

SCENE 20 • NUMBER 7

Għaxar xemgħat

Saturday. Balloons in the courtyard, a long table, a cake with ten candles. Ella's mother, the town doctor, is here too, with the usual party questions: Are you married? Do you have children? And your parents, where do they live? Then Marija turns the photo round: a boy of ten with a trumpet and a terrible haircut, at a window of number 7. Ġorġ grew up in your flat.

155 Words · 5 Exercises · Duration: 15 min.

Photos on the wall

Maltese

Read & listen online ↗



LEARNING GOAL

I can wish someone happy birthday, give a present, and say if I'm married, if I have children and where my parents live.

Ella = ■ Lena (Lukas) = ○ Lina = ▲ Rita = ● Marija = □
Ġorġ = △

Learning as Lukas? Use the words in brackets.

Saturday afternoon. Balloons in the courtyard, a long table, and the whole house.

■ Hello! Illum għeluq snini! Issa għandi għaxar snin!

○ Għeluq sninek it-tajjeb, Ella! Dan għalik, minni u minn Ġorġ.

She tears off the paper.

■ Ktieb tat-tpingija! Isfar! Grazzi ħafna!

Lina carries out a big cake with ten candles.

▲ U hawn hu l-kejk! Għaxar xemgħat!

■ Waħda, tnejn, tlieta... L-għaxra kollha!

A tall woman with a light-brown ponytail sits down next to you.

● Bongu! Jien Rita, omm Ella. Int il-ġara l (ġar il)-ġdida (ġdid)?

○ Iva. Għandi pjaċir!

● Għandi pjaċir ukoll. Għidli, int mizzewġa (mizzewweġ)?

○ Le, m'inix mizzewġa (mizzewweġ).

● U għandek tfal?

○ Le, m'għandix tfal.

● U l-ġenituri tiegħek? Fejn joqogħdu?

○ Joqogħdu f'Hamburg.

□ Rita, diġà naf kollox. Mhix mizzewġa (Mhux mizzewweġ), m'għandhiex (għandux) tfal, u l-ġenituri f'Hamburg.

○ Kif taf kollox?!

Rita laughs.

● Iva, ommi taf kollox. U dejjem kienet hekk!

Marija takes out the photo that always faced the wall and turns it round: a boy of ten with a trumpet and a terrible haircut, at a window of number 7.

□ Hares. Hawn, hu wkoll kellu għaxar snin.

○ Dik it-tieqa tiegħi!

△ U dak jien. Kont noqgħod fil-flat tiegħek meta kont żgħir.

○ Fil-flat tiegħi?!

■ Ġorġ! X'qatgħa kellek!

□ Iva, qatgħa terribbli. Għalhekk ir-ritratt kien b'wiċċu mal-ħajt.

□ Ġorġ, tista' ddoqq għalina, jekk jogħġbok?

△ Issa? Bi nhar?

○ Iva, Ġorġ! Għal Ella!

□ Iva! Bi nhar, kollox possibbli.

For once, the trumpet plays in daylight, and the whole house sings.

□ Għeluq sninek it-tajjeb, Ella!

Ċikku walks off across the courtyard with one of the candles in his mouth.

■ Ċikku! Ix-xemgħa numru għaxra!

□ Ma jimpurtax. Hu wkoll irid għeluq snin.

Ġorġ idoqq, u d-dar kollha tkanta. Ir-ritratt issa fuq il-mejda, b'wiċċu lejn il-bitħa. U Ċikku bilqiegħda fuq il-bank, b'xemgħa bejn saqajh.

Vocabulary

THE BODY • IL-ĠISEM

qatgħa

haircut

In full: qatgħa tax-xagħar, a cut of the hair.

wiċċ

face

Several: uċuħ. Wiċċha: her face.

SMALL WORDS • KLIEM ŻGħIR

meta

when (at the time that: when it rains)

At the time that: meta tagħmel ix-xita, noqgħod id-dar. The same word asks meta? when?

GREETINGS AND COURTESY • TISLIJET U KORTESIJA

għeluq sninek it-tajjem

happy birthday

Literally: a good closing of your years. Awguri! (best wishes) works for any celebration.

