

SCENE 24 • GRAMMAR

Hu, iftaħ, ejja!

Telling someone to do something

7 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

The first week at work

Maltese

Read & listen online



The imperative is the form for telling someone to do something: take!, look!, come! In Maltese it is the present tense of **int**, you, without its **t-**: **tħares**, you look, **ħares!**, look! • **tpoġġi**, you put, **poġġi!**, put! • **tiftaħ**, you open, **iftaħ!**, open! The vowel after the **t-** stays: **taqra**, **aqra!**, read! • **toqgħod**, **oqgħod!**, sit!

To several people, take the present of **intom** and drop its **t-** in the same way, so the imperative ends in **-u**: **tħarsu**, you look, **ħarsu!** • **tiftħu**, **iftħu!** After a vowel the **-u** is a **-w**: **taraw**, **araw!**, look! • **tistennew**, **stennew!**, wait!

DO IT!

Present	Imperative	To several	Meaning
Drop the t-			
tħares	ħares!	ħarsu!	look
tpoġġi	poġġi!	poġġu!	put
tiftaħ	iftaħ!	iftħu!	open
taqra	aqra!	aqraw!	read
tisma'	isma'!	isingħu!	listen
toqgħod	oqgħod!	oqogħdu!	sit, stay
tistenna	stenna!	stennew!	wait
tagħti	agħti!	agħtu!	give

Present	Imperative	To several	Meaning
tara	ara!	araw!	look, see
Learn these as they are			
tiḡi	ejja!	ejjew!	come
tieḡu	ḡu!	ḡudu!	take
tiekol	kul!	kulu!	eat

Stenna drops its i as well. **Isma'** and **oqgḡod** change a little in the plural, as their present does: **tisimḡu**, **isimḡu** · **toqogḡdu**, **oqogḡdu**. **Ejja** looks nothing like **tiḡi**; learn it as it is, like **ḡu** and **kul**.

An imperative is not rude in Maltese. With **jekk jogḡbok**, please, it is the normal way to ask: **Ejja hawn, jekk jogḡbok**. Come here, please. **Poḡḡi** on its own is sit down: **Poḡḡi, jekk jogḡbok**. Please, take a seat.

TIP

Agḡtini, give me, is agḡti with -ni, me, as in jogḡgobni; learn it as one word for now. Ara? is see?, when you were right: Ara? Hu wkoll iqum fis-sitta u nofs.

Poḡḡi l-qattus lura fil-borża! Malajr!

Put the cat back in the bag! Quickly!

Ċikku, ejja hawn, jekk jogḡbok!

Ċikku, come here, please!

Ғу l-qattus minn hawn!

Take the cat out of here!

Agḡtini karta, jekk jogḡbok. U pinna.

Give me some paper, please. And a pen.

Ella, Ġorġ: oqogḡdu hawn u isimḡu!

Ella, Ġorġ: sit here and listen!

GRAMMAR**G1) FIND THE WORDS**

Underline the imperatives: the words that tell someone to do something.

- 1 Poġġi l-qattus lura fil-borża! Malajr!

Meaning: Put the cat back in the bag! Quickly!

- 2 Ċikku, ejja hawn, jekk jogħġbok!

Meaning: Ċikku, come here, please!

- 3 Hu l-qattus minn hawn!

Meaning: Take the cat out of here!

- 4 Hares, Sur Tonio! Ċikku għandu rigal għalik.

Meaning: Look, Mr Tonio! Ċikku has a present for you.

- 5 Ella, Ġorġ: kulu l-kejk!

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ: eat the cake!

- 6 Ġorġ, Ella: isimgħu!

Meaning: Ġorġ, Ella: listen!

- 7 Ifthū it-tieqa, u aqraw ir-regoli!

Meaning: Open the window, and read the rules! (to several people)

- 8 Stennew! Ċikku mhux hawn!

Meaning: Wait! Ċikku isn't here! (to several people)

G2) ONE PERSON OR SEVERAL?

Choose the right word for the gap.

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

- ☐ A ħares
- ☐ B tħarsu
- ☐ C ħarsu

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

2 Ġorġ, Ella: _____ l-kejk fuq il-mejda.

