

## TWO WORDS IN ENGLISH FOR JUST ONE IN PORTUGUESE

*There are loads and loads of tricky words, confusing words like ...*

### 1 **Histórico: Historic or Historical?**

Both words are used to mean “of or concerning history, belonging to the past rather than the present.” A **historic place** or building is very old. : **historic sites/monuments/district**. But ...

**Historic** means important or famous with regard to history. It describes not simply what belongs to the past but what has an important role in the past *NASA’s historic landing on the moon*.

And **historical** refers to people, things or facts that existed or happened in the past, but it has nothing to do with the importance of the event.

1.1 Lenin’s ... theories (those of great significance) can be contrasted with his ... theories (those about history).

1.2 “Os Sertões”, by Euclides da Cunha is a Brazilian ... novel.

1.3 The president’s visit was not a ... occasion (it was not very important), it is of ... interest only (it is related to the past in general)

### 2 **Geográfico: Geographic or Geographical?** Interchangeable.

### 3 **Econômico: Economic or Economical?**

**Economic** means relating to the economy of a particular country or region.

**Economical** means not wasteful, not spending or costing much money

3.1 A small car is more ... than a large one.

3.2 The European Union is probably going to need ... reform.

3.3 The whole world is now going through an .. crisis.

### 4 **Economia: Economy or Economics?**

**Economy**: 1 the system by which a country’s trade, industry and money are organized

2 the careful use of money, time, goods, etc. so that nothing is wasted

**Economics**: the science of the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services

4.1 Jack is studying ... at the university.

4.2 The air conditioner was turned off for reasons of ...

4.3 Zimbabwe’s boasts Africa’s most industrialized ...

### 5 **Deduzir: Deduce or Deduct?**

**Deduce** means to make a conclusion on the basis of evidence.

**Deduct** means to subtract.

5.1 Don’t worry. Nothing will be ... from your pay without your consent.

5.2 I ... from the noise that the children had arrived from school.

5.3 From his name and from the way he gesticulated, I ... that Gino was from Italy.

## 6: Infantil: Childish or Childlike?

**Childish** refers to behavior that is not reasonable or sensible, like a small child. It is used in a pejorative sense.

**Childlike** means having qualities that are typical of a child, especially positive qualities.

6.1 My grandmother is 92, but she still has a ... curiosity about the world.

6.2 She is a sweet old lady, I love her ... innocence.

6.3 Everybody laughs at Jack's ... jokes. After all, he is the boss.

## 7 Clássico: Classic or Classical?

**Classic** refers to : 1 lasting high quality or of recognized excellence *the classic work on the subject* 2 something that is typical *a classic example of inferiority complex*

**Classical** refers to certain historical genres or periods as in *classical music* or *classic literature* (Latin and Greek)

7.1 I realized I had all the ... symptoms of dengue fever.

7.2 Mozart and Beethoven are icons of ... music.

7.3 The "mensalão" political scandal has been a ... example of hypocrisy and impunity.

## 8 Último: Last or Latest?

**Last:** after all the others

**Latest:** most recent or newest

1. Have you seen the ... fashion trends?

2. Alonso came ... in the race. He had some trouble with the tires.

3. Which was Jorge Amado's ... novel?

4. Which is Paulo Coelho's ... novel?

## 9 Durante: During or For?

**During:** 1 from the beginning to the end of a period of time 2 at some point in a period of time. **During** answers the question **When?** *When did that problem arise? During the meeting.*

**For:** is used to say how long an action or situation continues for. **For** answers the question **How long?** *How long did they discuss the problem? For two hours.*

9.1 People never lie so much as after a hunt, ... a war or before an election. (Otto von Bismarck)

9.2 Chernobyl effects could last ... centuries.

9.3 Education is the period ... which you are being instructed by somebody you do not know, about something you do not want to know. (Gilbert K. Chesterton)

9.4 A person who steals bread ... a famine is not treated as a thief. (Cat Stevens)

9.5 I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it ... hours. (Jerome K. Jerome)

### 10 Explorar: Explore or Exploit?

**Explore:** 1 to travel around an area in order to learn or find out about it 2 to discuss or think about something carefully *Explore is used to show approval*

