



Studio I: Behind the Scenes, Ói, que safado!

<http://coerll.utexas.edu/brazilpod/cob/lesson.php?p=34>





Here we are, revealing all of our behind-the-scenes secrets about *Conversa Brasileira*. In this clip you'll see the recording session we made while creating the pop-up comments that accompany, Gossip 1: *Ói, que safado!* Whenever we get together to discuss the various lessons, in the end we have our own little chit chat about what to say, what to comment on, and how to say it. The team is comprised of Denise and Valentino from the Brazilian side and Orlando and Daniel from the American side. So, take a peek at our world and join in on our *Conversa Brasileira*.

ORLANDO: All right! Now we get to the word: '*ói que safado!*'

DENISE: '*Ói que safado!*'
What a jerk...

DANIEL: The almighty '*safado!*'

ORLANDO: Jacob, we need your help again. We need a new word for 'jerk.'

VALENTINO: É, eu acho que o '*safado*' é um pouco mais forte que o '*jerk*'. Eu acho. Yeah, I think '*safado*' is a bit stronger than '*jerk*.' I think.

JACOB: What's this jerk doing?

ORLANDO: This guy is trying, you know, hit on this girl at the dance, and he's a married guy and so the girl says: 'What a jerk!' '*Que safado!*'

VALENTINO: Eu acho...
I think...

ORLANDO: But Valentino says we need a word stronger even than 'jerk.'

CAMERAMAN: Douchebag...

DANIEL: Douchebag!

ORLANDO: Douchebag!

VALENTINO: I don't know this word...

DENISE: Me neither! Can you spell it for me, please? I have no idea!

DANIEL: Yeah... That's very modern, but it works perfectly.

VALENTINO: O 'safado' você pode usar como 'jerk', mas eu acho que ele passa, assim, uma ideia um pouco de desonestidade de caráter...
'Safado' you can use like 'jerk,' but I think it goes beyond that, like, kind of an idea of dishonesty.

ORLANDO: Also dishonesty, in what he does... The reason I'm asking is because in the next one we have the word 'desgraçado,' and we translated them both as 'jerk.'

DENISE: Ficou a mesma coisa...
It ended up being the same thing...

ORLANDO: It'd be nice to have different words, one for 'safado' and one for... 'desgraçado...'

DANIEL: Yeah, but a word that's not like a *palavrão*...
Yeah, but a word that's not like a swear word.

DENISE: Mas 'desgraçado' não é pior? Nesse caso.
But isn't 'desgraçado' even worse? In this case.

VALENTINO: Eu acho, porque...
I think so, because...

DENISE: É mais forte.
It's stronger.

VALENTINO: Tem uma acusação maior, né? ❶
It has a stronger connotation, right?

DENISE: Então nós vamos ter que ter outra ainda mais forte pro 'desgraçado'?
So we have to have another one even stronger for 'desgraçado'?

VALENTINO: Talvez...
Maybe...

ORLANDO: Valentino, o importante aqui pra nós, como americano: é palavrão, ou não é palavrão... dizer 'safado'?
Valentino, the important thing here for us, as Americans: is it a swear word or not... the word 'safado'?

DENISE: Não...
No...

VALENTINO: Depende da situação... Se você chama alguém diretamente de 'safado', é muito agressivo...
It depends on the context... If you call someone 'safado,' this is very aggressive...

DENISE: 'Seu safado!'
What a jerk!

DANIEL: ... mas não é palavrão.
... but it's not a swear word.

DENISE: Não é palavrão.
It's not a swear word.

VALENTINO: Não é palavrão.
It's not a swear word.

ORLANDO: Isso que eu tô dizendo aqui. Nós, como americano, não sentimos o peso... o peso da palavra. Por exemplo, se eu aprender a palavra 'safado', onde dá pra usar?
That's what I'm saying here. We, as Americans, don't feel the weight... the weight of the word. For instance, if I learn the word 'safado,' where can I use it?

DENISE: Vou chamar o professor de 'safado'? Não!
Am I going to call the teacher a 'safado?' No!

ORLANDO: É, posso chamar o professor de 'safado'? O colega de trabalho?
Yeah, can I call the teacher a 'safado?' Or a friend at work?

