

Module 5 grammar on one page

Module 5: The first week at work

8 Exercises · Duration: 25 min.

The first week at work

Maltese

Read & listen online 

The clock and the ordinals

The hour takes the article: **id-disgħa**, nine o'clock; one o'clock is **is-siegħa**. At is **fi** joined to the article: **fid-disgħa**, at nine. Minutes are added with **u** and taken away with **nieqes**: **id-disgħa u kwart**, **id-disgħa u nofs**, **id-disgħa nieqes ħamsa**.

Time	It is	At	Meaning
1:00	is-siegħa	fis-siegħa	one o'clock · at one
4:00	l-erbgħa	fl-erbgħa	four o'clock · at four
5:00	il-ħamsa	fil-ħamsa	five o'clock · at five
9:00	id-disgħa	fid-disgħa	nine o'clock · at nine

Noon is **nofsinhar**: **f'nofsinhar u nofs**, at half past twelve. From ... until: **mid-disgħa sal-ħamsa u nofs**.

An ordinal comes before its noun, carries the article and never changes; the noun stays singular.

Ordinal	Example	Meaning
l-ewwel	l-ewwel jum	first · the first day
it-tieni	it-tieni mistoqsija	second · the second question
it-tielet	it-tielet regola	third · the third rule
ir-raba'	ir-raba' regola	fourth · the fourth rule

From the fifth on it sounds like the number before a noun: **seba' regoli**, seven rules, but **is-seba' regola**, the seventh rule.

The days

The days take the article. On a day needs nothing more; every week drops the article: **kull nhar ta' Ħamis**.

Day	Every week	Meaning
it-Tnejn	kull nhar ta' Tnejn	Monday · every Monday
it-Tlieta	kull nhar ta' Tlieta	Tuesday · every Tuesday
l-Erbgħa	kull nhar ta' Erbgħa	Wednesday · every Wednesday
il-Ħamis	kull nhar ta' Ħamis	Thursday · every Thursday
il-Ġimgħa	kull nhar ta' Ġimgħa	Friday · every Friday
is-Sibt	kull nhar ta' Sibt	Saturday · every Saturday
il-Ħadd	kull nhar ta' Ħadd	Sunday · every Sunday

The parts of the day: **filgħodu**, **wara nofsinhar**, **filgħaxija**, **bil-lejl**; and **fil-weekend**.

Now or always: qed

The plain present is a habit; **qed** in front makes it right now. Words for how often go before the verb, and **qatt** takes **ma**.

Word	Example	Meaning
qed	Qed nixrob it-te.	right now · I'm drinking tea.
dejjem	Dejjem nixrob kafè.	always · I always drink coffee.
normalment	Normalment inqum fis-sebgha.	usually · I usually get up at seven.
kultant	Kultant immur nigri.	sometimes · Sometimes I go running.
qatt ma	Qatt ma nsajjar.	never · I never cook.

Qed nixrob it-te, u sejjer norqod.

I'm having my tea, and I'm off to bed.

Do it! Don't!

The imperative is the present of **int** without the **t-**; to several people, the present of **intom** without the **t-**, ending in **-u**. Don't is the present itself with **-x**, or **-ux** to several.

Present	Imperative	To several	Meaning
tħares	ħares!	ħarsu!	look
tikteb	ikteb!	iktbu!	write
taqra	aqra!	aqraw!	read
tigi	ejja!	ejjew!	come
tieħu	ħu!	ħudu!	take

Present	Don't!	To several	Meaning
toqgħod	toqgħod x !	toqogħd ux !	don't sit!
tgħid	tgħid x !	tgħid ux !	don't say it!
tibza'	tibza x !	tibzğħ ux !	don't be afraid!
tigi	tig i x!	tig ux !	don't come!

Xejn, nothing, **ħadd**, nobody, and **qatt**, never, go with **ma**, and the verb then has no **-x**: **ma naf xejn**, **ħadd ma jaf**, **qatt ma jiği**. A don't keeps its **-x**: **Tgħidx lil ħadd**!

Word	Example	Meaning
xejn	Ma naf xejn.	nothing · I know nothing.
ħadd	ħadd ma jaf.	nobody · Nobody knows.

GRAMMAR

G1) A BIT OF EVERYTHING

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 **Ix-xogħol jibda _____.**

- ☐ A id-disgħa
- ☐ B fid-disgħa
- ☐ C fil-disgħa

Meaning: Work starts at nine.

2 ____: l-imejl.

- ☐ A Żewġ
- ☐ B It-tieni
- ☐ C It-tnejn

Meaning: Second: the email.