**Exploit:** 1 to treat someone unfairly in order to get some benefit for yourself 2 to try to get as much as you can out of a situation, even if it is wrong or unfair to do this 3 to use natural resources such as trees, water, or oil so that you gain as much as possible *Exploit is used to show disapproval*

10.1 Employers can easily ... illegal immigrants, and many of them actually do so.

10.2 We were finally in New York and we set out to ... the city on foot.

10.3 Some oil companies have plans to ... the resources of Antarctica.

10.4 Freud was one of the most distinguished scientists to ... the human mind.

### 11 Substituir X por Y: Replace or Substitute?

**replace X with/by Y:** to put a new person or thing in place of another  
*They replaced the permanent staff with part-timers.*

**substitute Y for X:** to put a new person or thing in place of another  
*They substituted the part-timers for the permanent staff*

11.1 You can ... chicken for beef if you don't like red meat.

11.2 The objective is to ... real democratic politics for conflict and violence.

11.3 If we really want to live in a better world, we all have to ... conflict and violence with dialogue.

11.4 You can ... beef by chicken if you don't like red meat.

### 12 Humano: Human or Humane?

**human** means relating to people.

**humane** means caring about the quality of people's or animals' lives and trying to be kind to them.

12.1 Amnesty International is an organization that works for the ... treatment of prisoners.

12.2 That water is polluted. It is not fit for ... consumption.

12.3 The ... Genome Project is trying to record everything that can be known about ... DNA

### 13 Cansativo: Tiring or Tiresome?

**Tiring:** making you feel tired

**Tiresome:** = annoying, making you feel annoyed or bored

13.1 Papa, don't preach! It's getting a little ... , listening to your sermon.

13.2 It has been a long and ... day. Let's call it a day and go to sleep.

13.3 Washing dishes is a ... chore.

## 14 Distinto: Distinct, Distinctive, or Distinguished

**Distinct:** clearly different from the others

**Distinctive:** characteristic, having a special quality that is easy to recognize

**Distinguished:** (person) respected and admired by all

14.1 The boys and the girls were divided into two ... groups.

14.2 Noam Chomsky has had a ... career both as a linguist and as a political activist.

14.3 Professor Chomsky divided his lecture into two ... parts.

14.4 Professor Chomsky's lectures have a very ... quality.

## 15 Especialmente: Specially or Especially?

**Specially:** exclusively, specifically, for a specific purpose or occasion *a specially designed wedding dress (designed exclusively for that occasion)*

**Especially:** particularly or exceptionally *an especially talented singer*

15.1 I got this ... for you. For you and no one else.

15.2 The transfer of Britain's most sophisticated technologies ( ... in laser and micro computing) will have appalling effects on the British economy.

15.3 The hotel was ... designed for wheelchair users.

15.4 Peter hates TV, ... reality shows.

15.5 What an honor! She came ... for my birthday party.

15.6 Everyone enjoyed the show, ... the children.

## 16 Adotivo: Adopted or Adoptive

**Adopted:** an adopted child has been legally made part of a family

**Adoptive:** an adoptive parent is one who has adopted a child

16.1 Mike is our ... son.

16.2 We are Mike's ... parents.

16.3 Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt are Pax's ... parents.

## 17 Continuamente: Continually or Continuously?

**Continually:** refers to things that happen repeatedly (and are often annoying or bad) but not constantly

**Continuously:** refers to things that happen for a long time without stopping

17.1 It rained ... for three days. It never stopped raining.

17.2 It rained ... for three days. There were some interruptions.

17.3 They ... argue about money. It happens almost every day.

17.4 Dogs will often bark ... when they are bored or hungry and want to play or eat.

## 18 Moral: Moral or Morale?

**Moral:** a practical lesson which you learn from the message of a story

**Morals:** principles or standards of good behavior

**Morale:** the level of confidence and positive feelings that people have, especially people who work together, who belong to the same team, etc.

