

# PORTUGUESE, BS

Here are some of the many reasons to learn Portuguese.

- Close to 250 million people speak Portuguese. Brazil alone has a population of 205 million.
- Portuguese is the sixth-most widely spoken language in the world, before German (10th), French (11th) and Italian (15th).
- Portuguese is spoken in 11 countries on four continents. Portuguese is the official language of Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, East Timor, and is also widely spoken in Equatorial Guinea, Macau (China), and Goa (India).
- Portuguese is a working and/or official language of important international organizations, such as the African Union, the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, the European Union, Mercosul, the Organization of American States, and the Organization of Ibero-American States.
- An estimated 1.3 million native Portuguese speakers live in the United States.
- To study Portuguese is an asset in today's global economy. For example, Brazil's economy is among the largest in the world.
- The Portuguese novelist José Saramago won the 1998 Nobel Prize for Literature. The music, festivities, culture, and art of the Portuguese-speaking countries are appreciated all over the world.
- Portuguese shares some grammar rules, sentence structure, and similar vocabulary words with other Romance languages. If you already speak French, Spanish or Italian, Portuguese is an easy and fun language to learn.
- You will certainly enjoy our Portuguese classes that are student-focused and culturally engaging. Our 101-102 textbook will soon be available as an interactive open-access e-book.
- Last but not least, Brazil is the only country that has won the World Soccer Cup Championship five times.