- ☐ A poġġu
- ☐ B tpoġġu
- ☐ C poġġi

Meaning: Ġorġ, Ella: put the cake on the table.

3 Ġorġ u Lina: _____ it-tieqa, jekk jogħġbok.

- ☐ A tiftħu
- ☐ B iftħu
- ☐ C iftaħ

Meaning: Ġorġ and Lina: open the window, please.

4 Hello lil kulħadd! Jekk jogħġbok, _____ ir-regoli.

- ☐ A taqraw
- ☐ B aqra
- ☐ C aqraw

Meaning: Hello, everyone! Please read the rules.

5 Ella, Ƣorǵ: _____!

- ☐ A isimǵhu
- ☐ B tisimǵhu
- ☐ C isma'

Meaning: Ella, Ƣorǵ: listen!

6 Nanna, Ƣorǵ: _____ bilqiegħda!

- ☐ A toqogħdu
- ☐ B oqgħod
- ☐ C oqogħdu

Meaning: Grandma, Ƣorǵ: sit down!

7 Ella u Ƣorǵ, _____ ftiť, jekk jogħǵbok.

- ☐ A stennew
- ☐ B stenna
- ☐ C tistennew

Meaning: Ella and Ƣorǵ, wait a moment, please.

8 Ella, Ġorġ: _____ I-kejk lil Ċikku!

- ☐ A agħti
- ☐ B agħtu
- ☐ C tagħtu

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ: give the cake to Ċikku!

9 Nanna, Ġorġ: _____! Ċikku fil-borża!

- ☐ A araw
- ☐ B taraw
- ☐ C ara

Meaning: Grandma, Ġorġ: look! Ċikku is in the bag!

10 Ella, Ġorġ, _____! Il-kejk fuq il-mejda!

- ☐ A ejjew
- ☐ B tiġu
- ☐ C ejja

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

G3) TAKE, COME, EAT

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 _____ l-qattus minn hawn!

- ☐ A Hu
- ☐ B Hudu
- ☐ C Jieħu

Meaning: Take the cat out of here!

2 Ċikku, _____ hawn!

- ☐ A ejja
- ☐ B ejjew
- ☐ C jiġi

Meaning: Ċikku, come here!

3 Ella, _____! Il-kejk tajjeb.

- ☐ A kulu
- ☐ B kul
- ☐ C jiekol

Meaning: Ella, eat! The cake is good.

4 _____ karta, jekk jogһgbok.

- ☐ A Nagһtini
- ☐ B Jagһtini
- ☐ C Agһtini

Meaning: Give me some paper, please.

5 _____, Sur Tonio!

- ☐ A Ғares
- ☐ B Ғarsu
- ☐ C Iғares

Meaning: Look, Mr Tonio!

6 Ґorғ, _____ it-trumbetta, jekk jogһgbok!

- ☐ A ipoғғi
- ☐ B poғғu
- ☐ C poғғi

Meaning: Ґorғ, put the trumpet down, please!

7 _____ il-bieb, jekk jogħġbok.

- ☐ A Iftaħ
- ☐ B Iftħu
- ☐ C Jiftaħ

Meaning: Open the door, please.

8 _____! Din kanzunetta ġdida.

- ☐ A Isimgħu
- ☐ B Isma'
- ☐ C Jisma'

Meaning: Listen! This is a new song.

9 Ella u Ġorġ, _____! Hemm ħafna kejk.

- ☐ A jieklu
- ☐ B kulu
- ☐ C kul

Meaning: Ella and Ġorġ, eat! There's lots of cake.

10 Գորց՝ ս Լինա, _____ կեյկ!

- ☐ A ի՛ս
- ☐ B յիե՛հձս
- ☐ C ի՛սձս

Meaning: Գորց՝ and Լինա, have some cake!

G4) A BUSY MORNING

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

Իհարսս Էյյեւ Էյյա Իհարես

_____ հաւն, յեկ յոց՛հցբոկ. _____: ճին Լ-իսկրիւանյա
տիեց՛հեկ.

Meaning: Come here, please. Look: this is your desk.

