WHY LEARN PORTUGUESE
COUNT YOUR WAYS …

THE LANGUAGE
1. **Portuguese** is the official language of eight countries (Portugal, Brazil, Angola, Cape Verde, East Timor, Guinee-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tomé e Príncipe).
2. Portuguese is widely spoken in four continents: in Europe (Portugal and Portuguese islands – Madeiras and Azores), in South America (Brazil), Africa (Angola, Mozambique, Guinee-Bissau, Sao Tomé e Principe), and in Asia (East Timor, Macau, Goa).
3. Over 230 million people speak Portuguese (it is the third most spoken European language (after English and Spanish) and the sixth most widely spoken language in the world).
4. Portuguese is the language of 25 percent of the population of the Southern Hemisphere. It is spoken by nearly 40 percent of the population in countries bordering the southern Atlantic rim region.
5. There is a large community of Portuguese and Brazilian immigrants in the United States. The 2000 Census estimated that there are ca. 212,000 Brazilian living in the USA, while unofficial estimates put the number between 800,000 and 1.2 million.
6. Portuguese was declared one of the six critical languages by the National Defense Education Act of 1958.
7. Portuguese makes sense in the global economy! Brazil is the 8th economy in the world!
8. Portuguese is also a working and/or official language in some of the most important international organizations, such as the African Union, the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, the European Union, and Mercosul (The Common Market of the South -- Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), the Organization of American States, the Organization of Ibero-American States, and the Union of South American Nations.

SOME BENEFITS OF LEARNING PORTUGUESE
9. Learning Portuguese will prepare you to work in such diverse fields as planning and consulting, finance and banking, tourism and hospitality, information sciences, diplomacy, journalism, publishing, advertising, a career in government, social services, media, law, linguistics, health, and the arts, just to name a few. Thus, knowledge of Portuguese can be instrumental in furthering your career.
10. Knowledge of Portuguese is a marketable skill. Majors and minors of Portuguese have reported landing positions in multinational companies, airlines, translation/interpretation, graduate school, international agencies, import-export companies, tourism, research institutes, and teaching, to name only a few.
11. **Portuguese/Spanish: the perfect pair.** No matter what career path you choose, you will multiply your chances for success if you speak these two languages since they cover all of South America plus many other places in Europe, Africa, and Asia.
12. Those interested in world music will greatly benefit from knowing Portuguese. Over the last five centuries, Portuguese, African and Amerindian traditions, instruments, harmonies, dances, rhythms, and other musical elements have been mixed to form unique sounds and rhythms such as **samba** and **bossa-nova**.
13. Brazil is one of the major tourist destinations in South America. Knowing the language of the country you visit provides the tourist with choices not available to those who don’t.
14. The astonishing richness of literature in Portuguese--everything from *The Lusiads*, the greatest epic poem of the European Renaissance -- to the modern Brazilian narrative and poetry, the best-kept secret in the Western Hemisphere. The Portuguese writer José Saramago won the **Nobel Prize in Literature in 1998**.
15. **Broaden your view of the world.** Learning a new language is not just learning grammar and vocabulary. It is learning new sounds, expressions, and ways of seeing things; it is learning how to function in another culture, how to know a new community from the inside out. **Portuguese can help you do so.**
BRAZIL: FACTS AND FEATURES

16. Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world in both area (after the Russian Federation, Canada, China and the United States) and population (185,000,000). It is the largest country in South America, comprising almost half (47.3%) the South American continent. Brazil’s territory spans over 8,547,403 km², or approx. 3,286,000 sq. mi. (Not counting Alaska, Brazil is larger than the continental USA). Except for a small number of islands, Brazil’s territory is a single and continuous land mass on the Eastern seaboard of South America.

17. Brazil is the 8th largest economy in the world: World Bank data shows Brazil having the 8th largest GDP worldwide, and the largest in Latin America.

18. Brazil has the largest industrial park of South America.

19. Brazil has a third of the world's iron reserves.

20. Brazil has always been considered a country very rich in water. It is estimated that about 12% of the world’s surface water resources are located in the country.


22. Brazil has the world's second largest hydroelectric project now in operation (the Itaipu power plant on the Brazil-Paraguay border)

23. Other Superlatives: Brazil has the world's most voluminous river (navigable for all 2100 of its miles in Brazil); largest oxygenating forest (Amazon); largest wetland (Pantanal); largest fluvial island (Marajó); two of the ten largest cities in the world (São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro); and he world's largest soccer stadium (Maracanã). It has the most celebrated and longest Mardigras (carnaval) in the world!

24. The FIFA World Cup will take place in Brazil for the second time. The five-time world champions last hosted FIFA's flagship event in 1950 and it will host the 2014 World Soccer Cup.

25. Brazil is the only country that has won the World Soccer Cup five times! But soccer is not the only sports. In the Beijing Olympic Games, Brazil won several medals, including a Gold Medal for Women's Volleyball, a Silver Medal for Men's Volleyball.


27. Brazil is a very culturally rich country (it is rich in plastic art, cinema, dance, history, literature, music, (samba, bossa nova, for instance), and the Afro-Brazilian martial art, capoeira.

28. Brazil is a multiracial melting pot. Brazilians are people of European, Native American, African and Asian Brazil offers geographic diversity -- from the tropical forests in the Amazon region to the temperate climate in Southern Brazil; from the beautiful beaches on the coast to the rich farmland of interior Brazil.

29. For all these reasons (and many more) the International Olympic Committee in Copenhagen chose Brazil as the next host of the summer Olympic Games in 2016. (Rio de Janeiro competed with Tokyo, Madrid, and Chicago). This choice confirms Brazil's international reputation as a leader among emerging nations and adds one more reason to learn PORTUGUESE.

Information based on the web sites of the Brazilian Embassy in Washington D. C., Portugal’s Embassy in Washington D. C, World Bank, BBC, Museum of the Portuguese Language, and CIA.