

Angela Kratzberg and Alexia Souza (2024-03-20 14_58 GMT).m4a

Speaker 1

Angela, so nice to finally see you.

Speaker 2

I know. I feel like let's see. I met you the one time on the live that I was able to join, but,

Speaker 3

Yeah. Well, doing our live classes, it's really hard to give one student all the attention that that person needs. So we try to do our best, but sometimes it can be all over the place. Place.

Speaker 2

Completely understand.

Speaker 3

We you had a talk with Foster. And from what I understood, you need someone, like, just holding you accountable with your Portuguese, and you want homeworks, you want, like, to practice Portuguese. Right?

Speaker 2

Tutor my. He doesn't he does correct, but he doesn't push me as hard as he used to. So it'll it'll proceed on my homework, just a friendly push.

Speaker 3

Yeah. I completely understand that, and I don't know if Foster explained to you last class. I'm just gonna say this in English, and then we go to Portuguese, Just so you can get it 100%. Like, the way that we do the coaching is that with me, you're gonna have Connection, and, of course, I'm gonna correct you and give you tips of pronunciation and all of that with him because you guys speak the same native language. It's gonna be more hard on you with the pronunciation, with the grammar, with all of that, like, this really small details. So when you come to me, you can put that in

Speaker 2

practice. Yeah. Yeah.

Speaker 3

Okay. Perfect. And the hallmarks, after I understand a little bit more, of your level and how you are with the language. We are gonna talk on the chat, and I'm gonna give you, like, audio, and you are gonna record the audio, and then I'm gonna correct you and all of that.

So it's it's gonna be fun.

Speaker 2

I'm excited. Really excited for this. Like I said, I've been studying for 3 years off and on. I the very

beginning of my journey, I tried to start with European Portuguese because my family oh, And not only do they live in Portugal, but they live on the Cape Verde Islands, and so that's a whole other dialect of its own. It's so difficult to understand. Maaz, when when I text or we're talking on Facebook, it obviously it's very easy to understand. But to be, I'm like,

Speaker 3

Yeah. It can be really hard even for me sometimes when I listen, to someone from the Azores Island, I'm like, where are you from? Because this is an art park.

Speaker 2

Exactly. Anyway, I decided, you know, even though my family speaks mainly European Portuguese that I was going I didn't I don't have family here besides my nana that speaks it fluently enough for me to learn. My grandma speaks it very brokenly. My mother doesn't speak it at all. And so I was like, you know what? I have friends. I had I love the culture.

I love everything about Brazil, and so I'm gonna learn Brazilian Portuguese, and it's better than nothing.

Speaker 3

Yes. And you should be very, very proud of yourself of doing that because, I mean,

Speaker 2

I, like, I I had to find people and that's so hard. And then, you know, you get on those apps like, what is it, Tandem or HelloTalk, and half of the guys on there are just, like, looking to start a relationship. I'm like, this is not it. This is not it.

Speaker 3

So Look at you guys. I'm a mom. Like, I'm very happy married.

Speaker 2

Married. I'm happily married. Thanks,

Speaker 3

though. So,

Speaker 2

anyway, I went to Italki. This is something that I, been recommended, and I started lessons with Leo. And we are great friends. I have like I said, I have other friends. I have a friend from Minas Gerais. I have a friend, I have a couple friends from Rio and. It was really difficult.

I think I told Foster as well. It was really difficult to understand sometimes the real accent just because they have the sh sound. And so I'm excited to also expand and also hear more accents and just get more familiar with the language as well. And so yeah. So, anyway, I went on a rampage. I was looking for resources anywhere and everywhere I could get them. I don't know if you've heard.

There's there's a YouTube channel called speaking Brazilian, and I've taken some of her courses as well through her her school. So like I said, I would say I'm an intermediate level, maybe b 1, b 2 maybe on a good day. And, my biggest struggle is, again, I don't have someone to push me or to talk with me all the time. And so I really struggle with 2 things mainly. Number 1, when I don't know a word or I'm not sure how to pronounce myself, I revert to English immediately. And I hate that because I wanna be able to get around words that I don't know by speaking in you know, synonyms and things like that even if I don't understand or find some way to express what I'm trying to say without reverting to English. And number 2, translating in my head.

