

# PORTUGUESE

**COUNTRIES:** Portugal  
Brazil

**POSTS:** Lisbon  
Brasilia  
Rio  
Sao Paulo

Portuguese is spoken by over 100 million people in Brazil, Portugal, Angola, Mozambique and former Portuguese colonies in Africa.

Portuguese is one of the Romance languages of the Indo-European family. It developed from the Latin spoken in the Iberian Peninsula (Portugal and Spain) during the time of the Roman Empire.

Classical literature and medieval Latin have greatly enriched the vocabulary of Portuguese since the Middle Ages. Portuguese has also borrowed tremendously from the other European languages, especially French.

Portuguese contains a few words of Celtic origin and from other languages spoken in the Iberian Peninsula before the Roman conquest. The vocabulary has also been enriched by Arabic.

Spanish and Portuguese are very closely related, but their pronunciation is quite different. Portuguese has often been described as the richest of the Romance languages on account of its wide variety of sounds.