

SCENE 34 • NUMBER 7

Taf tkanta?

Thursday evening. The festival next Saturday needs helpers, and Marija has the list. Can you cook? Sing? Dance? And the new house rule on the door: "No trumpet after 22:00. Except Saturday."

154 Words · 5 Exercises · Duration: 15 min.

The weather and what to wear

Maltese

Read & listen online ↗



LEARNING GOAL

I can say what I can and can't do, and understand simple rules.

Marija = ■ Ella = ○ Lena (Lukas) = ▲ Ġorġ = ●

Learning as Lukas? Use the words in brackets.

Thursday evening in Marija's living room. Ġorġ and Ella are already at the table.

- Idħol, idħol! Is-Sibt id-diehel il-festa, u l-festa għandha bżonn voluntiera.

■ U għandi lista.

○ In-nanna dejjem għandha lista!

▲ Bħal Tonio fl-uffiċċju!

■ Taf issajjar?

▲ Ftit. Soppa u bajd.

■ U tkanta?

▲ Le, ma nafx inkanta xejn. Meta nkanta, anki Ċikku jitlaq.

● Jien iva! Naf indoqq u nkanta.

▲ Naf, Ġorġ. Kull lejl!

○ U tiżfen? Taf tiżfen?

▲ Mhux tajjeb ħafna.

Ġorġ reads a new notice on the door.

● "Ebda trumbetta wara l-għaxra ta' filgħaxija. Hlief is-Sibt." X'inhu dan?

■ Regola ġdida tad-dar.

● Għaliex?

She looks at you.

■ Għax il-ġara l (**ġar il**)-ġdida trid torqod (**ġdid irid jorqod**).

▲ Grazzi, Sinjura Marija! Issa nista' norqod.

● U s-Sibt wara nofsillejl? Nista' ndoqq?

■ Wara nofsillejl, ma tistax. Lanqas is-Sibt.

■ Issa x-xogħlijiet. Lina tagħmel il-kejk. Ġorġ, il-kunċert. Ella tkanta mat-tfal.

■ U int, il-bankarell tal-kafetterija. U Ċikku.

▲ Ċikku?

■ Xi ħadd irid jieħu ħsiebu. Il-palk jogħġbu ħafna.

○ Is-sena l-oħra kien rieqed fuq it-tanbur!

▲ Mela din is-sena jista' jorqod fuq il-bankarell tiegħi.

▲ U Tonio?

■ Tonio, iż-żfin.

● Tonio? Jiżfen? Tonio ma jafx jiżfen!

■ Jista' jitgħallem. Jagħmillu l-ġid.

▲ U jien nista' nara!

○ U hu jaf?

■ Għadu le.

Marija tikteb fil-lista: "Tonio: iż-żfin." Ġorġ jidhrek tant, li Ċikku jaqbeż minn fuq is-sufan.

Vocabulary

DOING THINGS • AZZJONIJIET

jaf	can (know how to: can you swim?) With a second verb jaf is knowing how: taf tgħum? can you swim? Ma nafx inkanta: I can't sing.
ikanta	sing A song: kanzunetta.
jiżfen	dance Dancing, the noun: żfin.
jieħu ħsieb	look after Literally: takes thought. Ħu ħsieb il-qattus: look after the cat. La tieħux ħsieb! Don't worry!

PEOPLE AROUND YOU • NIES MADWAREK

voluntier	helper Someone who helps for nothing, at the festa or for a charity. Several: voluntiera.
------------------	--

PLACES IN TOWN • POSTIJIET FIL-BELT

bankarell	stall (at a market or festival) At the festa, the nougat stall: il-bankarell tal-qubbajt. Several: bankarelli.
palk	stage On stage: fuq il-palk.

WHAT THINGS AND PEOPLE ARE LIKE • KIF INHU? KIF INHI?

utli	useful, good for you The same for m, f and plural. Good for someone: jagħmillu l-ġid, it does him good.
-------------	--

HERE AND THERE • HAWN U HEMM

wara	after Also behind. After meals: wara l-ikel.
ħlief	except Kulħadd ħlief Ġorġ: everyone except Ġorġ. Also barra minn.

EVERYDAY THINGS · AFFARIJET TA' KULJUM**tanbur**

drum

Several drums: tnabar.

