



Directions 2: Moço, dá licença – I'm lost

<http://coerll.utexas.edu/brazilpod/cob/lesson.php?p=25>





In real life Simone and Thiago are married, so when we recorded this lesson we had a good time teasing Thiago about his willingness to offer to show Simone how to get to the library. “It’s not exactly on my way, but from there I can show you and then I’ll go to the Chemistry Department,” he said. Thiago’s a smart Guy. What better way is there to get to know the cute new arrival than to offer to accompany her to find the library! Not only that, the exchange shows us how Brazilians help others when they are lost and it’s a fine example of a *Conversa Brasileira*.

SIMONE: Moço, ❶ cê dá licença? ❷
Excuse me?

THIAGO: Claro.
Sure.

SIMONE: É... Eu tô perdida, eu tô procurando pela biblioteca. Cê sabe onde fica?
Ah... I'm lost, I'm looking for the library. Do you know where it is?

THIAGO: Qual, qual biblioteca? ❸
Which, which library?

SIMONE: Não sabia que tinha mais de uma... Não sei.
I didn't know there was more than one... I don't know.

THIAGO: Tem várias ❹. Tem... tem a da PCL, que é a maior de todas. Tem aqui a da Administração. Tem a do Direito, Ciências da Saúde, Engenharia, Química... ❺ Qual delas ❹?
There are several ones. There is... there is one at PCL, that is the biggest of all. There is one here at Business School. There is one at Law School, Health Science, Engineering, Chemistry... Which one?

SIMONE: Nossa!
Wow!

THIAGO: Qual delas? Qual livro? ③ Que tipo de área cê tá procurando?
Which one? Which book? Which kind of area are you looking for?

SIMONE: Eu tô procurando por ⑥ um livro que fala sobre medicamentos, da área da Farmácia.
I'm looking for a book that talks about medicines, in the Pharmacy area.

THIAGO: Então deve estar na... Ciências da Saúde, que é na *Life Science Library*. Ela fica na torre.
So it might be at... Health Science, that is at Life Science Library. It's located in the tower.

SIMONE: Ahn-ahn.
Ahn-ahn.

THIAGO: E... É a principal torre. ⑦ Sabe onde fica?
It's... It's the main tower. Do you know where it is?

SIMONE: Não, na verdade não. Eu tô... acabei de chegar...
No, actually not. I'm... I've just arrived.

THIAGO: Não? O principal prédio ⑦ da Universidade, aqui...
No? The main building at the University, here...

SIMONE: Não, não tenho ideia.
No, I have no idea...

THIAGO: Não? Ah tá. É... Então, se você subir aquela escada, cê vai dar de frente ⑧ pra um prédio.
No? Ok. Well... So, if you go upstairs, you're going to face a building.

SIMONE: Sim.
Ok.

THIAGO: Cê vira à esquerda, e logo em seguida à direita.
You turn left, and then right.

SIMONE: Sim.
Ok.

THIAGO: Dali cê já vai conseguir ver a torre. Aí cê vai em direção à torre, tem várias portas. Qualquer uma que cê entrar cê vai chegar dentro de um centro da... vai chegar no Centro de Informações. Fica no segundo andar a partir dali. Se você estiver andando e você ver um lago cheio de tartaruga, cê já foi... já passou do lugar. Então é antes de lá.

From there you'll be able to see that tower. Then you walk toward the tower, there are several doors. Any one you get into you go to the center of... you go to the Information Desk. It's on the second floor from there. If you're walking and you see a lake with turtles, you will have gone too far. So it's before it.

SIMONE: Então, pera aí. Deixa eu ver se eu entendi. Eu vou seguir aqui, subir a escada, quando eu chegar na frente ⑨ daquele prédio eu vou virar à esquerda, e aí depois de um quarteirão...

So, wait a minute. Let me see if I understood. I'll go this way, I'll go upstairs, when I arrive in front of that building I'll turn left, then after a block...

THIAGO: Logo em seguida, à direita.
Right after it, (turn) right.

SIMONE: À direita.
Right.

THIAGO: Dali cê já vai ver a torre. Então, na hora que você virar à esquerda, cê olha à direita cê já vai ver a torre dali.

From there you can see the tower. So, when you turn left, you look to your right and you'll see the tower (from there).

SIMONE: Tá. E aí eu entro na torre, no segundo andar.
Ok. And then I get into the tower, on second floor.

THIAGO: Isso. No segundo andar da torre.
That's it. On the second floor in the tower.

SIMONE: Tá. Nossa, espero que eu ache, ④/⑩ porque eu tô com muita pressa!
Ok. Wow, I hope I find it, because I'm in a hurry!

THIAGO: Não, não é difícil. Cê vai... logo que você chegar ali, você vai conseguir ver a torre. Mas, eu tô, eu tô indo lá pra Faculdade de Química. E... Não fica muito no rumo ⑪ não, mas dali eu já te mostro. ⑫ e aí de lá eu vô pra Faculdade de Química e...

It's not difficult. You go... right after you arrive there, you'll be able to see the tower. But I'm, I'm going to the Chemistry Department. And... It's not exactly on my way, but from there I'll show you and then I'll go to the Chemistry Department and...

SIMONE: Ah, você faria isso?
Ah, would you do this?

THIAGO: É, claro. Vamo lá.
Yes, sure! Let's go.

SIMONE: Muito obrigada!
Thank you very much!

THIAGO: Cê tá fazendo o que aqui? 13
What are you doing here?

SIMONE: Eu acabei de chegar. Vou começar meu estudo agora no Doutorado.
I've just arrived. I'll begin my Doctorate studies.

THIAGO: Legal...
Cool...