VALENTINO: É, em uma linguagem, em uma linguagem respeitosa, nunca. Numa linguagem é... como é que eu diria... *polite*, *cortez*, numa linguagem *cortez*, nunca.
Well, in a respectful, in a respectful way of speaking, never. In a more, how could I say it, a more polite way of speaking, never.

ORLANDO: Mas não é palavrão? Né? Se... se...
But isn't it a swear word? Right? If... if...

VALENTINO: Tá no limite, não, Denise? ②
It's on the edge, right, Denise?

ORLANDO: Por exemplo, Denise, se a sua filha disser 'safado' em casa, cê vai dizer: 'Filha, por favor, não fala isso não?'
For instance, Denise, if your daughter says 'safado' at home, are you going to say: 'Honey, please, don't say that?'

DENISE: Não... Se ela disser com uma entonação: 'Ah, que safado, hein?' Às vezes eu falo pra ela: 'Ah, sua safadinha!'
No... If she says it with an intonation, 'Oh you safado you.'
Sometimes I even say to her: 'Oh, you little safado you.'

ORLANDO: See... that's what I'm saying. If it's ok for your kids to say 'safado' in front of you, you're not gonna correct them. Or say anything about it.

DENISE: Não, não é como um palavrão.
No, it's not a swear word.

ORLANDO: Then it's not really *palavrão*.

DENISE: Não. Mas é uma palavra forte. Principalmente se você falar com uma entonação... 'Safado!'
No. But it's a strong word. Especially if you say it with a certain intonation... 'Safado!'

ORLANDO: Ok, so besides 'jerk' and 'douchebag'...

DENISE: Como é que escreve essa, isso?
How do you write that?

VALENTINO: Como é que escreve essa palavra? Que bonita!
How do you write that word? Nice.

DANIEL: Yeah, maybe 'ass'... Because, if you add the 'hole' then it becomes too forte, right? But if it's just 'ass,' then you can say it.

VALENTINO: 'Ass'?

DANIEL: Yeah! Not 'asshole,' but 'ass.' You put the 'hole' in there...

ORLANDO: Yeah, but, you know, the same sort of thing. Can you say that in front of your mom and dad? Or these, these are words you don't say in front of your parents? That would be the key...

DANIEL: But that's what I'm saying, I would... I might be ok with saying 'ass' in front of my parents, but I would never be able of saying like 'asshole'... Like I don't know what it's about the 'hole'...

VALENTINO: Eu, eu, eu tenho a impressão que essa palavra, ela encosta em ser palavrão. ③ Ela, ela tá no limite.
I, I, I've got the impression that this word is right up there next to swear words. It's right on the limit.

ORLANDO: But I also like your observation. It also borders on dishonest person...

VALENTINO: Desonestidade...
Dishonesty...

ORLANDO: You know, so it's also their honesty that's being questioned here...

VALENTINO: Uma questão de caráter.
It's a matter of character.

ORLANDO: 'Seu safado!'
What a jerk!

DANIEL: Oh, yeah, like, I remember a *menino me falou* that, like, he asked me 'Are the politicians in the US *safados* like *os brasileiros*?' And I was like: 'You're, like, 5 years old!' Like, why are you asking me that?

VALENTINO: É, pra político é uma boa palavra, né?
Yea, it's a great word for politicians, right?

ORLANDO: Ok, let's get it all together here. We need then go on '*safado*.' We wanna talk about how... how strong of a word it is, but it's not really a *palavrão* per se, but it also includes this idea of being not just an idiot but also dishonest in what you're doing.

DENISE: Só uma coisa a acrescentar: ④ se a gente comparar o 8 com o 10, que vai ser 'Ai, que desgraçado!', 'desgraçado' é mais forte que 'safado'.
Just one more thing to add here: If we are going to compare number 8 with number 10, which will be 'Ai que *desgraçado*!', '*desgraçado*' is stronger than '*safado*'.

ORLANDO: Ahn!
Ahn!

VALENTINO: É um pouco mais.
It is a little stronger.

DENISE: Tá? Então, o que seria melhor pra qual, pra cada uma? Essa é a minha pergunta pra vocês.
Right? So, which would be better for which one, for each one? That's the question I have for you.

DENISE: Se a gente tem 'jerk', 'ass', o outro que ele falou que eu não sei repetir... Como é que é?
If we have 'jerk', 'ass', or the other one that he mentioned here that I don't know how to say... How was it again?

ORLANDO: Douchebag.

