

Module 1 grammar on one page

Module 1: Arrival

8 Exercises • Duration: 25 min.

Arrival

Maltese

Read & listen online 



Masculine and feminine

Every noun is masculine or feminine; most feminine nouns end in **-a**. People and animals come in pairs, and adjectives follow the noun and take its gender. **dan** is this for a masculine noun, **din** for a feminine one.

Masculine	Feminine	Meaning
ġar	ġara	neighbour
ħabib	ħabiba	friend
mużiċist	mużiċista	musician
qattus	qattusa	tomcat · she-cat
nannu	nanna	grandfather · grandmother
ġdid · tajjeb · ħażin	ġdida · tajba · ħażina	new · good · bad
dan	din	this

Ċikku qattus tajjeb.

Ċikku is a good tomcat.

Il-kafetterija ta' Lina tajba ħafna.

Lina's café is very good.

The article: il-

The article joins its noun with a hyphen. Before a sun letter it takes that letter's sound, and after a vowel the i drops. An adjective after the noun takes the article too.

Before	Article	Example	Meaning
Most letters	il-	il-ġar il-kafè	the neighbour the coffee
A vowel	l-	l-isem l-ikla	the name the meal
A sun letter	iċ- id- in- is- it- ...	iċ-ċavetta id-dar in-nanna is-sid it-te	the key the house the grandmother the boss the tea
After a vowel	l- n- s- ...	il-ġara l-ġdida Marija n-nanna hu s-sid	the new neighbour Marija is the grandmother he's the boss

The sun letters are **ċ d n r s t x ż z**.

Int il-ġar il-ġdid?

Are you the new neighbour?

Ċikku hu s-sid hawn.

Ċikku is the boss here.

jien, int, hu, hi: and no word for is

In the present there is no word for am, is or are: the pronoun and the noun simply stand together. **int** is you for one person, whoever it is; **intom** for several.

Pronoun	Example	Meaning
Singular		
jien	Jien Marija.	I I'm Marija.
int	Int il-ġar il-ġdid?	you Are you the new neighbour?
hu · hi	Hawn hu l-kafè. Hawn hi ċ-ċavetta.	he, it she, it Here's the coffee. Here's the key.
Plural		
aħna	Aħna ħbieb.	we We're friends.
intom	Intom ġirien.	you You're neighbours.
huma	Huma ġirien.	they They're neighbours.

Whose? tiegħi, tiegħek

The possessive comes after the noun, which keeps its article. It never changes for the noun.

Person	Possessive	Example	Meaning
jien	tiegħi	iċ-ċavetta tiegħi	my, mine · my key
int	tiegħek	id-dar tiegħek	your · your house
hu	tiegħu	il-qattus tiegħu	his · his cat
hi	tagħha	in-nanna tagħha	her · her grandmother
aħna	tagħna	id-dar tagħna	our · our house
intom	tagħkom	il-kafetterija tagħkom	your · your café

Person	Possessive	Example	Meaning
huma	tagħhom	il-ġar tagħhom	their · their neighbour

Having: għandi, għandek

There is no verb for have: **għand**, at someone's, takes an ending for the person.

Person	għand	Meaning
jien	għandi	I have
int	għandek	you have
hu	għandu	he has
hi	għandha	she has
aħna	għandna	we have
intom	għandkom	you have
huma	għandhom	they have

Għandek iċ-ċavetta tiegħi!

You have my key!

Lina għandha kafetterija.

Lina has a café.

Saying no: le and mhux

le answers no. **mhux** says not, before a word that is not a verb. A verb takes **ma** in front and **-x** at the end.

Yes	No	Meaning
Iva.	Le.	yes · no
tieghi	mhux tieghi	mine · not mine
ħazin	mhux ħazin	bad · not bad
Ġorġ	mhux Ġorġ	Ġorġ · not Ġorġ
naf	ma nafx	I know · I don't know

Le, mhux Ġorġ. U mhux Lina.

No, not Ġorġ. And not Lina.

Iċ-ċavetta? Ma nafx.

Your key? I don't know.