DATES AND EVENTS · DATI U OKKAŻJONIJIET**kunċert**

concert

Several: kunċerti.

is-sena l-oħra

last year

Literally the other year. Next year: is-sena d-dieħla.

LISTENING & UNDERSTANDING**L1) WHO SAYS IT**

Read the dialogue again. Who says these words? Tick the right person.

1 Tonio? Jiżfen? Tonio ma jafx jiżfen!☐ A Ella☐ B Marija☐ C Ġorg☐ D Lena

L2) WHAT DOES IT MEAN

Tick the right English meaning.

1 Taf issajjar?

- ☐ (A) Can you cook?
- ☐ (B) Thank you, Mrs Marija! Now I can sleep.
- ☐ (C) Because the new neighbour has to sleep.

L3) HOW DO YOU SAY IT

Tick the right Maltese sentence.

1 After midnight, you can't. Not even on Saturday.

- ☐ (A) Is-sena l-oħra kien rieqed fuq it-tanbur!
- ☐ (B) U hu jaf?
- ☐ (C) Wara nofsillejl, ma tistax. Lanqas is-Sibt.

L4) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Write the words in the right order on the line.

- 1
- Il-palk jieħu irid ħadd ħsiebu. jogħġbu ħafna.
- Xi
-

L5) WHAT HAPPENS FIRST

Number the lines in the order they come in the scene.

- ☐ Naf, Ġorġ. Kull lej!
- ☐ Jista' jitgħallem. Jagħmillu l-ġid.
- ☐ Is-sena l-oħra kien rieqed fuq it-tanbur!
- ☐ Bħal Tonio fl-uffiċċju!
- ☐ Grazzi, Sinjura Marija! Issa nista' norqod.

SCENE 34 • WORDS

Taf tkanta?

Can you sing?

4 Exercises • Duration: 10 min.

The weather and what to wear

Maltese

Read & listen online



voluntier
helper



jaf
can (know how
to: can you
swim?)



ikanta
sing



jizfen
dance



wara
after



hlief
except



kunċert
concert



bankarell
stall (at a
market or
festival)



jieħu ħsieb
look after



palk
stage



is-sena l-oħra
last year



tanbur
drum

Words

voluntier

helper

Idhol, idhol! Is-Sibt id-diehel il-festa, u l-festa għandha bżonn voluntiera.

jaf

can (know how to: can you swim?)

U hu jaf?

ikanta

sing

U tkanta?

jizfen

dance

Tonio, iż-żfin.

wara

after

U s-Sibt wara nofsillejl? Nista' ndoqq?

ħlief

except

"Ebda trumbetta wara l-għaxra ta' filgħaxija. Ħlief is-Sibt." X'inhu dan?

kunċert

concert

Issa x-xogħlijiet. Lina tagħmel il-kejk. Ġorġ, il-kunċert. Ella tkanta mat-tfal.

bankarell

stall (at a market or festival)

U int, il-bankarell tal-kafetterija. U Ċikku.

jieħu ħsieb

look after

Xi ħadd irid jieħu ħsiebu. Il-palk jogħġbu ħafna.

palk

stage

Xi ħadd irid jieħu ħsiebu. Il-palk jogħġbu ħafna.

is-sena l-oħra

last year

Is-sena l-oħra kien rieqed fuq it-tanbur!

tanbur

drum

Is-sena l-oħra kien rieqed fuq it-tanbur!

utli

useful, good for you

Jista' jitgħallem. Jagħmillu l-ġid.

VOCABULARY & COMMUNICATION**W1) WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

What does it mean?

1 hliief

- ☐ A and you?
- ☐ B except
- ☐ C beer

2 utli

- ☐ A June
- ☐ B useful, good for you
- ☐ C language

3 jizfen

- ☐ A like
- ☐ B dance
- ☐ C run

4 jieħu ħsieb

- ☐ A look after
- ☐ B cup
- ☐ C well done

5 is-sena l-oħra

- ☐ A three
- ☐ B cloud
- ☐ C last year

6 voluntier

- ☐ A sofa
- ☐ B November
- ☐ C helper

W2) MARIJA'S LIST

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

tanbur voluntiera

Idħol, idħol! Il-festa għandha bżonn _____.

Meaning: Come in, come in! The feast needs volunteers.

palk issajjar

Taf _____?

Meaning: Can you cook?

issajjar inkanta

Le, ma nafx _____ xejn.