DENISE: *Douchebag.* Qual seria qual aí? O que que é mais forte?
Douchebag. Which would be which here? Which is the strongest?

ORLANDO: Ah, what is stronger? 'Jerk' or 'douchebag'?

JACOB: 'Douchebag' is stronger, but it's not the same thing...

CAMERAMAN: If he's a married jerk, you know, that is like hitting on girls, that's kind of... a lot of times, I think, people would use that.

ORLANDO: Right.

CAMERAMAN: Just because somebody use 'rude,' that I would not say

ORLANDO: This is more than 'rude.' This is scuzzy guy.

JACOB: I was thinking, like, 'sleazy...'

ORLANDO: 'Sleazy!' That's the word we wanna get in there! 'Sleazy!'

DENISE: So 'sleazy' is stronger than 'jerk?'

ORLANDO: Yeah, I think 'sleazy' is stronger than 'jerk.'

DANIEL: 'Sleazy' has, like, a disgusting meaning...

ORLANDO: Disgusting...

DENISE: Então a gente vai usar 'jerk' pro 'safado' e 'sleazy' pro 'desgraçado'?
So we are going to use 'jerk' for 'safado' and 'sleazy' for 'desgraçado'?

ORLANDO: Yeah, 'sleazy' for 'desgraçado.' Yeah.

DENISE: Tá.

	Ok.
ORLANDO:	What a sleaze! Yeah. Ok, let's start with 'safado,' see how it goes here.
DENISE:	É: s-l-e-e-... It's: s-l-e-e-...
ORLANDO:	We'll do with all that later. And also this 'oi' does not mean 'hello.' It comes from 'olha.'
DENISE:	É, e não é 'oi', é 'ói'. Right, it's not 'oi', it's 'ói'.
ORLANDO:	Yeah, it's opened.
DANIEL:	'Ói, gente!' Look, guys!
DENISE:	'Ói, que safado!' Isso é muito mineiro... N'é não? 'Ói, que safado!' 'Pro cê ver...' 'Ói aqui pro cê ver...' 'Ói aqui! Ói aqui pro cê ver...' ⁵ 'Look, what a jerk!' That's really typical of <i>mineiros</i> , right? 'Look, what a jerk!' 'Look at this...' 'Look at this...' 'Look here! Look at this.'
ORLANDO:	'Ói aqui!' Great! This is going to be a good one. Let's do it! Gossip 1, number 8, take 1. I just love this phrase! 'Ói, que safado!' What the heck is she doing here when Cristina says this?
DENISE:	É, eu adoro ouvir a Simone falar porque ela tem esse sotaque mineiro muito gostoso demais da conta... 5 E ela fala: 'Ói, que safado!' Então, primeiro tem esse 'ói'. Yea, I love to hear Simone talking here because she has this wonderful <i>mineiro</i> accent... and she says, 'Look at what a jerk!' So, first of all there is this 'ói'.
ORLANDO:	Wait, wait, wait... Stop, stop. This is actually Cristina falando...
DENISE:	Uh... É verdade! Uh... That's true!
ORLANDO:	So, let's do that again.
DANIEL:	De novo! Again...

DENISE: A Cristina não é de Minas, não?
Cristina's not from Minas?

DANIEL: É de São Paulo.
She is from São Paulo.

DENISE: Tava tão bom meu argumento! ⑥
My point was going to be so good!

ORLANDO: Ela é de São Paulo. Ela é paulista!
She's from São Paulo. She's a *paulista*!

DENISE: Tá bom, então não vamos poder ir por aí... ⑦
OK, so let's not even go there...

ORLANDO: Still we can talk about that the same way. Gossip 1, number ⑧, take 2. So I love it here when Cristina says: 'Ói, que safado!' What is she talking about here with 'Ói, que safado!'?

DENISE: 'Ói, que safado!' Bom, tem duas coisas legais aqui pra gente comentar. A primeira é esse 'ói'.
'Look at what a jerk!' OK, there are two cool things that we can comment on here. The first is this 'ói'.

ORLANDO: Yeah, what is 'ói'?

DENISE: É a versão curta do 'olha!'.
It's a short version of 'olha!'.

VALENTINO: A versão caipira,⁸ até, do 'olha!', né?
Even a hillbilly version of 'olha!', right?

DENISE: 'Ói, que safado!'
What a jerk!