FAMILY • IL-FAMILJA

tifel

child

A boy: tifel; a girl: tifla; children: tfal. Għandek tfal? Do you have children?

ġenituri

parents

A plural: il-ġenituri tiegħi, my parents.

AT HOME • FID-DAR**ħajt**

wall

Several walls: ħitan.

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

married

mizzewweġ (m) · mizzewwġa (f) · mizzewwġin (pl)

terribbli

terrible

The same for m, f and plural.

possibbli

possible

The same for m, f and plural. Mhux possibbli: it's not possible.

EVERYDAY THINGS • AFFARIJIET TA' KULJUM**xemgħa**

candle

Several candles: xemgħat.

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

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

1 Iva, ommi taf kollox. U dejjem kienet hekk!☐ A Lina☐ B Marija☐ C Ġorġ☐ D Rita

L2) WHAT DOES IT MEAN

Tick the right English meaning.

1 U dak jien. Kont noqgħod fil-flat tiegħek meta kont żgħir.

- ☐ A And that's me. I lived in your flat when I was little.
- ☐ B They live in Hamburg.
- ☐ C And here's the cake! Ten candles!

L3) HOW DO YOU SAY IT

Tick the right Maltese sentence.

1 And your parents? Where do they live?

- ☐ A U dak jien. Kont noqgħod fil-flat tiegħek meta kont żgħir.
- ☐ B Ġorġ, tista' ddoqq għalina, jekk jogħġbok?
- ☐ C U l-ġenituri tiegħek? Fejn joqogħdu?

L4) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Write the words in the right order on the line.

1

ddoqq

għalina,

Ġorġ,

jogħġbok?

jekk

tista'

L5) WHAT HAPPENS FIRST

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

- ☐ Ġorġ! X'qatgħa kellek!
- ☐ U hawn hu l-kejk! Għaxar xemgħat!
- ☐ Le, m'inix mizzewġa.
- ☐ Għeluq sninek it-tajjeb, Ella!
- ☐ Kif taf kollox?!

SCENE 20 • WORDS

Għaxar xemgħat

Ten candles

4 Exercises • Duration: 10 min.

Photos on the wall

Maltese

Read & listen online



għeluq sninek
it-tajjeb
happy birthday



xemgħa
candle



mizzewweg
married



tifel
child



ġenituri
parents



qatgħa
haircut



terribbli
terrible



wiċċ
face



ħajt
wall



possibbli
possible

Words

għeluq sninek it-tajjed

happy birthday

Għeluq sninek it-tajjed, Ella!

xemgħa

candle

Ċikku! Ix-xemgħa numru għaxra!

mizzewweg

married

Le, m'inix mizzewgħa.

tifel

child

U għandek tfal?

ġenituri

parents

U l-ġenituri tiegħek? Fejn joqogħdu?

meta

when (at the time that: when it rains)

U dak jien. Kont noqgħod fil-flat tiegħek meta kont żgħir.

qatgħa

haircut

Ġorġ! X'qatgħa kellek!

terribbli

terrible

Iva, qatgħa terribbli. Għalhekk ir-ritratt kien b'wiċċu mal-ħajt.

wiċċ

face

Iva, qatgħa terribbli. Għalhekk ir-ritratt kien b'wiċċu mal-ħajt.

ħajt

wall

Iva, qatgħa terribbli. Għalhekk ir-ritratt kien b'wiċċu mal-ħajt.

possibbli

possible

Iva! Bi nhar, kollox possibbli.

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

What does it mean?

1 tifel

- ☐ A euro
- ☐ B child
- ☐ C suitcase

2 qatgħa

- ☐ A say
- ☐ B haircut
- ☐ C surname

3 għeluq sninek it-tajjeb

- ☐ A happy birthday
- ☐ B one
- ☐ C name

4 possibbli

- ☐ A possible
- ☐ B musician
- ☐ C fish

5 mizzewweg

- ☐ A green
- ☐ B short
- ☐ C married

6 xemgħa

- ☐ A know (a person)
- ☐ B candle
- ☐ C people

W2) TEN CANDLES

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

Għeluq sninek Għeluq snini

_____ it-tajjeb, Ella!

Meaning: Happy birthday, Ella!

xemgħat xemgħa

U hawn hu l-kejk! Għaxar _____!