Meaning: No, I can't sing at all.

Lanqas Hlief

"Ebda trumbetta wara l-għaxra ta' filgħaxija. _____ is-Sibt."

Meaning: "No trumpet after ten in the evening. Except Saturday."

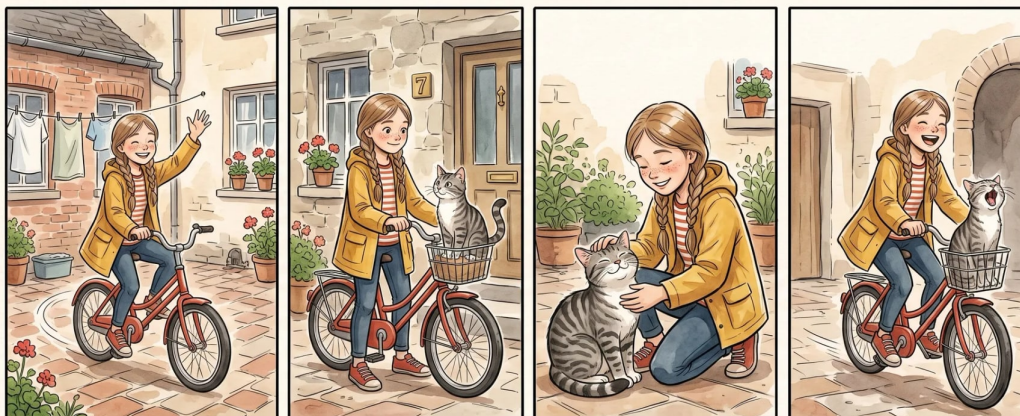
bankarell tanbur

Is-sena l-oħra kien rieqed fuq it-_____!

Meaning: Last year he was asleep on the drum!

W3) CAN YOU?

Fill the speech bubbles.



jaf nista' jafx jista' naf tiżfen jkanta

Ella: Hares! Issa _____!

Lena: Brava! U Ċikku, _____?

Ella: Le, ma _____. Imma _____ joqgħod hawn.

Ella: U _____ wkoll!

Meaning: 1. Look! Now I can do it!

2. Well done! And can Ċikku?

3. No, he can't. But he can sit here.

4. And he sings too!

W4) AT THE FEAST

Match the pairs.

① kuncert

Ⓐ volunteer

② voluntier

Ⓑ dances

③ ikanta

Ⓒ concert

④ bankarell

Ⓓ drum

⑤ palk

Ⓔ stall

⑥ žfin

Ⓕ dancing

⑦ tanbur

Ⓖ stage

⑧ jizfen

Ⓗ sings

SCENE 34 • GRAMMAR

Naf inkanta, nista' ngħin

Know how, and can

6 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

The weather and what to wear

Maltese

Read & listen online ↗



Maltese has two verbs for can. **jaf**, know, with a second verb is knowing how: a skill you have learnt. **Naf ngħum**, I can swim · **Ma nafx inkanta**, I can't sing. **jista'** is can as in possible, or allowed: **Nista' ngħin**, I can help · **Wara nofsillejl ma tistax**, after midnight you can't. As after **irrid**, the second verb takes the person too: **Taf tkanta?** Can you sing? literally do you know you sing?

JAF: KNOWING HOW

Person	jaf	Example	Meaning
Singular			
jien	naf	Naf ngħum.	I know how · I can swim.
int	taf	Taf issajjar?	you know how · Can you cook?
hu	jaf	Ġorġ jaf idoqq.	he knows how · Ġorġ can play.
hi	taf	Ella taf tkanta.	she knows how · Ella can sing.
Plural			
aħna	nafu	Nafu niżfnu.	we know how · We can dance.
intom	tafu	Tafu tgħumu?	you know how · Can you swim?

Person	jaf	Example	Meaning
huma	jafu	Jafu jsajru.	they know how · They can cook.

In the negative: **ma nafx, ma tafx, ma jafx**; in the plural **ma nafux, ma tafux, ma jafux**.
Tonio ma jafx jiżfen!