ORLANDO: And notice, it is not the word 'hello', 'oi'...

DENISE: Não, não, não...
No, no, no...

ORLANDO: It's with the open vowel: 'ói.'

DENISE: 'Ói', exatamente.
'Look', exactly.

VALENTINO: É pra chamar a atenção. Como quem diz: 'observa, olha, veja'.
It's to call attention. It's like saying, 'watch, look, see'.

ORLANDO: So, first she is saying: 'look here: *que safado!*'

DENISE: 'Ói, ói, que safado!'
What a jerk!

ORLANDO: But what is '*safado?*'

VALENTINO: Bom, '*safado*' é uma palavra pra você se referir a uma pessoa que não está fazendo a coisa certa. É uma pessoa, é... que tá, enfim, cometendo um erro...

Well, '*safado*' is a word for you to refer to a person who is not doing the right thing. It's a person, he is, well, he's committing an error.

DANIEL: This is not a bad word though, right? Or is it?

DENISE: Quase! Não chega a ser 9 um palavrão...
Almost! It doesn't actually end up being a swear word.

ORLANDO: Notice our translation here: the word 'jerk.'

DENISE: Jerk. É.

ORLANDO: So, our question here is: is it a swear word or not to say '*safado?*'

VALENTINO: Não...
No...

DENISE: Não chega a ser, mas... 9
It doesn't go that far, but...

VALENTINO: Mas tá no limite... Tá no limite.
But it's on the border... It's on the border.

DENISE: Mas pode ser ofensivo, né?
But it can be offensive, right?

VALENTINO: Sim, se você diz diretamente a uma pessoa...
Yes, if you say it directly at a person...

DENISE: 'Seu safado!'
What a jerk!

VALENTINO: 'Você é um safado!', 'Seu safado!', é muito agressivo.
'You're a jerk!', 'What a jerk!', is very aggressive.

DENISE: É ofensivo.
It's offensive.

ORLANDO: You talk about the other guy being *safado*. But you don't really look into his face and say, 'you are a *safado*!', unless you're really mad.

VALENTINO: Não, porque traz uma ideia que questiona a honestidade talvez... A pessoa não está sendo muito honesta.
No, because it also carries the idea with it of honesty perhaps... The person isn't being totally honest.

ORLANDO: That's another good key. So you are actually questioning the honesty of a person when you call him a '*safado*.' He is not just a jerk, he is a dishonest jerk.

DENISE: Exato. Que é bem o caso aqui, né? O cara é casado...
Exactly. This is the exact case here, right? The guy is married...

VALENTINO: E tá traindo a mulher...
And he's betraying his wife...

DENISE: ... e tá cantando a menina. Então...
...and he's flirting with the girl. So...

ORLANDO: I hear it with politicians. We can talk about politicians being '*safado*.'

DENISE: Safado!
Jerk!

VALENTINO: É, no Brasil, todos eles merecem, né? Nós achamos que todos merecem. Mas, por outro lado, você pode usar até de forma carinhosa, né? Pra uma criança...
Yes, in Brazil they all deserve it, right? We think that they all deserve it. But, on the other hand, you can also use it in an endearing way, right? To a child...

DENISE: É... 'Ah, sua safadinha!' 'Seu safadinho!' 10
 Yea... 'Ah, you little *safadinha!*' 'You're a little *safadinho!*'

ORLANDO: So there is also an endearment sort of: 'you, little *safadinho!*'

DENISE: Claro. De novo, né? Tem a ver com entonação...
 Of course. There you go again, right? You have to consider the intonation...

ORLANDO: So, to bring it all together here, Cristina says: 'Ói, que safado!', meaning: 'Look at that jerk of a guy!'... Good!

VALENTINO: Se não ficou longa, tá ótima... 11
 If it wasn't too long, it is great...



1. Tem uma acusação maior, né?

Here's a word a non-native speaker probably wouldn't have used in this context: *acusação*. When comparing the weight of the words *safado* and *desgraçado*, Valentino points out that the last one has a 'stronger accusation,' meaning it's stronger and more offensive than *safado*. In English, speakers might be more likely to say "it has a stronger connotation."

2. Tá no limite, não, Denise?

'It's on the edge, right, Denise?' says Valentino. Notice that he uses the word *limite* (usually translated as "limit") but with a different meaning from the English. It's important to understand here the expression *estar no limite*, something like "to be on the edge."