3 Il-laqgħa nhar ____, fl-għaxra.

- ☐ A il-Ħamis
- ☐ B Ħamis
- ☐ C ta' Ħamis

Meaning: The meeting is on Thursday, at ten.

4 Issa ____ nixrob it-te.

- ☐ A qed
- ☐ B dejjem
- ☐ C qatt

Meaning: Right now I'm having my tea.

5 Ella, Ġorġ: _____! Il-qattus fuq il-printer!

- ☐ A tħarsu
- ☐ B ħares
- ☐ C ħarsu

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ: look! The cat is on the printer!

6 Ella, Ġorġ, _____! Il-kejk fuq il-mejda.

- ☐ A tiġu
- ☐ B ejja
- ☐ C ejjew

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ, come! The cake is on the table.

7 Imma _____ lil ħadd!

- ☐ A għid
- ☐ B tgħid
- ☐ C tgħidx

Meaning: But don't tell anyone!

8 Hello lil kulhadd! U _____!

- ☐ A ibżgħu
- ☐ B tibżgħux
- ☐ C tibżax

Meaning: Hello, everyone! And don't be afraid!

9 X'jagħmel? _____. Jorqod.

- ☐ A Hadd
- ☐ B Xejn
- ☐ C Qatt

Meaning: What does he do? Nothing. He sleeps.

10 _____ regola: qatt fuq il-printer!

- ☐ A Erba'
- ☐ B Ir-raba'
- ☐ C L-erbgħa

Meaning: Rule four: never on the printer!

G2) DAYS, TIMES, DO AND DON'T

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 X'hin hu? _____ u kwart. Int tard!

- ☐ (A) Fid-disgħa
- ☐ (B) Id-disgħa
- ☐ (C) Disgħa

Meaning: What time is it? A quarter past nine. You're late!

2 X'hin hu? _____? Mela nieklu!

- ☐ (A) Il-siegħa
- ☐ (B) Fis-siegħa
- ☐ (C) Is-siegħa

Meaning: What time is it? One o'clock? Let's eat, then!

3 X'jum hu llum? _____: il-kontroll tal-qtates!

- ☐ (A) Ġimgħa
- ☐ (B) Iġ-Ġimgħa
- ☐ (C) Il-Ġimgħa

Meaning: What day is it today? Friday: the cat check!

4 _____ u l-Ħadd ma naħdmux.

- ☐ A Sibt
- ☐ B Il-Sibt
- ☐ C Is-Sibt

Meaning: On Saturday and Sunday we don't work.

5 Ġorġ _____ iqum fit-tlieta.

- ☐ A ħadd
- ☐ B qatt
- ☐ C kultant

Meaning: Ġorġ sometimes gets up at three.

6 Ġorġ, Lina: _____ l-isem tagħkom hawn.

- ☐ A tiktbu
- ☐ B ikteb
- ☐ C iktbu

Meaning: Ġorġ, Lina: write your names here.

7 Ella u Ġorġ, _____ ir-regoli, jekk jogħġbok.

- ☐ A aqra
- ☐ B aqraw
- ☐ C taqraw

Meaning: Ella and Ġorġ, read the rules, please.

8 Nanna, Ġorġ: _____ kejk!

- ☐ A ħu
- ☐ B ħudu
- ☐ C tieħdu

Meaning: Grandma, Ġorġ: have some cake!

9 Ċikku, _____ fuq is-siġġu tiegħi!

- ☐ A toqogħdux
- ☐ B toqgħodx
- ☐ C oqgħod

Meaning: Ċikku, don't sit on my chair!

10 U għada _____ tard!

- ☐ A ejja
- ☐ B tiġi
- ☐ C tiġix

Meaning: And don't be late tomorrow!

G3) FIND THE WORDS

Underline the words that tell someone to do something, or not to.

- 1** Ella, Ġorġ: ħarsu! Il-qattus fuq il-printer!

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ: look! The cat is on the printer!

- 2** Hello lil kulħadd! Aqraw ir-regoli, u tibżgħux!

Meaning: Hello, everyone! Read the rules, and don't be afraid!

- 3** Iktbu l-isem tagħkom hawn, jekk jogħġbok.

Meaning: Write your names here, please. (to several people)

4 Imma tgħidx lil ħadd!

Meaning: But don't tell anyone!

5 Ċikku, toqgħodx fuq is-siġġu tiegħi!

Meaning: Ċikku, don't sit on my chair!

6 U għada tiġix tard!

Meaning: And don't be late tomorrow!