This slows me down so much. Number 1, I'm trying to translate what someone else says to me, and so then I'm behind because I've just figured out what they said, and they've already moved on exactly. And then when I'm ready to respond, I'm translating in my head again, which is just it's just a delay. And so those are the 2 biggest things that I'm really trying to work on. I think once I get over that plateau, then my Portuguese will pick up very quickly.

Speaker 3

Yeah. Anna, I'm Anna.

I think that we can give you all of the resources that you need and want, but it has to come from you. Are you here? Angela? Angela? Hello?

Speaker 2

I don't I don't know what happened. Okay.

Speaker 3

I was already sending a message. It's like, are you okay? Because it

Speaker 2

was a blackout. Okay. My husband called me, and my it's also connected to my to my computer, and so I think that's it bugged out for

Speaker 3

Yeah. But what I was saying is that, like, we can give you all of the resources, but, of course, that you need to practice at home and, like, do all the hard work.

Speaker 2

And I I think with my kids, and so Yeah. That's really helpful as well. Actually, right now, I have a Brazilian friend here, and she, she's speaking with my kids. So it's great that I found someone local to me.

Speaker 3

Where is she from? Okay. Now you can tell that in Portuguese.

Speaker 2

Let's see. My I think she said it's from the Amazon.

Speaker 3

Angela, yeah, No.

Speaker 2

I don't even know what she what she said. Let's see. By Northeast, but I don't remember where.

Speaker 3

Said,

Speaker 2

is

Speaker 3

my goodness. And and don't worry about that right now. Just say it.

Speaker 2

My, like, in my Angela. And when I do find something, it's either very bland, like, boring. I was telling Foster that, I

Speaker 3

wait. What was I gonna say?

Speaker 2

I lost my train of thought. Oh, I'm used to reading. Like, I I can read a 300 page book in, like, 2 days. And so when it takes me when it takes me a week and a half to read one chapter of a book, I'm just like, I can't.

Speaker 3

Yeah. I'm the same way.

I'm like, no. If I like the book, I will know, like, in the first 50 pages because I read really fast as well.

Actually, I just finished one. The women from Christine Hanna. I don't know if you know her. I love her. Christine. Oh, a Christine Hanna. She wrote The Nightingale, which is one of my favorite books ever.

Speaker 2

See, I've read that. I read it in high school. I think my junior year of high school.

Speaker 3

Right? So I love that kind of book. But, I mean, for example, South Carolina in general. Okay. I'm still really difficult to understand. I'm getting

Speaker 2

what's it called? In English, it's called icebreaker. And it's seriously taken me, like, 2 months to get through the first two chapters. And I'm like, I love this book in English, but it's just it's so difficult. But yeah. Icebreaker. And, anyway, so I'm Amazon is, like, your only resource and even then it's, like, you either find

European Portuguese or it's not related well, and you're like, that's wrong.

Speaker 3

Let me check one thing.

Speaker 2

There's a Brazilian website as well, but has, like, free classical books like Cinderella,

Speaker 3

Roberto. It it was

Speaker 2

Okay. I will have to try that. I'm gonna write

Speaker 3

it up. I don't know if they still have it. From what I remember, they used to have, like, in New York, but I'm not 100% sure. But I imagine

Speaker 2

It wouldn't surprise me because New York is, like, one of the biggest places that has, like, the most Brazilian speakers. Yeah. Yeah. So there was a a website through the Brazilian government, maybe. But the language is very old. Very formal, very old, and I'm like, there's no way.

Speaker 3

There's no way. No. No. Yeah. Harry I see.

Speaker 2

Or, What's what is it called? I attempted to read Twilight, but I can't remember what.

Speaker 3

I'm a Deshcola. No. I am.

Speaker 2

But, again, there's so much vocabulary that I'm not familiar with. But that's my favorite type of book to read. So, like, romantacy. It's like romance and fantasy, or just romance in general. It's

Speaker 4

really good.

