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A Little Bit of Language Can Go a Long Way!



Lesson 1: Thank You!

Obrigado.

LESSON NOTES

Wherever you travel, manners are a must! And every culture has its own definition of politeness. In this respect, Brazil is no different. So in our first lesson, we'll be taking a look at a phrase you have no excuse not to know. I'm talking about how to say "Thank you." As you can imagine, knowing this tidbit of language can go a long way.

The phrase we'll learn today is "obrigado." In Portuguese "obrigado" means "Thank you." The word "obrigado" literally means "obligated" or, more specifically, "to be obligated toward someone."

Now in Portuguese there are several ways to express one's gratitude. There are more formal and more casual ways to do this.

One more formal way of expressing gratitude is "muito obrigado," which means "Thank you very much." The first word "muito" can mean several things in English, "much," "many" and "very" etc. but in this case it means "very."

This is followed by "obrigado" which in Portuguese you'll remember is "Thank you." So, "muito" and "obrigado" mean "Thank you very much".

PHRASES

Portuguese	English
Obrigado.	Thank you.
Muito obrigado.	Thank you very much.

QUICK TIP

When I first arrived in Brazil a friend and I went to a Senhora Noêmia's house. I had only been in Brazil for a few weeks but had already fallen in love with Acerola juice (It is a very healthy kind of sour cherry). Brazilians always offer food to their guests and this house was no exception. It being a hot day, Mrs. Noêmia went to the kitchen and brought out a nice, cold glass of acerola juice. She offered it to me and I, dutifully, said, "Obrigado." She promptly turned away and put the juice back in the fridge. Let me explain why she did that.

In Brazil when someone offers you something and you say, "Obrigado." it is a polite way of actually refusing what is being offered to you. It's kind of like, "thank you for the offer, but I don't want whatever you're giving me." I explained myself to Noêmia because my friend was laughing too hard who also chuckled and gave me back the juice. As I said before, a little bit of language goes a long way, especially on a very hot day!