Ացիտինի Ացիտս

_____ Լ-կոնյոմ տիեց՛հեկ, իտրա Բ'իտրա.

Meaning: Give me your surname, letter by letter.

Hu aqraw aqra Ħudu

_____ l-karta u l-pinna, u _____ r-regoli.

Meaning: Take the paper and the pen, and read the rules.

Stennew poġġi poġġu Stenna

_____ ftit... _____ l-qattus lura fil-borża!

Meaning: Wait a moment... put the cat back in the bag!

oqgħod isma' isimġu oqogħdu

Ella, Ġorġ: _____ hawn u _____.

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ: sit here and listen.

G5) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

- 1 fil-borża! l-qattus Poġġi lura

Meaning: Put the cat back in the bag!

- 2 jogħġbok! Ċikku, jekk hawn, ejja

Meaning: Ċikku, come here, please!

- 3 malajr! l-qattus hawn, minn Hu

Meaning: Take the cat out of here, quickly!

- 4 karta pinna, Agħtini jogħġbok. jekk u

Meaning: Give me some paper and a pen, please.

5 ғарсу: ил-принтер! Елла, Ыкку Ығрғ, фуқ

Meaning: Елла, Ығрғ, look: Ыкку is on the printer!

6 жоғроғ. I-биеб, Ыкку јрид јекк Iғћу јогғғбок:

Meaning: Open the door, please: Ыкку wants to go out. (to several people)

7 Iл I-ғурдиен Елла, Tonio! Ығрғ: ағћту

Meaning: Елла, Ығрғ: give the mouse back to Tonio!

8 I-кејк t-te. u ғуду кulu Eјjew,

Meaning: Come, eat the cake and have your tea. (to several people)

9 araw! u Stennew ftit,

Meaning: Wait a moment, and look! (to several people)

10 isimgһu. u Oqogһdu hawn

Meaning: Sit here and listen. (to several people)

G6) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 **Їккu is behind the printer. Ask him nicely to come here. You say:**

- (A) Їккu, јігі hawn, jekk jogһgbok!
- (B) Їккu, ејја hawn, jekk jogһgbok!
- (C) Їккu, ејjew hawn, jekk jogһgbok!

2 **Tonio wants some paper and a pen from you. Tonio says:**

- (A) Agһtini karta u pinna, jekk jogһgbok.
- (B) Ғu karta u pinna, jekk jogһgbok.
- (C) Jagһtini karta u pinna, jekk jogһgbok.

3 Ella and Ğorğ are at your door. Ask them to come in. You say:

- ☐ A Idғol, jekk jogғғbok!
- ☐ B Idғlu, jekk jogғғbok!
- ☐ C Nidғlu, jekk jogғғbok!

4 Lina puts two plates of cake in front of Ella and Ğorğ. Lina says:

- ☐ A Kulu, kulu!
- ☐ B Kul, kul!
- ☐ C Jieklu, jieklu!

5 Ćikku has brought Tonio a present. Tell Tonio to look. You say:

- ☐ A Ғares, Sur Tonio!
- ☐ B Ғarsu, Sur Tonio!
- ☐ C Iғares, Sur Tonio!

6 Marija wants Ella and Ğorğ to put their cups on the table. Marija says:

- ☐ A Poғғu t-tazzi fuq il-mejda.
- ☐ B Ipoғғu t-tazzi fuq il-mejda.
- ☐ C Poғғi t-tazzi fuq il-mejda.

7 Tonio wants you to wait a moment. Tonio says:

- ☐ A Nistenna ftit, jekk jogħġbok.
- ☐ B Stennew ftit, jekk jogħġbok.
- ☐ C Stenna ftit, jekk jogħġbok.

G7) DO IT!

Match the pairs.

1 Kul!

A Eat!

2 Agħtini!

B Sit! Stay!

3 Oqgħod!

C Give me!

4 Ғares!

D Wait!

5 Stenna!

E Come!

6 Isma'!

F Look!

7 Ejja!

G Listen!

8 Ғу!

H Take!