Speaker 2

Yeah. But, see but, again, the books that I read in English are way, way, way above my reading level in Portuguese. This takes me a very long time. And then, like I said, by the end of it, I'm like, I'm looking up every other word or takes me a month to get through a chapter.

I'm like, I cannot do this.

Speaker 3

What's the thing? Instagram, TikTok.

Creator Foster reviews reviews no good reads the pre reading. You know? Like, if I can understand this, okay, maybe the book will be fine for me.

Speaker 2

Yes. And I just followed him.

Speaker 3

Yeah.

Speaker 2

There's a couple on or there's a 2 or 3 people that I follow on YouTube as well that are Brazilian and do, like, book reviews. Like, they speak about it. So this helps as well.

Speaker 3

Yeah. But Yeah.

As I was telling you, like, I love to read in English. I don't enjoy reading in Portuguese nowadays, which is very interesting.

Speaker 2

Yeah. It's very weird because, again, most people are the opposite. They play in their native language but, like, struggle.

Speaker 3

It's just because, I mean, the the books that I like, the native in, language is in English. So why would I read something in Portuguese that I know it's gonna be translated if I can read in English and really see what the author wants to say with that. You know? Like so nowadays, I've been reading in English a lot, and Foster has a lot of trouble reading Portuguese just like you as well.

He gets super tired. He's not a fast reader in English, so in Portuguese.

So I can't

Speaker 2

I can't imagine.

Speaker 3

It's awful. But I'm gonna try to find some, like, cool short stories in Portuguese for you and send it to you so you can start, like Yeah. I Fantasy and romance that you like. Okay.

Speaker 2

Fantasy and romance. Yeah. Both of them. And I was gonna say, for me, I actually read pretty well. Like, I

would say that I can understand writing more than more so than even speaking. Like, when I'm listening to your podcast, I'm reading the transcript along usually at the same time, and I catch so much more when I'm reading along with it than just listening. And so that's why I'm like, oh, I'm so I'm ready to try books, but conversational Portuguese is so much different than than, you know, like, a novel.

And, again, it's more formal, and so there's a lot of language and and grammar that I am not used to because book grammar is very different from the grammar that I'm talking.

Speaker 3

Yeah. And sometimes I get, like, some students ask me, why did he write like this, but when you're gonna say it's like that? And I'm like, I don't know. It's just the way that it is.

Speaker 1

You know

Speaker 2

what? The word, what is it? Lhe? L h e. This is something I don't hear very often in conversational Portuguese, but all the time in books.

Speaker 4

And I'm like, what does this mean?

Speaker 3

Right? I'm gonna give something to you. Yeah. We would say

Speaker 4

Is that the mainstream?

Speaker 2

I'm like, why?

Speaker 3

Exactly. And and

Speaker 2

Or I won't even see the to form used instead of, and, obviously, I'm not familiar with that at all and the conjugations in, what, 3rd person singular or plural?

Speaker 3

I don't even know. No. I don't use that. I never use that. Never. Like, I don't know how to do that. Yeah. I know.

I had to stop and think about, like, voyage. I had no idea. But

Speaker 4

here in

Speaker 3

Portugal, they use a lot. So that's

Speaker 2

Is that the main thing? Is that the main thing?

Speaker 3

Angela, now you have to study this because we are gonna do something very cool and very

Speaker 2

I am so excited. I can't wait. I was gonna say I'm I'm pretty good with, you know, the normal past. I'm good with past perfect. Imperfect will sometime catch me off guard where I'm like, wait. I didn't realize I was supposed to say that in past imperfect because, obviously, we don't have this in English. So these two tenses can sometimes confuse me.

I'm good with, like, conditional, the, but subjunctive. I've just started studying this, and I'm like, why are all of the rules completely backwards? A, our verbs are now conjugated in e, and I'm like, why?

Speaker 3

Look. It already understand plural and feminine and masculine words.

So you're good. You are good to go. You don't have anything else. No. Yeah. But I I get it. The thing is, like, with those kind of things, I really like to for my students or the people that are doing coaching with us to understand it as organically as possible instead of, like, now is this subjective?