Meaning: And here's the cake! Ten candles!

mizzewġa tfal

Għidli, int _____?

Meaning: Tell me, are you married?

ġenituri tfal

Il-_____ tiegħi joqogħdu f'Hamburg.

Meaning: My parents live in Hamburg.

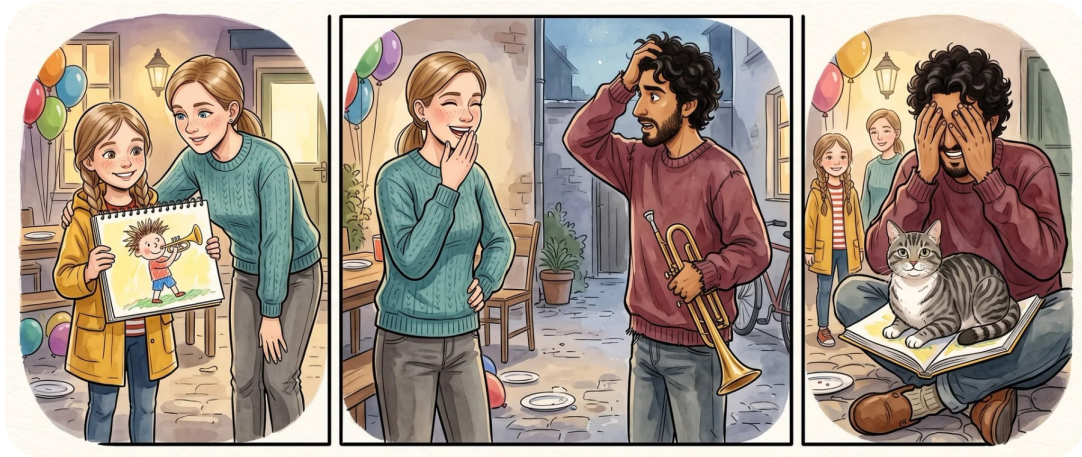
qatgħa ħajt

Ġorġ! X'_____ kellek!

Meaning: Ġorġ! What a haircut you had!

W3) WHAT A HAIRCUT!

Fill the speech bubbles.



qatgħa terribbli kont kien wiċċek ħajt

Ella: Mama, ħares! Dan Ġorġ meta _____ żgħir.

Rita: Ajma! X' _____ terribbli!

Ġorġ: Le! Il-qatgħa tiegħi ma kinitx _____!

Ella: Kienet, kienet! Imma _____ sabiħ.

Meaning: 1. Mum, look! This is Ġorġ when he was little.

2. Oh! What a terrible haircut!

3. No! My haircut wasn't terrible!

4. It was, it was! But your face is nice.

W4) AT THE PARTY

Match the pairs.

① ġenituri

Ⓐ candle

② terribbli

Ⓑ terrible

③ qatgħa

Ⓒ face

④ ħajt

Ⓓ children

⑤ wiċċ

Ⓔ wall

⑥ mizzewweg

Ⓕ parents

⑦ xemgħa

Ⓖ married (a man)

⑧ tfal

Ⓗ haircut

SCENE 20 • GRAMMAR

Kont, kien, kienet

The past of to be

8 Exercises · Duration: 25 min.

Photos on the wall

Maltese

Read & listen online



So far every verb has been in the present tense, for now. The past tense says what was before. In the present Maltese needs no word for am, is or are: **Ġorġ żgħir**. Ġorġ is little. In the past it does: **Ġorġ kien żgħir**. Ġorġ was little. And the past shows the person with an ending, not with a letter at the front.