Questions

A question keeps the order of a statement and rises at the end.
hux? at the end asks for a yes. Other questions start with a question word.

Word	Example	Meaning
min	U dan min hu?	who? · And who is this?
x'	X'jismek?	what? · What's your name?
fejn	Fejn toqgħod?	where? · Where do you live?
kif	Kif int?	how? · How are you?
hux?	Int il-ġara l-ġdida, hux?	right? · You're the new neighbour, right?

Liking: jogħgobni

The thing you like is the subject, and it does the pleasing: **il-kejk jogħgobni**, the cake pleases me. The front of the verb goes with that thing, **j-** for a masculine one and **t-** for a feminine one, as in **jorqod** and **torqod**. The person who likes it is the ending: **-ni** me, **-ok** you, **-u** him, **-ha** her.

Who likes it	il-kejk (masculine)	il-kafetterija (feminine)	Meaning
jien	jogħgobni	togħgobni	I like it (it pleases me)
int	jogħgbok	togħgbok	you like it (it pleases you)
hu	jogħgbu	togħgbu	he likes it (it pleases him)
hi	jogħgobha	togħgobha	she likes it (it pleases her)

Il-kejk jogħgobni. I like the cake. **Il-kafetterija togħgobha.** She likes the café: the café (t-) pleases her (-ha).

The present tense, singular

The person is a letter at the front: **n-** for I, **t-** for you and for she, **j-** or **i-** for he. A dictionary lists the he-form. There is no infinitive: after **irrid** and **nista'** the second verb takes the person too.

jien	int	hu	hi	Meaning
norqod	torqod	jorqod	torqod	sleep
noqgħod	toqgħod	joqgħod	toqgħod	live
naf	taf	jaf	taf	know
indoqq	iddoqq	idoqq	iddoqq	play

Verament irrid norqod.

I really want to sleep.

Tista' ddoqq għada?

Could you play tomorrow?

Where? hawn, hemm, fil-, bil-

fejn? asks where. **fuq** before a noun is on or above. The short prepositions **fi**, **bi**, **għal** and **minn** join the article.

Preposition	With il-	Example	Meaning
fi	fil-	fil-kafetterija fis-salott fid-dar	in in the café in the living room at home
bi	bil-	bil-lejl bil-ġuħ	with, by at night hungry
għal	għall-	għall-kafetterija	to, for to the café
minn	mill-	mill-kafetterija	from from the café

Lina toqgħod fuq il-kafetterija.

Lina lives above the café.

Ċikku jorqod fis-salott.

Ċikku is asleep in the living room.

GRAMMAR**G1) A BIT OF EVERYTHING**

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Ġhandek iċ-ċavetta _____!

☐ A tiegħi

☐ B jien

Meaning: You have my key!

2 Ċikku jorqod _____.

☐ A fis-salott

☐ B fil-salott

Meaning: Ċikku is asleep in the living room.

3 Jien _____ isfel.

☐ A noqgħod

☐ B joqgħod

Meaning: I live downstairs.

4 Ella _____ tmur għall-kafetterija.

☐ A irrid

☐ B trid

Meaning: Ella wants to go to the café.

5 Hawn kafetterija _____ ħafna.

☐ A tajjeb

☐ B tajba

Meaning: There's a very good café here.

6 _____ ta' Marija.

☐ A Il-dar

☐ B Id-dar

Meaning: Marija's house.

7 Il-kejk _____ ħafna!

☐ A jogħġobni

☐ B jogħġbok

Meaning: I like the cake very much!

8 Ella? Il-kejk _____ ħafna.

- ☐ A jogħġbu
- ☐ B jogħġobha
- ☐ C togħġobha

Meaning: Ella? She likes the cake a lot.

9 _____ tajjeb ħafna!

- ☐ A Ik-kafè
- ☐ B Il-kafè
- ☐ C L-kafè

Meaning: The coffee is very good!

10 _____ t-tajba!

- ☐ A L-ikla
- ☐ B Il-ikla

Meaning: Enjoy your meal!