Is this another because it's very hard.

Speaker 2

It is hard. Especially when your native language doesn't have the 1,000,001 different tenses and we use the same word. That's what I was telling Leo. I was like, I have to learn 16 different words for that one word.

Speaker 3

Yeah.

Speaker 2

And in English, you probably have max 3.

Speaker 3

Yes. So I'm

Speaker 2

like, this is why these languages are so complicated and hard for non natives to learn. But I was I was

saying that, it definitely is easier when you're not learning grammar to start. When you just hear it in conversation, it's more organic rather than learning it and then trying to put it into practice. And that's what I found with the speaking Brazilian school is that I was learning grammar and grammar and grammar and grammar. And then when I got to the next conjugation, I was like, ma'am, we just broke every single rule I just learned.

Speaker 3

Yeah. I know. Yeah. I know. I mean, I think that each person is very different. There are some people that are like, no. I wanna learn grammar.

I can't do anything else until I learn grammar. And I'm like, please don't do that to yourself. Yes. Because, like, grammar in English is so much easier than in Portuguese. You don't wanna do that to yourself.

Speaker 2

And I think that comes from our schooling as well because that is a big thing in English schools is that you learn the grammar before you learn you know, obviously, we grow up speaking it, and then we learn in school, like, why the rules are the way we are. And I'm like, why don't more people start to learn this way? You should learn how to speak it first as we do as children, and then learn the grammar and the reason why things are the way

Speaker 3

that they are. Because you don't need to know why to be able to speak it. Yeah. What what I like to tell, like, especially our Americans and our British students is that, like, if I can get you to almost the same level that I have in English, we are good to go. You know? Because, I mean, I went to, like, private schools that it was only for English classes and only that, and I learned the hard way. I was very privileged that my parents could afford that and all of that.

But when I first traveled to the UK and I spent, like, a month there in a British school, that's when I realized how bad my English was.

Speaker 2

You're like, wait.

Speaker 3

And how, like, I needed to improve as fast as I could. And then, like, time passed. I was okay with my English. I used to have my Foster internship was at the British Council in Rio. So it was very cool to use my English for my work, and it was, like, a shock. But when I first met Foster, and I understood, like, okay. This is my life now.

I really need to become extremely good with English because of his family and everything else. It's when I took my English very, very seriously and helped me to this point. I still make mistakes. I don't understand prepositions in English. And

Speaker 2

very goodness. In Portuguese, it's the same way. I'm like, when do I use g? When do I use por? When do I use paio? Like, or you have, like, words. Or the a kilo, a isto, s l.

I'm like, there's so many words for the same word.

Speaker 3

Yes. And then you

Speaker 2

throw in and then you throw in genders. So now you have isto. You have isto. Akilu Akilu.

I'm like, holy cow. Yeah.

Speaker 3

Yeah. And for me, it's the same, like, in bed, on the bed, at the at school, in school. I have no idea what you're saying.

Speaker 2

I was saying, like, how much easier English was to Leo, and he goes, okay. Explain this to me. Why do you get in the car, but you get on the bus? And I'm like, I don't know.

Speaker 3

Don't come at me. Exactly. That's it. So I still make mistakes, but the thing is I am confident enough to have a a conversation in English Mhmm. For example, with you right now. And I know that I make mistakes, but I don't care at this point. You know?

Like, I really don't care. So if I can get you to almost the same level as I am in English or something right there Yeah.

I'm very happy. And that's And

Speaker 2

I'm happy. I'll be happy as well because, I mean, my situation is a little different than yours. If I had, you know, a significant other or my family was very close and can I I can only speak with them in Portuguese, that would be different? That would be, like, a big push for me. Like, I have to learn this to be able to communicate with them. Whereas for me, this is more personal. I want to teach my children.

I wanna be able to speak with my friends across the you know, in Brazil or wherever. And even my family, although they speak European Portuguese, that I am still able to communicate with them with by talking.

Speaker 3

Yeah.