TO BE IN THE PAST TENSE

Person	kien	With ma	Meaning
Singular			
jien	kont	ma kontx	I was · I wasn't
int	kont	ma kontx	you were · you weren't
hu	kien	ma kienx	he, it was · wasn't
hi	kienet	ma kinitx	she, it was · wasn't
Plural			
aħna	konna	ma konniex	we were · we weren't
intom	kontu	ma kontux	you were · you weren't
huma	kienu	ma kinux	they were · they weren't

jien and **int** share **kont**, as you and she share **torqod** in the present. With **ma ... -x** the ie of **kienet** and **kienu** becomes i: **ma kinitx**, **ma kinux**.

kien is also it was, for a masculine thing, and **kienet** for a feminine one: **Ir-ritratt kien b'wiċċu mal-ħajt**. The photo was facing the wall. **Il-qatgħa kienet terribbli**. The haircut was terrible. And **kont** before a verb in the present says what used to be: **Kont noqgħod fil-flat tiegħek**. I lived in your flat, back then. **meta**, when, joins two things: **meta kont żgħir**, when I was little.

Age and having are **għand**, and **għand** has a past of its own: **kelli**, I had. So I was ten is **kelli għaxar snin**, I had ten years. That is Marija's **Hawn, hu wkoll kellu għaxar snin**.

HAVING: NOW AND BEFORE

Person	Now	Before	Meaning
Singular			
jien	għandi	kelli	I have · I had
int	għandek	kellek	you have · you had
hu	għandu	kellu	he has · he had
hi	għandha	kellha	she has · she had
Plural			
aħna	għandna	kellna	we have · we had
intom	għandkom	kellkom	you have · you had
huma	għandhom	kellhom	they have · they had

The same endings as **għandi**: **għand** simply becomes **kell**. No is **ma ... -x** again: **ma kellix**, I didn't have.

Saying I'm not now and I wasn't then: in the present, **m'inix** is I'm not, **mhux** he isn't and **mhix** she isn't. **Le, m'inix mizzewweg**. No, I'm not married.

NOT, NOW AND BEFORE

Person	Now	Before	Meaning
jien	m'inix	ma kontx	I'm not · I wasn't
hu	mhux	ma kienx	he isn't · he wasn't
hi	mhix	ma kinitx	she isn't · she wasn't

TIP

In speech you often hear mhux with a stressed jien too, as when Ella calls you old: Jien mhux xiħ! I'm not old! M'inix xiħ is the standard.

Kien żewġ tajjeb ħafna.

He was a very good husband.

Kont noqgħod fil-flat tiegħek meta kont żgħir.

I lived in your flat when I was little.

Ommi taf kollox. U dejjem kienet hekk!

Mum knows everything. And she was always like that!

Hawn, hu wkoll kellu għaxar snin.

He was ten here too.

Ġorġ! X'qatgħa kellek!

Ġorġ! What a haircut you had!

Is-Sibt konna kollha hawn, għal Ella.

On Saturday we were all here, for Ella.

GRAMMAR**G1) FIND THE WORDS**

Underline every past form of to be and of having, and the ma that says not.

- 1 Kont noqgħod fil-flat tiegħek meta kont żgħir.

Meaning: I lived in your flat when I was little.

- 2 Kien żewġ tajjeb ħafna.

Meaning: He was a very good husband.

- 3 Ommi dejjem kienet hekk!

Meaning: Mum was always like that!

- 4 Hawn, hu wkoll kellu għaxar snin.

Meaning: He was ten here too.

5 Ġorġ! X'qatgħa kellek!

Meaning: Ġorġ! What a haircut you had!

6 Is-Sibt konna kollha hawn, għal Ella.

Meaning: On Saturday we were all here, for Ella.

7 Tfal, fejn kontu?

Meaning: Children, where were you?

8 Ġorġ u Ċikku kienu fuq.

Meaning: Ġorġ and Ċikku were upstairs.

9 Il-qatgħa tiegħi ma kinitx terribbli!

Meaning: My haircut wasn't terrible!

10 Jien ma kontx f'Hamburg. Kont hawn.

Meaning: I wasn't in Hamburg. I was here.

- 11 Aħna ma konniex fil-kafetterija.

Meaning: We weren't in the café.

- 12 Ċikku, fejn kont? Ma kontx hawn!

Meaning: Ċikku, where were you? You weren't here!

G2) KONT, KIEN, KIENET

Choose the right word for the gap.

- 1 Meta _____ żgħir, kont noqgħod hawn.

