.. e cê cai..*

6. E você pega a Drag e continua na 24...

Another interesting difference between Portuguese and English regarding address and directions is the use of ordinal numbers in English (24<sup>th</sup> Street) and cardinal ones in Portuguese (Rua 24). We have the same situation regarding days of the month. Ex: *Chego no dia 24 de maio*. (I arrive on May 24<sup>th</sup>).

7. Onde a gente tá, exatamente?

"Where are we, exactly?" – asks Alexandre. But notice the different word order in an interrogative sentence in both languages: WH Noun Verb, and not Onde está a gente? (WH Verb Noun, as in the English structure: "Where are we?")

8. Cê tá no Sul. A... a Drag, cê tem que seguir pra frente, aqui assim...

Notice Lucas explanation: "...cê tem que seguir pra frente, aqui assim" (...you gotta go straight, this way). When you're giving directions in Portuguese, in order to express something like "this way", you can use either aqui assim or por aqui.

9. Vai ao Norte, né? Depois, Oeste.

The Portuguese 'go to the north' can be hard for a non-native speaker to understand. Note that in Portuguese the use of the masculine article (o) before the cardinal points (Norte, Sul, Leste, Oeste) when you're giving directions is optional; in English, it is never used ("Go North"). Lucas could also have said: Vai para o Norte.

10. Ah, se você quiser eu te levo até lá.

Did you notice the way Lucas offers himself to go with Alexandre to show him the way? He says: "eu te levo até lá." (lit. I'll take you up to there). Although this até is optional in Portuguese (he could have said: "te levo lá"), it adds emphasis to the sentence. Lucas is making sure to let Alexandre know that he'll take Alexandre all the way till the place he is supposed to reach.

## 11. Eu tô indo pra lá, mas eu posso te levar.

It's interesting to observe how kind Brazilians are when asked about directions. Even if they don't know the address or place you're looking for, they'll usually do everything they can to help. In our dialogue, Lucas will even go the opposite direction he was supposed to, just to help Alexandre. This, in fact, is not that strange for Brazilians. Sometimes 'eu te levo' is just easier to do than to describe all of the details.

12. Tô tranquilo, tô com tempo aqui.

"I'm good, I have enough time" - says Lucas. Notice the Portuguese expression used to express "to have enough time": estar com tempo. Of course there is also the expression ter tempo, but estar com tempo is also very commonly used in Portuguese.

13. a) Bom, então vamo nessa.  
b) Vamo lá.

In a previous dialogue in *Conversa Brasileira*, we've already seen the expression 'bora nessa' to express something like "let's go". Here we have two other ones for the same situation: vamo nessa and vamo lá – with vamo as a short version for vamos (in an informal speech). *Vamo nessa, gente!*