JISTA': CAN, MAY

Person	jista'	Example	Meaning
Singular			
jien	nista'	Nista' ngħin.	I can · I can help.
int	tista'	Tista' tiġi?	you can · Can you come?
hu	jista'	Ċikku jista' jorqod hawn.	he can · Ċikku can sleep here.
hi	tista'	Ella tista' tkanta mat-tfal.	she can · Ella can sing with the children.
Plural			
aħna	nistgħu	Nistgħu ngħinu.	we can · We can help.
intom	tistgħu	Tistgħu tiġu.	you can · You can come.
huma	jistgħu	Jistgħu jistennew.	they can · They can wait.

The plural changes inside: **nista'**, but **nistgħu**. In the negative: **ma nistax, ma tistax, ma jistax; ma nistgħux, ma tistgħux, ma jistgħux**.

Which one? If you learnt it, **jaf**; if it is possible or allowed, **jista'**. So you can know how and still not be able: **Naf ngħum, imma illum ma nistax: hemm ir-riħ**. I can swim, but today I can't: it's windy. Watch the second verb, too: before a **d**, **s** or **ż**, the **t-** of you and she becomes that letter: **taf iddoqq, taf issajjar**.

TIP

Nista' ...? asks for permission, the way Ġorġ does: Nista' ndoqq? Can I play? Tista' ...? asks a favour, as in module 1: Tista' ddoqq għada?

Jien iva! Naf indoqq u nkanta.

I can! I can play and sing.

Tonio? Jiżfen? Tonio ma jafx jiżfen!

Tonio? Dance? Tonio can't dance!

Jista' jitgħallem.

He can learn.

Wara nofsillejl, ma tistax. Lanqas is-Sibt.

After midnight, you can't. Not even on Saturday.

GRAMMAR

G1) FIND THE WORDS

Underline the forms of jaf and jista'.

- 1 U tiżfen? Taf tiżfen?

Meaning: And dancing? Can you dance?

- 2 Le, ma nafx inkanta xejn.

Meaning: No, I can't sing at all.

3 Jien iva! Naf indoqq u nkanta.

Meaning: I can! I can play and sing.

4 Jista' jitgħallem.

Meaning: He can learn.

5 Grazzi! Issa nista' norqod.

Meaning: Thank you! Now I can sleep.

6 Ella u Ġorġ jafu jkantaw, u aħna nistgħu ngħinu.

Meaning: Ella and Ġorġ can sing, and we can help.

G2) WHO KNOWS HOW?

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Jien _____ ngħum.

- (A) taf
- (B) jaf
- (C) naf

Meaning: I can swim.

2 Int _____ issajjar?

- ☐ A naf
- ☐ B jaf
- ☐ C taf

Meaning: Can you cook?

3 Ġorġ _____ idoqq it-trumbetta.

- ☐ A taf
- ☐ B naf
- ☐ C jaf

Meaning: Ġorġ can play the trumpet.

4 Ella _____ tkanta.

- ☐ A taf
- ☐ B naf
- ☐ C jaf

Meaning: Ella can sing.

5 Aħna _____ niżfnu!

- ☐ A tafu
- ☐ B nafu
- ☐ C jafu

Meaning: We can dance!

6 Intom _____ tgħumu?

- ☐ A jafu
- ☐ B nafu
- ☐ C tafu

Meaning: Can you two swim?

7 Lina u Marija _____ jsajru.

- ☐ A nafu
- ☐ B tafu
- ☐ C jafu

Meaning: Lina and Marija can cook.

8 Tonio ma _____ jizfen.

- ☐ A nafx
- ☐ B jafx
- ☐ C tafx

Meaning: Tonio can't dance.

G3) KNOW HOW, OR CAN?

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Wara nofsillejl Ġorġ ma _____ idoqq.

- ☐ A jistax
- ☐ B jafx

Meaning: After midnight Ġorġ can't play (he isn't allowed).

2 Naf ngħum, imma illum ma _____: hemm ir-riħ.

- ☐ A nafx
- ☐ B nistax

Meaning: I can swim, but today I can't: it's windy.

3 _____ ndoqq is-Sibt?

- ☐ A Naf
- ☐ B Nista'

Meaning: Can I play on Saturday? (Is it allowed?)

4 Iva, _____ iddoqq, imma mhux wara nofsillejl.

- ☐ A taf
- ☐ B tista'

Meaning: Yes, you can play, but not after midnight.

5 Ċikku _____ jorqod fuq il-bankarell tiegħi.

- ☐ A jista'
- ☐ B jaf

Meaning: Ċikku can sleep on my stall.