7 Ella, tibzax! Ċikku mhux ħażin.

Meaning: Ella, don't be afraid! Ċikku isn't bad.

8 Ġorġ, Lina: tiġux tard is-Sibt!

Meaning: Ġorġ, Lina: don't be late on Saturday!

G4) TONIO'S FRIDAY

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

id-disgħa fid-disgħa Il-Ġimgħa Ġimgħa

_____ Tonio jiġi l-uffiċċju _____ nieqes kwart.

Meaning: On Friday Tonio comes to the office at a quarter to nine.

fis-siegħa dejjem is-siegħa kultant

Tonio qatt ma jiekol _____: _____ f'nofsinhar u nofs.

Meaning: Tonio never eats at one: always at half past twelve.

L-erbgħa Fl-erbgħa

_____ wara nofsinhar hemm il-kontroll tal-qtates.

Meaning: At four in the afternoon there's the cat check.

qatt qed Normalment

_____ Ċikku jorqod fuq il-printer, imma llum _____

jorqod fuq is-siġġu ta' Tonio.

Meaning: Ċikku usually sleeps on the printer, but today he's sleeping on Tonio's chair.

ħadd għid xejn tgħidx

Is-seba' regola. Imma _____ lil _____!

Meaning: The seventh rule. But don't tell anyone!

Sejjer il-ħamsa fil-ħamsa

Lukas: U jien? _____ id-dar _____ u nofs.

Meaning: And me? I'm off home at half past five.

Sejra il-ħamsa fil-ħamsa

Lena: U jien? _____ d-dar _____ u nofs.

Meaning: And me? I'm off home at half past five.

G5) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

- 1 Id-disgħa kwart, fl-uffiċċju. u Tonio diġà nieqes

Meaning: A quarter to nine, and Tonio is already in the office.

- 2 l-imejl. It-tielet: It-tieni: il-laqgħa.

Meaning: Second: the email. Third: the meeting.

3 Ir-raba' qatt il-printer! regola: fuq

Meaning: Rule four: never on the printer!

4 Il-Ħamis bil-kafè. hemm laqgħa, dejjem

Meaning: On Thursday there's a meeting, always with coffee.

5 u qed Issa sejjer it-te, norqod. nixrob

Meaning: Right now I'm having my tea, and I'm off to bed.

6 ħut. soppa, It-Tnejn it-Tlieta niekol

Meaning: On Monday I have soup, on Tuesday fish.

7 s-Sibt ma u naħdimx. Il-Ħadd

Meaning: On Sunday and Saturday I don't work.

8 Sejjer Il-lejl Ċikku. norqod, it-tajjed!

Meaning: I'm off to bed, Ċikku. Good night!

9 Ċikku. Sejra it-tajjed! Il-lejl norqod,

Meaning: I'm off to bed, Ċikku. Good night!

10 Il-ħamsa nofs: kulħadd id-dar. sejjer u

Meaning: Half past five: everyone is off home.

- 11 kulant fl-uffiċċju. Ċikku Is-Sibt jorqod

Meaning: On Saturday Ċikku sometimes sleeps in the office.

- 12 tal-qtates. Fl-erbgħa: il-kontroll

Meaning: At four: the cat check.

- 13 hawn ejjew kejk. Ella, u ħudu Ġorġ:

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ: come here and have some cake.

G6) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 It's 8:55. Tonio says you're late. Tell him the time. You say:

- (A) Imma issa d-disgħa nieqes ħamsa!
- (B) Imma issa d-disa' nieqes ħamsa!
- (C) Imma issa fid-disgħa nieqes ħamsa!

2 Tonio asks what you usually have for lunch. You say:

- ☐ A Qed niekol soppa u ħobż normalment.
- ☐ B Normalment tiekol soppa u ħobż.
- ☐ C Normalment niekol soppa u ħobż.

3 Ġorġ is in the café at seven in the morning. Ask him what he's doing here. You say:

- ☐ A X'tagħmel dejjem hawn?
- ☐ B X'qed nagħmel hawn?
- ☐ C X'qed tagħmel hawn?

4 Lukas: It's late. Tell Ċikku you're off to bed. You say:

- ☐ A Sejjer norqod, Ċikku.
- ☐ B Qed norqod, Ċikku.
- ☐ C Qatt ma norqod, Ċikku.

5 Lena: It's late. Tell Ċikku you're off to bed. You say:

- ☐ A Qatt ma norqod, Ċikku.
- ☐ B Sejra norqod, Ċikku.
- ☐ C Qed norqod, Ċikku.