G2) THE RIGHT PERSON

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Sinjura Marija, Ċikku l-qattus _____?

- ☐ (A) tiegħu
- ☐ (B) tagħha
- ☐ (C) tiegħek

Meaning: Mrs Marija, is Ċikku your cat?

2 Ċikku ħabib ta' Ella, u Ella ħabiba _____.

- ☐ (A) tagħha
- ☐ (B) tagħhom
- ☐ (C) tiegħu

Meaning: Ċikku is Ella's friend, and Ella is his.

3 Marija n-nanna tiegħi. Jien in-neputija _____.

- ☐ (A) tagħha
- ☐ (B) tiegħu
- ☐ (C) tagħna

Meaning: Marija is my grandmother. I'm her granddaughter.

4 Ella, Sinjura Marija: Ċikku mhux il-qattus _____?

- ☐ A tagħhom
- ☐ B tagħkom
- ☐ C tagħna

Meaning: Ella, Mrs Marija: isn't Ċikku your cat?

5 Marija u Ella? Ċikku mhux il-qattus _____.

- ☐ A tagħhom
- ☐ B tagħha
- ☐ C tagħkom

Meaning: Marija and Ella? Ċikku isn't their cat.

6 _____ qattus?

- ☐ A Għandi
- ☐ B Għandu
- ☐ C Għandek

Meaning: Do you have a cat?

7 Ġorġ _____ trumbetta.

- ☐ A għandi
- ☐ B għandu
- ☐ C għandha

Meaning: Ġorġ has a trumpet.

8 Intom _____ ċavetta?

- ☐ A għandhom
- ☐ B għandkom
- ☐ C għandna

Meaning: Do you two have a key?

9 Huma _____ kafetterija tajba.

- ☐ A għandha
- ☐ B għandhom
- ☐ C għandkom

Meaning: They have a good café.

10 Il-kejk _____?

- ☐ A togħgbok
- ☐ B jogħgbok
- ☐ C jogħgobni

Meaning: Do you like the cake?

G3) FIND THE WORDS

Underline the verbs in the 3rd person singular (he, she, it).

- 1** Marija taf kollox, u Ġorġ idoqq bil-lejl.

Meaning: Marija knows everything, and Ġorġ plays at night.

- 2** Ċikku jieħu ċ-ċavetta u jmur għall-kafetterija.

Meaning: Ċikku takes the key and goes to the café.

- 3** Ella tkun hawn kull ġurnata.

Meaning: Ella is here every day.

- 4 Ġorġ joqgħod fuq, u Marija toqgħod isfel.

Meaning: Ġorġ lives upstairs, and Marija lives downstairs.

- 5 Iċ-ċavetta? Ma nafx. Ċikku jaf!

Meaning: The key? I don't know. Ċikku knows!

- 6 Ella tieġu l-kejk, u Ċikku jorqod fuq.

Meaning: Ella takes the cake, and Ċikku sleeps upstairs.

G4) ELLA'S DAY

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

tmur immur

Filgħodu Ella _____ għall-kafetterija.

Meaning: In the morning Ella goes to the café.

meraq te kejk

Hi tieħu l-_____ u l-_____.

Meaning: She takes cake and juice.

fis-salott jorqod norqod fil-salott

Filgħaxija Ċikku _____.

Meaning: In the evening Ċikku sleeps in the living room.

Sejjer mhux le

Lukas: Grazzi, jien _____ bil-ġuħ. _____ issa.

Meaning: Thanks, I'm not hungry. I'm going now.

Sejra mhux le

Lena: Grazzi, jien _____ bil-ġuħ. _____ issa.

Meaning: Thanks, I'm not hungry. I'm going now.

ġara għandha ġar tagħna tagħkom

Lina _____, u _____ kafetterija.

Meaning: Lina is a neighbour of ours, and she has a café.

jogħġbu togħġobha togħġobni jogħġobni

Il-kejk _____, u l-kafetterija _____ wkoll.

Meaning: I like the cake, and I like the café too.

togħgobha jogħgobha jogħgbu

Ella? Il-meraq _____ ħafna.