3. ... essa palavra, ela encosta em ser palavra.

Valentino got the impression that the word *safado* is right up there next to swear words. It's right on the edge, it encosta em ser palavra. Usually translated as "to lean," "place against" or "to touch," here the verb *encostar* is more like "to get closer."

4. Só uma coisa a acrescentar

Notice here that Denise uses the preposition *a* before the verb (that is in the infinitive form). It has to do with the structure of the sentence, which corresponds to something like *uma coisa a para ser acrescentada* (something to be added). This is a very common structure in Portuguese: *tenho uma coisa a dizer* (I have something to say); *tenho algo a fazer* (I have something to do).

5. a) *N'é não?*
 b) *Ói aqui pro cê ver...*
 c) *...gostoso demais da conta*

Mineiros, the inhabitants of the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, especially the ones in the south part of the state, speak a regional variant of Portuguese which has some very peculiar accent characteristics. Among others, we could point: a) reduction/weakening/loss of final vowels and consonants; b) intense *liaison*; c) replacement of some diphthongs with long vowels. Notice that here Denise is trying to speak with a *mineiro* accent, stressing the *liaison* among the words.

6. Tava tão bom meu argumento!

Denise thought her point was going to be so good until she realized she was wrong... ‘*Tava tão bom meu argumento!*’ she says. Note the interesting translation of the word *argumento* to English: as “point” and not “argument.” She could also have used the Portuguese word *ponto* in this case, but using *argumento* in such a context is very common among Brazilians.

7. Tá bom, então não vamos poder ir por aí...

Don’t take this sentence literally: when Denise says *ir por aí* (lit. “to go this way”), in this case, she means something like “to take that angle,” “to lead the discussion in a certain way.”

8. A versão *caipira*, até, do 'olha!', né?

Caipira ("hillbilly" or "country people") is a Brazilian Portuguese term used to designate: a) inhabitants of rural areas of some Brazilian states, b) people of lesser schooling, c) a dialect or group of dialects spoken in the states of São Paulo, Mato Grosso do Sul, the south part of Minas Gerais, and part of Paraná. Depending on how it is used, the word can be considered pejorative, especially when used to describe others as stereotypical *caipiras*, carrying the connotation of an uneducated (at times naïve) person, and someone who doesn't speak "proper" Portuguese. Some of the differences in comparison with standard Portuguese are the approximant "r" (as in *porta* [po.ɾta]), the absence of the palatal "l" (written "lh" in Portuguese), which in *caipira* is pronounced like a consonant "i" (*olha* > *óia*). The "l" is frequently modified into "r" (*flor* > *fror*).

9. *Não chega a ser*, mas...

Note the way Denise says, "it doesn't go that far:" *não chega a ser*. This is an interesting use of the verbs *chegar* (to come, arrive) and *ser* (to be) together, as an expression: *chegar a ser* (lit. "to come to be," something close to "to get to be"). *Eles chegaram a ser amigos* (they got to be friends). Sometimes *chega a ser* carries the idea that something has evolved naturally over time, it "ends up being" a certain way.

10. 'Ah, *sua* safadinha!' 'Seu safadinho!'

You already know that in Portuguese the term of address equivalent to the English "sir/mister" is *senhor*: *Senhor José*. In colloquial, oral speech, this term is usually reduced to *seu*: *Seu José*.

In this dialog, we see Denise using the term of address *seu* in a very particular way, '*Seu safadinho!*' (Oh, you little *safado* you!) denoting endearment, which is a very common use of this term in Brazil. It can also be used in a humorous way (*Aposto que o seu André sabe de tudo*, 'I bet Sir André knows everything'—in a situation where you are talking to André but he is only a young boy) or even in an offensive way (*Seu desgraçado!*, "What a jerk!"). As a feminine version, *sua* can be used in the same way: *sua boba!* (you silly thing you!), *sua safadinha!* (you little *safadinha!*)

11. Se não ficou longa, tá ótima...

Valentino gives us here a nice example of *se* without the subjunctive form of the verb: Se não ficou longa, tá ótima... (If it wasn't too long, it is great...). Notice that he is not speaking hypothetically, there isn't any sense of one thing depending on another. He is simply stating that if indeed the recording was not too long, it will be fine. Even in English there is a subtle difference between "if it were" and "if it was."