



CULTURE · FREE GUIDE

Common Portuguese Idioms & Slang Guide

Sound like a local, not a textbook — Brazilian and European expressions with real meanings.

Fala Portuguese.

Free resource from the Fala Portuguese Resource Library — falaportuguese.com

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Idioms & Slang — Brazil

The expressions that don't translate literally, and what they actually mean.

EXPRESSION	LITERAL	ACTUALLY MEANS
Dar um jeitinho	To give a little way	To find a creative workaround
Ficar de boa	To stay of good	To relax, take it easy
Quebrar o galho	To break the branch	To make do / help out in a pinch
Cara de pau	Face of wood	Shameless / bold-faced
Pagar mico	To pay a monkey	To embarrass yourself
Ficar por isso mesmo	To stay by that itself	To let it go / nothing came of it
Estar na fossa	To be in the pit	To be heartbroken/down
Encher linguiça	To stuff sausage	To pad something out (a speech, an essay)
Maneiro / Da hora	—	Cool / awesome (slang)
Beleza	Beauty	OK / cool / all good (very common filler)

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Idioms & Slang — Portugal

European Portuguese has its own distinct set of expressions.

EXPRESSION	LITERAL	ACTUALLY MEANS
Estar com a corda toda	To be with all the rope	To be full of energy
Ir dar uma volta	To go give a turn	To go for a walk/spin
Ter macaquinhos no sótão	To have monkeys in the attic	To be a bit crazy
Bater a bota	To hit the boot	To die (informal)
Estar-se nas tintas	To be in the paints	To not care at all
Cair-se de riso	To fall from laughing	To crack up laughing
Fixe	—	Cool / nice (common in Portugal, not Brazil)
Porreiro	—	Great / awesome (informal Portugal slang)

Using Brazilian slang in Portugal (or vice versa) is a dead giveaway you learned from BR- or PT-only sources — that's exactly why we teach both variants separately.