6 Ċikku is on the printer. Tell him to come here. You say:

- ☐ A Ċikku, ejjew hawn!
- ☐ B Ċikku, ejja hawn!
- ☐ C Ċikku, tiġix hawn!

7 Tonio is afraid of Ċikku. Tell him not to be. You say:

- ☐ A Sur Tonio, tibżax!
- ☐ B Sur Tonio, tibżgħux!
- ☐ C Sur Tonio, tibża'!

8 Tonio tells Ella and Ġorg not to sit on his chair. Tonio says:

- ☐ A Toqogħdux fuq is-siġġu tiegħi!
- ☐ B Toqgħodx fuq is-siġġu tiegħi!
- ☐ C Oqogħdu fuq is-siġġu tiegħi!

9 Lina asks who is in the café at five in the morning. Nobody. You say:

- ☐ A Hadd.
- ☐ B Qatt.
- ☐ C Xejn.

10 Lina asks what Ċikku does in the afternoon. You say:

- ☐ A Ħadd. Jorqod.
- ☐ B Qed. Jorqod.
- ☐ C Xejn. Jorqod.

11 Tell Tonio the first rule: come at nine. You say:

- ☐ A L-ewwel: ejja fid-disgħa.
- ☐ B Wieħed: ejja id-disgħa.
- ☐ C L-ewwel: tigix fid-disgħa.

G7) THE WEEK AT NUMBER 7

Answer the questions.

1 Meta jibda x-xogħol?

- ☐ A Fid-disgħa nieqes kwart.
- ☐ B Fid-disgħa.
- ☐ C Id-disgħa.

Meaning: When does work start?

2 Meta l-laqqħa mas-sid?

- ☐ A Il-Ħamis fl-għaxra.
- ☐ B Il-Ħamis fil-ħamsa.
- ☐ C It-Tnejn fl-għaxra.

Meaning: When is the meeting with the boss?

3 Meta jiekol ħut Tonio?

- ☐ A It-Tlieta u l-Ħamis.
- ☐ B Is-Sibt u l-Ħadd.
- ☐ C It-Tnejn u l-Erbgħa.

Meaning: When does Tonio have fish?

4 U meta jiekol soppa?

- ☐ A It-Tlieta u l-Ħamis.
- ☐ B It-Tnejn, l-Erbgħa u l-Ġimgħa.
- ☐ C Il-Ħadd biss.

Meaning: And when does he have soup?

5 U meta jiekol bajd?

- ☐ A Il-Ħamis.
- ☐ B Qatt.
- ☐ C Il-Ħadd u s-Sibt.

Meaning: And when does he have eggs?

6 Ġorġ, x'qed tagħmel issa?

- ☐ A Dejjem nixrob it-te.
- ☐ B Qatt nixrob it-te.
- ☐ C Qed nixrob it-te.

Meaning: Ġorġ, what are you doing now?

7 Ġorġ isajjar?

- ☐ A Le, qatt jsajjar.
- ☐ B Iva, dejjem isajjar.
- ☐ C Le, qatt ma jsajjar.

Meaning: Does Ġorġ cook?

8 X'hin hu? (5:30)

- ☐ A Il-ħamsa u nofs.
- ☐ B Fil-ħamsa u nofs.
- ☐ C Il-ħames u nofs.

Meaning: What time is it? (5:30)

9 Ċikku, x'jagħmel wara nofsinhar?

- ☐ A Xejn. Jorqod.
- ☐ B Ħadd. Jorqod.
- ☐ C Qed. Jorqod.

Meaning: Ċikku: what does he do in the afternoon?

10 Tonio jgħid lil kulħadd dwar is-seba' regola?

- ☐ A Iva, jgħid lil kulħadd.
- ☐ B Le, jgħid lil ħadd.
- ☐ C Le, ma jgħid lil ħadd.

Meaning: Does Tonio tell everyone about the seventh rule?

G8) QUESTION AND ANSWER

Match each question to its answer.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| ① X'jum hu llum? | ① Qed nixrob it-te. |
| ② X'jagħmel wara nofsinhar? | ② Ħadd. |
| ③ Sa x'hin naħdmu? | ③ Xejn. Jorqod. |
| ④ Min jaf? | ④ Sal-ħamsa u nofs. |
| ⑤ X'hin hu? | ⑤ Il-Ġimgħa. |
| ⑥ Kemm-il darba jiekol? | ⑥ Darbtejn kuljum. |
| ⑦ Normalment x'hin tqum? | ⑦ Fis-sitta u nofs. |
| ⑧ X'qed tagħmel? | ⑧ Id-disgħa nieqes ħamsa. |