6 Aħna _____ ngħinu fil-festa.

- ☐ A jistgħu
- ☐ B nistgħu
- ☐ C nista'

Meaning: We can help at the feast.

7 Intom _____ tigu s-Sibt?

- ☐ A jistgħu
- ☐ B nistgħu
- ☐ C tistgħu

Meaning: Can you two come on Saturday?

8 Il-voluntiera _____ jigu fis-sitta.

- ☐ A tistgħu
- ☐ B nistgħu
- ☐ C jistgħu

Meaning: The volunteers can come at six.

9 Ella _____ tkanta mat-tfal.

- ☐ A tista'
- ☐ B nista'
- ☐ C jista'

Meaning: Ella can sing with the children.

G4) WHO CAN DO WHAT?

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

jistax jaf taf

Ġorġ _____ idoqq u jkanta, imma wara nofsillejl ma _____.

Meaning: Ġorġ can play and sing, but after midnight he can't.

nafx tafx naf

Jien ma _____ inkanta, imma _____ insajjar ftit.

Meaning: I can't sing, but I can cook a little.

taf jista' tista'

Ella _____ tkanta, u fil-festa _____ tkanta mat-tfal.

Meaning: Ella can sing, and at the feast she can sing with the children.

tafu jafu nistgħu

Lina u Marija _____ jsajru, u aħna _____ ngħinu.

Meaning: Lina and Marija can cook, and we can help.

Jista' Jaf

Tonio? _____ jitgħallem!

Meaning: Tonio? He can learn!

Nistgħu tafu Tistgħu

Intom _____ tiżfnu? Le? _____ titgħallmu!

Meaning: Can you two dance? No? You can learn!

tista' taf

Ċikku, _____ torqod fuq il-bankarell tiegħi.

Meaning: Ċikku, you can sleep on my stall.

G5) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

1 issajjar? Int taf

Meaning: Can you cook?

2 Ma nafx inkanta xejn.

Meaning: I can't sing at all.

3 u nkanta. indoqq Naf

Meaning: I can play and sing.

4 Tonio jafx ma jiżfen.

Meaning: Tonio can't dance.

5 ma nofsillejl tistax. Wara

Meaning: After midnight you can't.

6 nista' norqod. Issa

Meaning: Now I can sleep.

7 niżfnu ftit. Nafu

Meaning: We can dance a little.

8 tiġu Tistgħu s-Sibt?

Meaning: Can you two come on Saturday?

9 jitgħallmu. jistgħu Il-voluntiera

Meaning: The volunteers can learn.

- 10 Lina tajjeb. u jsajru jafu Marija

Meaning: Lina and Marija can cook well.

- 11 tkanta fil-festa. u taf Ella tkanta, tista'

Meaning: Ella can sing, and she can sing at the feast.

- 12 jista' u Ġorġ is-Sibt. idoqq, jdoqq jaf

Meaning: Ġorġ can play, and he may play on Saturday.

G6) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 Marija asks if you can cook. You can, a little. You say:

- (A) Ftit. Naf insajjar soppa.
- (B) Ftit. Naf issajjar soppa.
- (C) Ftit. Taf issajjar soppa.

2 Ġorġ asks if he can play after midnight. Marija says no. Marija says:

- ☐ A Le, ma tistax.
- ☐ B Le, ma tafx.
- ☐ C Le, ma nistax.

3 Ella asks if you can dance. Tell her not very well. You say:

- ☐ A Ma nafx niżfen tajjeb ħafna.
- ☐ B Ma nafx tiżfen tajjeb ħafna.
- ☐ C Ma tafx niżfen tajjeb ħafna.

4 Ġorġ laughs that Tonio can't dance. Ġorġ says:

- ☐ A Tonio ma jafx jiżfen!
- ☐ B Tonio ma tafx jiżfen!
- ☐ C Tonio ma jafx tiżfen!

5 Ask Ġorġ and Ella if they can come on Saturday. You say:

- ☐ A Tistgħu tiġu s-Sibt?
- ☐ B Jistgħu jiġu s-Sibt?
- ☐ C Nistgħu niġu s-Sibt?

6 Tell Marija that you and Ella can help. You say:

- ☐ A Aħna nistgħu ngħinu.
- ☐ B Huma jistgħu jgħinu.
- ☐ C Aħna nistgħu tgħinu.