



Gossip I: Ói, que safado!

<http://coerll.utexas.edu/brazilpod/cob/lesson.php?p=28>





Ah, there's nothing like good old juicy office gossip, and Simone and Cristina are sharing tons of it. Turns out that Carlos is arriving late at work again, meaning that he's probably drinking again. Even worse, if he's running around with other women, you aren't going to get any sympathy from the women in this office. No wonder they call him 'safado', a real dirt bag, derogatory for sure, but it also makes for a great *Conversa Brasileira*!

SIMONE: Cris! Cê viu que o Carlos voltou a chegar atrasado na empresa de novo?
Cris! Did you see that Carlos is arriving late for work again?

CRISTINA: Sério? Que novidade... ❶ É a terceira vez que ele chega ❷ atrasado...
Really? Not a surprise... It's the third time he's come late...

SIMONE: Sério? E eu tô suspeitando ❸ de duas coisas, Cris.
Really? And I suspect it's one of two things, Cris.

CRISTINA: O quê?
What?

SIMONE: Das duas, uma: ou ele voltou a beber de novo, ou ele tá traindo a esposa dele. ❹
Two alternatives: either he's back drinking again, or he's cheating on his wife.

CRISTINA: Ah!
Ah!

SIMONE: O chefe!
The boss!

CRISTINA: Por que que cê acha isso?
Why do you think so?

SIMONE: Ah, não sei... Cê não viu lá na festa da empresa, sábado, como que ele tava?
Ah, I don't know... Didn't you see him at the company party, on Saturday, what he was doing?

CRISTINA: Eu lembro que ele tava dando umas cantadas fajutas ❺ pra Patrícia, não era?
I remember he came with this sorry sweet-talking to Patricia, right?

- SIMONE:** Exatamente. Toda hora **6** ele convidava ela pra dançar, e ela tentava sair fora, **7** e ele insistia...
Exactly. The whole time he was asking her to dance and she was trying to get away from him, but he kept on insisting...
- CRISTINA:** Ói, que safado! **8** E olha que **9** ele é casado, hein?
Oh, what a jerk! And you know he is married, right?
- SIMONE:** Pois é, casado e com filho.
Yeah, married and has a kid.
- CRISTINA:** Ai, que desgraçado! **10**
Oh, what a jerk!
- SIMONE:** Safado... Cê acha que, se o chefe descobrir que ele tá chegando atrasado, que que ele vai fazer?
Jerk... What do you think the boss would do if he found out that he's arriving late?
- CRISTINA:** Olha, eu acho que ele vai acabar demitindo ele, **11** hein?
Well, I think he'd end up firing him, right?
- SIMONE:** Ah, eu também acho. **12** Porque eu não, eu não pagaria o salário de alguém que não quer trabalhar. De jeito nenhum! **13**
Yeah, I think so too. Because I wouldn't, I wouldn't pay the salary for someone who doesn't want to work. No way!
- CRISTINA:** Apesar que existe a possibilidade dele estar bebendo, né? **14**
But there is still a chance he's been drinking, right?
- SIMONE:** É... E eu já ouvi dizer que ele era alcoólatra. Então eu acho que uma vez alcoólatra, se beber de novo, não para mais não, viu, Cris? O chefe, Cris!
Yeah... And I've heard he used to be an alcoholic. So I think once an alcoholic, if you drink again, you won't stop anymore, you know, Cris? The boss, Cris!
- CRISTINA:** De qualquer forma, eu acho que é melhor a gente cuidar da nossa vida, né? **15**
Anyway, I think it's better for us to take care of our own business, right?
- SIMONE:** Também acho! **12**
I think so too!



Usage Notes

1. *Que novidade...*

Cristina and Simone can't help themselves from talking about Carlos... Although gossip was not created in Brazil, Brazilians love gossiping, a lot, especially when it involves people at work or family... Notice that Cristina points out - in a very interesting way - that she is not surprised that Carlos is late. She says: *Que novidade* (what a surprise), meaning exactly the opposite: it is not a surprise...

2. É a terceira vez que ele *chega* atrasado...

