

## PODCAST TRANSCRIPT

### A CONVERSATION WITH PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE LEARNER SLEETON FERNANDES

**Nalini:** Hello and welcome to Travel and Learn Goa. My name is Nalini Elvino de Sousa. Travel and Learn is a podcast for travellers and language lovers. We are completing 10 podcasts today and have around 500 listeners and downloads! I am really really happy. Thank you so much for your support. Let me remind you that we also have a youtube channel with the same name. We have made 80 videos out of which 25 are dedicated to languages. We have Portuguese, Spanish and Konkani lessons available for you to start learning these languages. So visit our youtube channel: travel and learn Goa.

Today I decided to do something different. I have been teaching Portuguese online for a year now with an increase of students since the pandemic started. Most of my students are beginners, but recently I had a student who blew my mind off! I was so surprised by his knowledge of the language and it has been such a pleasure to have our one-on-one conversations that I could not resist inviting him for this show.

His name is Sleeton Fernandes. He is a sou-chef on a cruise and he started learning Portuguese on his own. It is very rare to find such dedicated students and you will soon find out why.

His name is Sleeton Fernandes.

Here I will leave you my questions to him and the timecode for his answers in case you want to go directly to a certain question:

1. Sleeton, can you first introduce yourself, so that our audience gets to know a little more of you, before we start? **(2:20)**
2. And do you hear any programs, cooking programs in Portuguese? Did you find any? **(3:10)**
3. Sleeton, tell me exactly when did you start learning Portuguese? **(3:40)**
4. Babbel is Portuguese from Portugal or from Brazil? **(4:55)**
5. Why did you do it? What is this interest for you Portuguese? What is your goal? Why learn Portuguese? **(5:30)**
6. You say you are from Goa with a lot of Portuguese background. That means while growing up you had someone in your family speaking in Portuguese? **(6:55)**
7. Only your aunt and your sister (speak Portuguese) . And your father? He used to speak Portuguese? **(7:48)**

8. This need to learn the language, started only when you started these cruises? **(8:25)**
9. In these cruises do you have any opportunity to practice Portuguese? **(8:32)**
10. ...and there is no one from Portugal, amongst the staff? No Portuguese cooks? **(8:14)**
11. You have been working in these cruises for a long time. Tell me about it? **(9:45)**
12. How many people work on a cruise. How many different languages can you hear when you are on the cruise? **(9:58)**
13. This will be a good thing. Go on a cruise and learn languages. No? **(11:11)**
14. You told me in class you had an experience with Tagalog. You might not be able to write but you can understand Tagalog. Tell me a little bit about this experience. **(11:47)**
15. For you, why do you think it is important to learn a language? **(13:10)**
16. Can you see yourself, now that you know Portuguese, living in Brazil? **(13:58)**
17. You make somebody else happy, when you speak their native language, isn't it? **(14:44)**
18. How many languages do you speak? **(14:58)**
19. There are a lot of Indonesians on the cruise? **(15:35)**
20. You know so many languages and I know you have learnt it on your own. You didn't have a formal education like many had in school. What are your recommendations to study a language? **(16:24)**
21. When you say you should learn it formally, are you saying in school or can also be outside the school? **(17:12)**
22. What languages did you learn in school? **(17:36)**
22. In your school, Portuguese, French and Germany were not available? **(18:32)**
23. You had to take Hindi? **(18:40)**
24. Your primary school was in Konkani? **(18:59)**
25. At home you spoke in Konkani or English? **(19:10)**
26. So your main languages today are English, Konkani and Hindi. Would you know the grammar of Konkani? **(19:31)**

27. We have been having these one-on-one interactions. In these interactions that we have, what for you is more important? Is it grammar, speaking skills? What is it? **(20:08)**

28. What about speaking? **(20:47)**

29. Do you think it is important to study many times a week or maybe twice a week, will that be enough to learn a language? **(21:57)**

30. I am not sure if I agree with you with schools. This is my experience because I also taught in school. I feel that the students are so obsessed with grammar, and wanting to write, so when they finish school, they can't really speak the way you speak! That is why I was so surprised with you! Tell me (your opinion) **(23:23)**

31. So apart from the school, you do have to make an effort, to speak, right? **(24:20)**

If you have any suggestion, our email is: **pm@ctngo.org**

For the transcriptions of all the podcasts, visit our website: [www.ctngo.org](http://www.ctngo.org) Under the language programs you will find all podcasts and also extra practice material connected to what we have learnt so far.

Bye for now!