

5. Até

This is an important unit. For *até* we actually use 4 words or phrases for this word in English.

We use *until* for time, for example, *I will study English until 3pm, He is in Rio until Sunday.*

You can also say *till*, which is the same as *until*, so *He is in Rio till Sunday* is the same as *He is in Rio until Sunday*, there is no difference between *till* and *until*.

They won't be there until 8PM this is fine and this is the word that students usually learn for *até*, however, we only use *until* with time.

But for distance we need to use *as far as* if we say ~~*I walked until the pharmacy*~~, this is a mistake, we need to say *I walked as far as the pharmacy*

~~*We drove until the beach*~~, this is wrong, we need to say *we drove as far as the beach*

If you are giving somebody directions and you say:

~~*Go until the church then turn right*~~, this is a mistake, you need to say *go as far as the church then turn right*

For quantity we use *up to*, so in a shop you might see a poster but it will not say ~~*sale until 50% off selected items*~~, this is a mistake, it will say *sale up to 50% off selected items*

If you say ~~*sometimes I eat until a kilo of rice per week*~~, this is a mistake, we need to say *sometimes I eat up to a kilo of rice per week*

If you are traveling, especially at the airport, you might see a sign that says: *you are allowed to check-in up to three pieces of luggage* this is because ~~*you are allowed to check-in until three pieces of luggage*~~ is a mistake

The final use of *até* in English is *by* which we use with deadlines.

~~So I need to finish my report until Friday~~, is a mistake, *I need to finish my report by Friday*

When we used *by* we mean on or before Friday, so Friday is good, Thursday is good, but Saturday is too late.

If you think about the first example, *I need to finish my report until Friday* to native speakers it sounds like to continue, that we continue to finish, and that doesn't make sense, so we use *by*

~~Applications must be received until 12pm Friday~~, this is wrong, we say *applications must be received by 12pm Friday* again it's a deadline

For *até* in Portuguese we have *until*, which we use for time, *as far as* for distance, *up to* for quantity and *by* for a deadline