18.1 Values and ... are independent of religious faith.

18.2 A victory is always good for the ...

18.3 The ... of that film was that crime does not pay.

## 19 Sensível: Sensible or Sensitive?

**Sensible:** reasonable and practical, not foolish

**Sensitive:** 1 reacting quickly or strongly to something 2 likely to become angry or upset easily 3 needing to be dealt with carefully

19.1 Be careful when you comment on Kate's work. She is very ... to criticism.

19.2 A baby's skin is very ...

19.3 A ... person would never drive after drinking.

19.4 Your advice is .... Thank you again.

## 20 Experiência: Experience or Experiment?

**Experience:** 1. knowledge or skill that you gain from doing a job or activity 2 something that happens to you or something you do

**Experiment:** a scientific test done to find out how something reacts under certain conditions, or to find out if a particular idea is true

20.1 Do you have any ... working with children?

20.2 Swimming in the river was a new ... for her.

20.3 Are you for or against the use of animals in scientific ...? (plural form)

## 21 Perder: Lose or Miss?

**Lose:** to stop having something or someone *You may lose a pen/a wallet/your glasses/some money/ a friend/ a relative* You used to have all of those, but if you lose them, you no longer have them Compare with miss

**Miss:** to not have something *You miss a class/the bus/an opportunity/a good movie, etc.* You fail to have them, you never actually have them

21.1 If we don't take a taxi, we'll certainly ... that train.

21.2 Be careful with your passport. If you ... it, you will not be able to travel abroad.

21.3 They are big fans of Roberto Carlos and they never ... his shows.

21.4 Never ... faith. Never ... hope. Hope is the last do die.

## 22 Consciência: Conscience or Consciousness?

**Conscience:** the part of your mind that tells you whether what you are doing is right or wrong

**Consciousness:** the condition of being awake and able to understand what is happening around you

22.1 A bad ... has a very good memory. It keeps telling you what you did or are still doing.

22.2 When Muhammad Ali hit Sonny Liston in the chin, Liston lost ... He had been knocked out.

22.3 It was their guilty ... that made them finally offer to help.

## 23 Climático: Climatic or Climactic?

**Climatic:** relating to the climate of a country or region

**Climactic:** relating to the most exciting or important moment or event in a series, the climax

23.1 That map shows the different ... zones in South America.

23.2 The ... scene in *Jaws* is when a shark attacks a woman who is swimming near the shore.

## 24 Compreensivo: Comprehensive or Understanding?

**Comprehensive:** including many details or aspects of something

**Understanding:** sympathetic about people's problems

24.1 Phillip is going through hard times, but luckily his parents are very ...

24.2 That book is a really ... guide to Rio's attractions. Everything you need to know about the city can be found there.

24.3 Melissa was wrong but her friends showed they were all patient and ...

## 25 Compreensível: Comprehensible or Understandable?

**Comprehensible:** (document, handwriting, language, etc.) easy to understand = understandable

**Understandable:** 1 normal or reasonable in a particular situation 2 easy to understand = comprehensible

25.1 João's English is not so good, but it is ...

25.2 Paul had been insulted, so his reaction was perfectly ...

25.3 Melissa was young and inexperienced, and she made an... mistake

## KEY

1.1 historic; historical 1.2 historical 1.3 historic; historical

3.1 economical 3.2 economic 3.3 economic

4.1 economics 4.2 economy 4.3 economy

5.1 deducted 5.2 deduced 5.3 deduced

6.1 childlike 6.2 childlike 6.3 childish

7.1 classic 7.2 classical 7.3 classic

8.1 latest 8.2 last 8.3 last 8.4 latest

9.1 during 9.2 for 9.3 during 9.4 during 9.5 for

10.1 exploit 10.2 explore 10.3 exploit 10.4 explore

11.1 substitute 11.2 substitute 11.3 replace 11.4 replace

12.1 humane 12.2 human 12.3 Human; human

13.1 tiresome 13.2 tiring 13.3 tiresome

14.1 distinct 14.2 distinguished 14.3 distinct 14.4 distinctive

15.1 specially 15.2 especially 15.3 specially 15.4 especially 15.5 specially

15.6 especially

16.1 adopted 16.2 adoptive 16.3 adoptive

17.1 continuously 17.2 continually 17.3 continually 17.4 continuously

18.1 morals 18.2 morale 18.3 moral

19.1 sensitive 19.2 sensitive 19.3 sensible 19.4 sensible

20.1 experience 20.2 experience 20.3 experiments  
21.1 miss 21.2 lose 21.3 miss 21.4 lose  
22.1 conscience 22.2 consciousness 22.3 conscience  
23.1 climatic 2 climactic  
24.1 understanding 24.2 comprehensive 24.3 understanding  
25.1 comprehensible/understandable 25.2 understandable  
25.3 understandable