Speaker 2

And so that is my goal. I want to be able to conversate. Even if I'm not a 100% perfect, I'm able to get what I need to say across, and I can understand what they're telling me.

Speaker 3

Yeah. That's perfect.

And I think it's gonna be a lot of work. It's gonna be frustrating sometimes, I'm not gonna lie, because, I mean, learning a language when you are an adult is always frustrating. It's so much easier when we Why do I

Speaker 2

introduce it so much more early for my kids? And, again, I love that I have, you know, Jenny close by. She's able to come come speak with them, and I'm learning from her as well because she's pretty much speaking a 100% with them in Portuguese when she's here. And so it's it's great to to have a friend close by as well. But, yeah, I will say it is very hard when you're not surrounded by the language. Very Yeah. So

Speaker 3

Now you have access to our, WhatsApp, which has a group of the big group of Kideka Connection, and then it has hours and, like, the live classes whenever you can participate before. Okay with that. But, like, my job right now is to sit down with Foster and think about, like, what we can ask from you so you can bring to the like, for him and for me. But next class because right now, I just wanted to talk to you and understand where you were at even though Foster was like, oh, she needs this, this, and this. I was like, no.

Let's talk to her. Oh, you

Speaker 2

want I wanna talk to her. Yeah.

Speaker 3

So let me talk to her. And then, like, next class, we are gonna try to do almost everything in Portuguese. So I'm gonna ask you to bring to the class, like, something. I'm gonna ask you to prepare, and then tell me during class what I ask you to prepare. And if you need help during the preparation or if you have any questions, let us know because we can you.

And then Oh

Speaker 2

my goodness. I seriously cannot tell you how excited I am about this. Again, I love Leo, and he was great for laying the foundations. But as we've developed again, we've been having classes together for almost 3 years. It's way more developed into a friendship, and so we talk, but he's not pushing me. You know, if I jump into English, he's not telling me, wait. Wait. Wait. No. No. No. He's not like he's not pushing me anymore, which is fine.

I love my friendship with him, and that's why I was telling Foster. I don't wanna make it sound bad because he's great. I love my friendship with him. I love what it's developed into.

And so, that's why I'm just like, okay. Time to step

Speaker 4

it up. Time to step it up.

Speaker 3

Because I'm at a plateau.

Speaker 2

I'm not I'm not getting any better. And so so I'm like, okay. What's the next best thing? And then I found you guys, and I was like, this is amazing.

Speaker 3

Yeah. And I get that because I had one of my students. He's, like, so sweet, but he's my friend. You know? Like, he came to Porto to visit me, like, because he lives in the UK, so it was very easy for him to travel. And I'm like, okay. He's my friend now.

He's not my student. I know. Yes. I understand that.

100 And not

Speaker 2

that I don't wanna be friends with you guys.

Speaker 4

Please. No way. Yes. Yes.

Speaker 3

Why am I worrying about this?

Speaker 2

I also need the push. Don't go easy on me.

Speaker 3

Okay. Okay. So next class, with Foster, when do you have class with him?

Speaker 4

Do you have class with him? I believe Monday or Tuesday. Oh. Oh, you know? Oh.

Speaker 2

It's okay. Go. I believe on Monday.

Speaker 3

Okay. So I'm gonna talk to him, and then give us, like, 24 hours more or less just come up with a plan. I'll send it to you on a WhatsApp. Is that okay?

Speaker 4

Yeah. That's fine. K.

Speaker 3

Perfect. And then and then we see. And if you are not happy with the plan, if you're want something else, let us know as well.

Speaker 2

Okay. Yeah. Sounds great. Alright. I'm excited. And, yeah, I have to I'll talk with Foster on Monday, and then, yeah, we can go from there and let me know. Again, I'm cool with WhatsApp.

I'm used to using it. When I first started learning, I had never used WhatsApp in my life until I started having Brazilian friends. And I'm like, this makes me use text or Imessage or anything. This is Dylan.

Speaker 3

Next class will be 45 minutes with Foster and with myself. But if you need less time because of the kids or month more time because of the kids, let us know as well.

Speaker 2

Sounds great. Thank you so much.