

31 Portuguese Phrases To Learn

1. Engolir sapos

Translation: Swallow frogs

Meaning: Do something you don't want to do

2. Mais vale um pássaro na mão do que dois a voar

Translation: It is worth more to have one bird in hand than two flying

Meaning: Be happy with what you have.

3. Cada macaco no seu galho

Translation: Each monkey to its own branch

Meaning: Don't interfere with other people's business

4. Cão que ladra não morde

Translation: Dog that barks does not bite

Meaning: All talk, no action

5. Pulga atrás da orelha

Translation: Flea behind the ear

Meaning: To be suspicious

6. Macaquinhos na cabeça

Translation: Have little monkeys in the head

Meaning: To be suspicious

7. Vai Pentear macacos!

Translation: Go comb monkeys!

Meaning: Go away

8. Macacos me mordam!

Translation: Monkeys are biting me!

Meaning: I'm very curious

9. A mentira tem pernas curtas

Translation: The lie has short legs

Meaning: Liars get found out

10. Quem vê cara não vê coração.

Translation: Who sees face does not see heart

Meaning: Don't judge by appearances

11. Queimar as pestanas

Translation: Burn the eyelashes

Meaning: Reads a lot

12. Acordar com os pés de fora

Translation: Wake up with the feet outside

Meaning: Wake up in a bad mood

13. João sem braço

Translation: John without arms

Meaning: Playing dumb

14. Tens mais olhos do que barriga

Meaning: You have more eyes than belly

Translation: You have too much food

15. Estar com os azeites

Translation: Be with the olive oils

Meaning: To be angry

16. Cabeça d'Alho Chocho

Translation: A head of dry garlic

Meaning: Distracted

17. Quem come a carne que roa oss ossos

Translation: Who eats the meat, gnaws the bones

Meaning: Finish what you started

18. Estás aqui estás a comer!

Translation: You're here to eat!

Meaning: Behave

19. Com papas e bolos se enganam os tolos

Translation: With porridge and cakes you fool the fools

Meaning: Don't take the first offer

20. É de pequenino que se torce o pepino

Translation: It's when it's small that the cucumber is bent

Meaning: Good habits develop at a young age

21. Dá Deus nozes a quem não tem dentes

Translation: God gives nuts to those who don't have teeth

Meaning: What a waste

22. Aqui se faz, aqui se paga

Translation: Here it is done, here it is paid

Meaning: Bad karma

23. O que não mata, engorda

Translation: What doesn't kill you fattens you up

Meaning: Enduring makes you strong

24. Águas passadas não movem moinho

Translation: Past waters don't move the mill

Meaning: Don't dwell on the past

25. Não há fome que não de em fartura

Translation: There is no hunger that does not lead to abundance

Meaning: Better days will come

26. Quem não arrisca não petisca.

Translation: Those who do not risk, do not have a snack

Meaning: Who dares, wins

27. Nem o que reluz é ouro

Translation: Not everything that shines is gold

Meaning: Don't take things at face value

28. Para bom entendedor, meia palavra basta

Translation: To a good "understander", half a word is enough

Meaning: Clever people will grasp the meaning quickly

29. E melhor prevenir do que remediar

Translation: It is better to prevent than to mend

Meaning: Better to avoid a problem, it is easier than having to solve a problem

30. Mãos frias, coração quente

Translation: A cold hand, a warm heart

Meaning: Good hearted

31. Grão a grão enche a galinha o papo

Translation: Grain by grain the hen fills her belly

Meaning: Patience and perseverance pays off