It's the third time the boss has come/been late... Notice that Cris uses the verb *chegar* in the present tense, even though she is making reference to an action in the past. This is very common in Portuguese, especially when referring to an action that implies repetition or a habitual action.

3. E eu *tô suspeitando* de duas coisas, Cris.

Did you notice our translation here? "I suspect" and not "I'm suspecting." That's because in Portuguese it is common to use the gerund to emphasize the process of an action, rather than its results. In other words, when she says *eu tô suspeitando* rather than *eu suspeito*, she focuses in the fact that this is something that she has been suspecting.

4. *Das duas, uma: ou* ele voltou a beber de novo, *ou* ele tá traindo a esposa dele.

What a great expression in Portuguese! *Das duas, uma: ou ... ou...* (Between these two [alternatives], one [is true]: either... or...). When introducing an idea with two different alternatives regarding something, you can always use this expression. Notice that in English we say "either... or..." but in Portuguese we say *ou... ou...* Use it and you'll sound very Brazilian!

5. Eu lembro que ele tava dando umas cantadas fajutas pra Patrícia, não era?

Dar uma cantada (lit. “to give a song”)... Once more, the restless verb dar used in a very interesting way: when talking about the way one tries to seduce another person with flattering words and manners. But Cristina makes sure to point out that Carlos was doing it in a fake or phony way, using cantadas fajutas (fake songs), or as we translated it, “sorry sweet nothings.”

6. Toda hora ele convidava ela pra dançar...

During the party last weekend, Carlos had been asking Patrícia to dance with him the whole time... Notice that the expression used in Portuguese was toda hora, which can't be taken literally (“every hour”).

7. ...e ela tentava sair fora, e ele insistia...

Poor Patrícia, she had to spend the entire party refusing Carlos' invitations to dance, trying to sair fora (lit. “to get out”), but he kept insisting with her... Notice that the expression sair (or cair) fora can be used either to refuse or not to engage in something (similar to não entrar nessa) or to get out of a place. It is similar to the English phrase, “get lost”!

8. Ói, que safado!

Oh, what a jerk! – this is the inevitable conclusion both girls have about Carlos... In the example here, Cristina says Ói – the short version for olha (look) used to introduce and emphasize what she'll say right away: que safado (what a jerk, what a dirt bag)!

9. E olha que ele é casado, hein?

Here we have another good example of how to emphasize something that is said afterwards: E olha que ... (And note that...). Of course, as a good Brazilian, take care of the intonation that goes with it.

10. Ai, que desgraçado!

Still talking about Carlos, Cristina uses another word for *jerk*: desgraçado. This word can have two different meanings: “unlucky, unfortunate, and miserable” (lit. “without grace”) or (as in this case here) “jerk, sleazy.” Notice that desgraçado is even stronger than safado. Poor Patrícia...

11. Olha, eu acho que ele vai acabar demitindo ele, hein?

Don't be confused with all of the personal pronouns in this sentence... First off, note that, in spite of the fact that you can drop the subject pronoun in Portuguese, it is very common to use it. That's what you see here: eu acho que... Notice also that the pronoun ele, used twice here, refers to two distinct persons: ele (the boss) vai acabar demitindo ele (Carlos).

12. Ah, eu também acho.

“I too think?” No, this is not the case here. Don't focus on the literal translation here. The word order is quite different between English and Portuguese, so when saying “I think so too,” in Portuguese, remember to use também (too) before the verb: eu também acho.

13. De jeito nenhum!

Simone wouldn't pay the salary for someone who doesn't want to work. De jeito nenhum is a Brazilian way of saying “no way, no how!” You talk about Brazilian jeito, well here there is no jeito!

14. Apesar que existe a possibilidade dele estar bebendo, né?

Contractions in Portuguese can always be a bit challenging for the non-native speaker. Here we have a good example: dele = de + ele. This one is the result of the contraction between the preposition de (required by the noun phrase: possibilidade de) and the subject pronoun ele (ele estar bebendo), which shows a personalized infinitive.

15. De qualquer forma, eu acho que é melhor a gente cuidar da nossa vida, né?

Well, at some point both girls realize it's time to stop gossiping and to take care of their own business. Or, as they say in Portuguese, cuidar da nossa vida (to take care of our own life). Back to work, girls!