Meaning: Ella? She likes the juice a lot.

tiegħu tagħha għandha għandu

In-nanna _____ dar, imma Ċikku mhux il-qattus _____.

Meaning: Grandma has a house, but Ċikku isn't her cat.

qattusa qattus

Ċikku qattus, mhux _____!

Meaning: Ċikku is a tomcat, not a she-cat!

tagħhom għandkom id-dar għandhom tagħkom

Lina u Ġorġ? Din _____ ukoll, u _____

ċavetta.

Meaning: Lina and Ġorġ? This is their house too, and they have a key.

G5) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

1 Jien il-ġar il-ġdid.

Meaning: I'm the new neighbour.

2 il-ġara l-ġdida. Jien

Meaning: I'm the new neighbour.

3 Ġorġ? għada, ddoqq Tista'

Meaning: Can you play tomorrow, Ġorġ?

4 taf kollox. tiegħi In-nanna

Meaning: My grandmother knows everything.

5 toqgħod Fejn Lina?

Meaning: Where does Lina live?

6 qattus Ċikku ħażin. mhux

Meaning: Ċikku isn't a bad tomcat.

7 għandi Jien nanna nannu. u

Meaning: I have a grandmother and a grandfather.

8 iċ-ċavetta Għandek tiegħek?

Meaning: Do you have your key?

9 tagħkom? nafx. Ma Iċ-ċavetta

Meaning: Your key, you two? I don't know.

10 ħafna. u Ċikku għandu kejk, jogħġbu

Meaning: Ċikku has some cake, and he likes it a lot.

- 11 fuq. Ġorġ Jien isfel, noqgħod u

Meaning: I live downstairs, and Ġorġ upstairs.

G6) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 Ask Ella, who is nine, if she is hungry. You say:

- ☐ A Jien bil-ġuħ?
- ☐ B Int bil-ġuħ?
- ☐ C Hu bil-ġuħ?

- 2 Ask Marija, an old lady you don't know well, if she knows everything. You say:

- ☐ A Int naf kollox?
- ☐ B Int jaf kollox?
- ☐ C Int taf kollox?

- 3 Lukas: Marija asks how you are. You're fine. You say:

- ☐ A Mhux tajjeb wisq.
- ☐ B Hu tajjeb, grazzi.
- ☐ C Tajjeb, grazzi.

4 Lena: Marija asks how you are. You're fine. You say:

- ☐ A Tajba, grazzi.
- ☐ B Mhux tajjeb wisq.
- ☐ C Hu tajjeb, grazzi.

5 The cat is sitting on your cake. Tell him no. You say:

- ☐ A Ċikku! Grazzi!
- ☐ B Ċikku! Iva!
- ☐ C Ċikku! Le!

6 Lukas: Ella asks where you're going. Tell her it's the café. You say:

- ☐ A Mill-kafetterija.
- ☐ B Noqgħod fil-kafetterija.
- ☐ C Sejjer għall-kafetterija.

7 Lena: Ella asks where you're going. Tell her it's the café. You say:

- ☐ A Noqgħod fil-kafetterija.
- ☐ B Mill-kafetterija.
- ☐ C Sejra għall-kafetterija.

8 Lina puts a plate of cake in front of Ella. Lina says:

- ☐ A Skużani, Ella!
- ☐ B L-ikla t-tajba, Ella!
- ☐ C Il-lejl it-tajjeb, Ella!

9 Tell Ella that you and Ġorġ have a very good café downstairs.

You say:

- ☐ A Għandna kafetterija tajba ħafna isfel.
- ☐ B Għandhom kafetterija tajba ħafna isfel.
- ☐ C Għandna kafetterija tajjeb ħafna isfel.

10 Ġorġ tells you that he plays the trumpet. Ġorġ says:

- ☐ A Jien indoqq it-trumbetta.
- ☐ B Jien iddoqq it-trumbetta.
- ☐ C Jien idoqq it-trumbetta.