1. Moço, cê dá licença?

Did you notice that in our translation of this sentence we have only: "Excuse me"? No translation for the word moço (young guy) in this case... That's because it's hard to find a corresponding term in English in this context of the vocative used to someone not familiar to the speaker. If one could make a parallel, it'd be something like:

- **sir, ma'am:** senhor(a) (more formal; used to talk to someone older than you)
- **young guy / friend:** moço(a) (not so formal, used to talk to someone you don't know and that is not much older than you)
- **man:** cara, rapaz (informal)
- **guys:** gente (informal, to talk to more than one person)
- **dude:** cara, rapaz (informal) or even mano, véio, rapá (very informal; slangs)

2. Moço, cê dá licença?

Still talking about the same sentence, here we see Simone starting the dialog in which she asks for directions with the expression: Dá licença? Sometimes it can be hard for a non-native speaker to tell the difference between this expression and Desculpa – since both can be translated into English as *Excuse me*. Note the difference:

- dá licença ou com licença: used before an act, such as asking for someone's attention or asking permission to pass by.
- desculpa ou desculpe: usually used after an act, meaning "I'm sorry", when you are regretting an inconvenience (like when you accidentally steps on someone's foot).

To interrupt a conversation, both expressions can be used.

3. a) Qual, qual biblioteca? (Which, which library?)
 b) Qual livro? (Which book?)

In both sentences above you have the option to use either the pronoun que or qual to say "which". But notice that in both cases you have the noun present in the sentence (biblioteca, livro). Notice that even in English there is little difference between "what book do you want?" and "which book do you want?" Portuguese is similar in this respect. If there is no noun, however, the only option you have is qual in this context. You could say, for example, qual é o livro que você quer? but you cannot say que é o livro que você quer?

4. a) Tem várias. (There are several ones.)
 b) ... tem a da PCL (... there is one at PCL)
 c) Tem aqui a da Administração (There is one here at Business School.)
 d) Qual delas? (Which one? – lit. Which [one] among them?)
 e) Nossa, espero que eu ache. (Wow, I hope I find it.)

In this dialogue we have several good examples of null object pronouns in Portuguese -situations in which you need to use words like "one" or "it" in English, but where you can just leave an open spot in Portuguese.

5. Tem aqui a da Administração. Tem a do Direito, Ciências da Saúde, Engenharia, Química...

It's interesting to point the differences between the way College works in the US and in Brazil. In Brazil, to be accepted into a University (at least the good ones, usually the public universities), you need to take an entrance exam called Vestibular, which can be very hard in some cases. You have to choose your area/course in advance, even before taking this exam, and your entire course and disciplines will be specific for the career you've chosen. Be careful as well, Graduação is what we call *Undergraduate Studies* and Pós-graduação is what corresponds to "Graduate Education".

6. Eu tô procurando por um livro que fala sobre medicamentos...

Simone is looking for a book about medicines... Notice that in Portuguese you can say either procurar or procurar por (to look for), with or without the preposition por: procurar (por) um livro...

7. a) E... É a principal torre...

b) O principal prédio da Universidade...

You already know that the adjectives usually go after nouns in Portuguese. But here we have two examples of the opposite order: ADJECTIVE + NOUN. Usually, this inversion correlates to an original restrictive or a non-restrictive clause. If the adjective follows the noun, it restricts or limits the noun. For example, montanhas altas does not refer to all of the mountains, only the tall ones. However, if the adjective precedes a noun, it doesn't restrict the noun, it simply adds parenthetical or additional information. For example, altas montanhas implies that all the mountains are tall. It is like saying "the mountain, which by the way are tall." In this instance we have a tower, which by the way, happens to be the main one, a principal torre.

In some cases, when the adjective goes first, you can even have a difference in the meaning - like in meu namorado velho (your boyfriend is an old guy) X meu velho namorado (a boyfriend with whom you've been for a while). A good rule of thumb is, "first figurative – last literal". A velho namorado is figuratively an old boyfriend, while a namorado velho is literally an old person. Generally when an adjective follows a noun, it delimits the noun.

8. Então, se você subir aquela escada, cê vai dar de frente pra um prédio.

Here comes the verb dar again... In this case we have the expression dar de frente – meaning "to face". What a great verb!

9. Eu vou seguir aqui, subir a escada, quando eu chegar na frente daquele prédio eu vou virar à esquerda...

Na frente de or **em frente de** (in front of)? Either one... In the first case, we have the article (em + a = na), which maybe makes the sentence slightly more specific or emphatic.

10. Tá. Nossa, espero que eu ache, porque eu tô com muita pressa!

Probably the English speaker would say something like *espero achar* (I hope I find it) in the case here... And he/she would not be wrong - it would also be a possibility here... But notice that *espero que* is a very common expression in Portuguese, and, in this case, the verb that follows it needs to be in the subjunctive.

11. Não fica muito no rumo não...

The library was not exactly on Thiago's way, but he decides to help Simone to find it anyway... Notice the expression he uses: *ficar no rumo*: to be on the way, in the same direction he was going to.

12. ... mas dali eu já te mostro...

"From there I'll show you", says Thiago... An English speaker would probably use the future tense here, but note the present tense in Portuguese, which is commonly used in contexts like this one.

13. a) Cê tá fazendo o que aqui? (What are you doing here?)

b) O que cê tá fazendo aqui? (What are you doing here?)

Thiago uses the sentence order as in a, above, to ask Simone about the course she was taking at the university. But he could also have used the order showed in b. The difference between both sentences is very subtle – it's all about the emphasis that happens to the first element of a sentence. The element which is being topicalized (that means, that is being talked about) is placed at the beginning of the sentence. In a, você (Simone) is the topic that the rest of the sentence is talking about; in b, what she is doing is the topic of the sentence.