- ☐ A kont
- ☐ B kienet
- ☐ C kien

Meaning: When I was little, I lived here.

- 2 Ġorġ, int _____ żgħir ħafna!

- ☐ A kont
- ☐ B kontu
- ☐ C kien

Meaning: Ġorġ, you were very little!

3 Żewġi _____ żewġ tajjeb ħafna.

- ☐ A kont
- ☐ B kien
- ☐ C konna

Meaning: My husband was a very good husband.

4 Ommi dejjem _____ hekk!

- ☐ A kien
- ☐ B kont
- ☐ C kienet

Meaning: Mum was always like that!

5 Is-Sibt _____ kollha hawn.

- ☐ A konna
- ☐ B kienu
- ☐ C kontu

Meaning: On Saturday we were all here.

6 Tfal, fejn _____?

- ☐ A kontu
- ☐ B kont
- ☐ C konna

Meaning: Children, where were you?

7 Ġorġ u Ċikku _____ fuq.

- ☐ A kien
- ☐ B konna
- ☐ C kienu

Meaning: Ġorġ and Ċikku were upstairs.

8 Ir-ritratt _____ b'wiċċu mal-ħajt.

- ☐ A kienu
- ☐ B kienet
- ☐ C kien

Meaning: The photo was facing the wall.

9 Il-qatgħa _____ terribbli.

- ☐ A kienu
- ☐ B kienet
- ☐ C kien

Meaning: The haircut was terrible.

G3) MA KONTX, MA KIENX

ma goes in front and -x at the end; the person stays.

1 Jien ma _____ hemm.

- ☐ A kontx
- ☐ B kienx
- ☐ C kinitx

Meaning: I wasn't there.

2 Ċikku, int ma _____ qattus tajjeb!

- ☐ A kontux
- ☐ B kienx
- ☐ C kontx

Meaning: Ċikku, you weren't a good cat!

3 Il-qatgħa tiegħi ma _____ terribbli!

- ☐ A kinitx
- ☐ B kienx
- ☐ C kontx

Meaning: My haircut wasn't terrible!

4 Is-Sibt filgħodu aħna ma _____ fil-kafetterija.

- ☐ A kinux
- ☐ B kontux
- ☐ C konniex

Meaning: On Saturday morning we weren't in the café.

5 Is-Sibt intom ma _____ fil-kafetterija.

- ☐ A kinux
- ☐ B konniex
- ☐ C kontux

Meaning: You weren't in the café on Saturday.

6 Ċikku ma _____ bil-ġuħ.

- ☐ A kienx
- ☐ B kinitx
- ☐ C kontx

Meaning: Ċikku wasn't hungry.

7 Ġorġ u Ċikku ma _____ isfel.

- ☐ A kienx
- ☐ B konniex
- ☐ C kinux

Meaning: Ġorġ and Ċikku weren't downstairs.

G4) KELLI, KELLEK, KELLU

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Hawn, hu wkoll _____ għaxar snin.

- ☐ A kellu
- ☐ B kellha
- ☐ C kelli

Meaning: He was ten here too.

2 Ġorġ! X'qatgħa _____!

- ☐ A kelli
- ☐ B kellek
- ☐ C kellu

Meaning: Ġorġ! What a haircut you had!

3 Meta _____ għaxar snin, kont noqgħod f'Hamburg.

- ☐ A kelli
- ☐ B kellek
- ☐ C kellu

Meaning: When I was ten, I lived in Hamburg.

4 Rita? Hawn _____ seba' snin.

- ☐ A kellha
- ☐ B kellu
- ☐ C kellek

Meaning: Rita? She was seven here.

5 Aħna _____ qattus.

- ☐ A kellna
- ☐ B kellkom
- ☐ C kellhom

Meaning: We had a cat.

6 Tfal, intom _____ kelb?

- ☐ A kellna
- ☐ B kellhom
- ☐ C kellkom

Meaning: Children, did you have a dog?

7 Il-ġenituri ta' żewġi _____ dar kbira.

- ☐ A kellna
- ☐ B kellhom
- ☐ C kellkom

Meaning: My husband's parents had a big house.