11 Ella tells you that she and Ċikku are friends. Ella says:

- ☐ A Ċikku ħabib tiegħi, u jien ħabiba tiegħu.
- ☐ B Ċikku ħabib tiegħi, u jien ħabiba tagħha.
- ☐ C Ċikku ħabiba tiegħi, u jien ħabib tiegħu.

12 You give Ella a piece of cake. Ask her if she likes it. You say:

- ☐ A Il-kejk jogħgħbok, Ella?
- ☐ B Il-kejk jogħgħobha, Ella?
- ☐ C Il-kejk jogħgħobni, Ella?

G7) THE RIGHT ANSWER

Choose the right answer.

1 Ella, għandek nanna?

- ☐ A Iva, għandi nanna. Marija n-nanna tiegħi.
- ☐ B Iva, għandha nanna. Marija n-nanna tiegħi.
- ☐ C Iva, għandi nanna. Marija n-nannu tiegħi.

Meaning: Ella, do you have a grandmother?

2 Min hi Lina?

- ☐ A Ġar tagħna. Għandha kafetterija.
- ☐ B Ġara tagħna. Għandha kafetterija.
- ☐ C Ġara tagħna. Għandu kafetterija.

Meaning: Who is Lina?

3 Ċikku qattusa?

- ☐ A Le! Qattus, ma qattusax.
- ☐ B Le! Qattus, mhux qattusa.
- ☐ C Le! Qattusa, mhux qattus.

Meaning: Is Ċikku a she-cat?

4 Intom għandkom qattus?

- ☐ A Iva, għandna qattus.
- ☐ B Iva, għandhom qattus.
- ☐ C Iva, għandkom qattus.

Meaning: Do you two have a cat?

5 Ġorġ, int mużiċist?

- ☐ A Iva, idoqq it-trumbetta.
- ☐ B Iva, iddoqq it-trumbetta.
- ☐ C Iva, indoqq it-trumbetta.

Meaning: Ġorġ, are you a musician?

6 Ġorġ u Marija: fuq jew isfel?

- ☐ A Ġorġ joqgħod fuq, u Marija toqgħod isfel.
- ☐ B Ġorġ joqgħod fuq, u Marija noqgħod isfel.
- ☐ C Ġorġ toqgħod fuq, u Marija joqgħod isfel.

Meaning: Ġorġ and Marija: upstairs or downstairs?

7 Taf fejn hi ċ-ċavetta tiegħi?

- ☐ A Le, mhux naf. Ċikku jaf!
- ☐ B Le, ma nafx. Ċikku taf!
- ☐ C Le, ma nafx. Ċikku jaf!

Meaning: Do you know where my key is?

8 Il-kafetterija ta' Lina togħġbok?

- ☐ A Iva, jogħġobni ħafna!
- ☐ B Iva, togħġbok ħafna!
- ☐ C Iva, togħġobni ħafna!

Meaning: Do you like Lina's café?

9 U Ćikku? Hu bil-ġuħ?

- ☐ A Iva, u l-kejk jogħġbu ħafna.
- ☐ B Iva, u l-kejk togħġbu ħafna.
- ☐ C Iva, u l-kejk jogħġobha ħafna.

Meaning: And Ćikku? Is he hungry?

10 Min hu Ćikku?

- ☐ A Hi s-sid hawn.
- ☐ B Hu is-sid hawn.
- ☐ C Hu s-sid hawn.

Meaning: Who is Ćikku?

G8) QUESTION AND ANSWER

Match each question to its answer.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| ① Kafè jew te? | ① Iva, ħafna! |
| ② X'jismek? | ② Iva, hu s-sid. |
| ③ Kif int? | ③ Kafè, jekk jogħġbok. |
| ④ Min hu dan? | ④ Tajba, grazzi. |
| ⑤ Intom għandkom
ċavetta? | ⑤ Ella. |
| ⑥ Il-kafè jogħġbok? | ⑥ Iva, hawn hi. |
| ⑦ Ċikku s-sid hawn,
hux? | ⑦ Dan Ċikku. |
| ⑧ Fejn hi l-kafetterija? | ⑧ Isfel. |