

# Portuguese Alphabet Chart

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The modern Portuguese alphabet has 26 letters (A-Z), just like English.

<u>Letter</u>	<u>Pronunciation</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Translation</u>
A	a (as in "father")	Amigo	Friend
B	b (as in "boy")	Bola	Ball
C	k (before A, O, U) / s (before E, I)	Casa, Cidade	House, City
D	d (as in "dog") / soft "j" before E, I (Brazil)	Dado, Dia	Dice, Day
E	e (as in "bet" or "they")	Elefante	Elephant
F	f (as in "fun")	Festa	Party
G	g (as in "go" before A, O, U) / soft "j" before E, I	Gato, Gelo	Cat, Ice
H	silent in words	Hotel	Hotel
I	ee (as in "machine")	Igreja	Church
J	zh (as in "measure")	Jogo	Game
K	k (used in foreign words)	Karate	Karate
L	l (as in "love")	Lápis	Pencil

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M	m (as in "man") / nasal when at end	Mala, Som	Suitcase, Sound
N	n (as in "no")	Navio	Ship
O	o (as in "hot" or "so")	Olho	Eye
P	p (as in "pen")	Pato	Duck
Q	k (as in "king")	Quarto	Room
R	h (as in "house" at beginning) / rolled or guttural in middle	Rato, Carro	Rat, Car
S	s (as in "see" at start) / z (between vowels)	Sapo, Casa	Frog, House
T	t (as in "top") / ch (before E, I in Brazilian Portuguese)	Tigre, Tia	Tiger, Aunt
U	oo (as in "boot")	Uva	Grape
V	v (as in "van")	Vela	Candle
W	v or w (depends on word origin)	Wilson	Wilson (name)
X	sh, s, ks, or z (varies)	Xícara	Cup
Y	ee (used in foreign words)	Yin-yang	Yin-yang
Z	z (as in "zebra")	Zebra	Zebra

If you want to practice writing, you get a Portuguese Alphabet PDF worksheet at PortuguesePod101 as well.

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# Notes About the Alphabet

## Unique Features of Portuguese Pronunciation:

- Nasal Vowels – Words like "mãe" (mother) and "pão" (bread) have nasal sounds that don't exist in English.
- Soft & Hard "R" – "R" at the start of a word (Rio) sounds like an English "H," while double "R" (carro) is guttural.
- Multiple "X" Sounds – "X" can sound like "sh" (xadrez), "s" (sexo), "z" (exato), or "ks" (táxi), depending on the word.
- Silent "H" – Unlike Spanish, "H" is always silent (hotel, homem).
- Open & Closed Vowels – "E" and "O" can be open (pé, avó) or closed (você, avô), changing the meaning.
- S/Z Sound Variation – "S" between vowels sounds like "Z" (casa), but at the start, it's "S" (sol).

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