G5) NOW AND BEFORE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

kont noqgħod kien joqgħod

Issa _____ fuq, imma meta _____ żgħir kont noqgħod
fil-flat tiegħek.

Meaning: Now I live upstairs, but when I was little I lived in your
flat.

Kont Kien

Żewġi m'għadux magħna. _____ żewġ tajjeb ħafna.

Meaning: My husband is no longer with us. He was a very good
husband.

kellu kollha

Rita issa għandha erbgħa u erbgħin sena. Hawn _____ seba' snin.

Meaning: Rita is forty-four now. She was seven here.

kontu ma konna kienx kinitx

Is-Sibt _____ kollha hawn, imma Ċikku _____
_____ kuntent.

Meaning: On Saturday we were all here, but Ċikku wasn't happy.

konniex kontux ma

Ġorġ u Ċikku, fejn kontu? Intom _____ isfel!

Meaning: Ġorġ and Ċikku, where were you? You weren't downstairs!

ma kienx kinux

Il-kejk kien fuq il-mejda, imma Ġorġ u Ċikku _____
_____ hemm.

Meaning: The cake was on the table, but Ġorġ and Ċikku weren't there.

kellhom kellkom kellna

Aħna _____ qattus, u intom _____ kelb.

Meaning: We had a cat, and you had a dog.

kellna kellhom

Il-ġenituri ta' żewġi _____ dar kbira.

Meaning: My husband's parents had a big house.

G6) WHO WAS IT?

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| ① jien kont | Ⓐ they were |
| ② huma kienu | Ⓑ we were |
| ③ int kont | Ⓒ she was |
| ④ aħna konna | Ⓓ I had |
| ⑤ jien kelli | Ⓔ you were (several people) |
| ⑥ hi kienet | Ⓕ I was |
| ⑦ hu kien | Ⓖ you were (one person) |
| ⑧ intom kontu | Ⓗ he was |

G7) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

- 1 meta Kont hawn kont žgħir. noqgħod

Meaning: I lived here when I was little.

- 2 Kien tajjeb ħafna. żewġ

Meaning: He was a very good husband.

- 3 snin. Hawn, hu għaxar wkoll kellu

Meaning: He was ten here too.

- 4 terribbli. kienet il-qatgħa Iva,

Meaning: Yes, the haircut was terrible.

- 5 Is-Sibt ma hawn. intom kontux

Meaning: You weren't here on Saturday.

- 6 konna Is-Sibt kollha hawn.

Meaning: On Saturday we were all here.

- 7 Meta kont kelli f'Hamburg. għaxar snin,

Meaning: When I was ten, I was in Hamburg.

G8) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 Rita asks if you're married. You're not. You say:

- (A) Le, m'inix mizzewġa.
- (B) Iva, mizzewġa.
- (C) Le, ma kontx mizzewġa.

2 Ġorġ shows you a photo of himself at ten. Tell him he was very little. You say:

- ☐ A Int kien żgħir ħafna!
- ☐ B Int kont żgħir ħafna!
- ☐ C Int konna żgħir ħafna!

3 Lina asks where you were on Saturday. You were here, at Ella's birthday. You say:

- ☐ A Kien hawn, għal għeluq snin Ella.
- ☐ B Kienet hawn, għal għeluq snin Ella.
- ☐ C Kont hawn, għal għeluq snin Ella.

4 Lina asks if you were in the café on Saturday morning. You weren't. You say:

- ☐ A Le, ma kontx fil-kafetterija.
- ☐ B Le, m'inx fil-kafetterija.
- ☐ C Le, ma kienx fil-kafetterija.

5 Tell Ella how old you were when you lived in Hamburg as a child. You were ten. You say:

- ☐ A Kont għaxar snin.
- ☐ B Kellu għaxar snin.
- ☐ C Kelli għaxar snin.

6 Ġorġ asks if he was a good boy. Marija laughs and tells him he wasn't. Marija says:

- ☐ A Le, int ma kienx tifel tajjeb!
- ☐ B Le, int ma konniex tifel tajjeb!
- ☐ C Le, int ma kontx tifel tajjeb!