

Is-sufan l-isfar, taħt is-sufan

Colours and sizes, and where things are

7 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

The empty flat

Maltese

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You know that an adjective comes after its noun and takes its gender: **il-ġar il-ġdid, il-ġara l-ġdida**. Most adjectives just add **-a** for a feminine noun: **kbir, kbira**, big • **żgħir, żgħira**, small • **qadim, qadima**, old. **tajjeb** is short in the feminine: **tajba**.

SIZES AND MORE: ADD -A

Masculine	Feminine	Meaning
kbir	kbira	big
żgħir	żgħira	small
qasir	qasira	short
qadim	qadima	old
vojt	vojta	empty
tajjeb	tajba	good

The colours change shape instead. The masculine starts with a vowel, and in the feminine that vowel moves inside: **aħmar**, red, but **ħamra** • **isfar**, yellow, but **saфра** • **aħdar**, green, but **ħadra**. So **sufan isfar**, a yellow sofa, but **lampa ħamra**, a red lamp.

COLOURS CHANGE SHAPE

Masculine	Feminine	Meaning
aħmar	ħamra	red
isfar	safra	yellow
aħdar	ħadra	green

White, black and light blue go the same way: **abjad**, **bajda** · **iswed**, **sewda** · **ikħal**, **kaħla**. You will meet them in the next modules.

When there are two adjectives, the colour stays next to the noun, and the size comes after it: **sufan isfar kbir**, a big yellow sofa. With the article, every adjective takes it too: **is-sufan l-isfar**, the yellow sofa, literally the sofa the yellow. The masculine colours start with a vowel, so they take **l-**; after a vowel, so do the feminine ones: **il-lampa l-ħamra**, the red lamp.

WITH THE ARTICLE, EVERY WORD TAKES IT

A	The	Meaning
sufan isfar	is-sufan l-isfar	a yellow sofa · the yellow sofa
lampa ħamra	il-lampa l-ħamra	a red lamp · the red lamp
sufan isfar kbir	is-sufan l-isfar il-kbir	a big yellow sofa · the big yellow sofa
lampa ħadra żgħira	il-lampa l-ħadra ż-żgħira	a small green lamp · the small green lamp

Without the article, the adjective says what the thing is like: **il-lampa ħamra**. The lamp is red. With it, it says which one: **il-lampa l-ħamra**, the red lamp.

To say where a thing is, put a preposition before the noun, which keeps its article: **fuq is-sufan**, on the sofa · **taħt is-sufan**, under the sofa. **ġo**, inside, joins the article like **fi**: **ġol-kamra**, in the room · **ġol-banju**, in the bathroom.

WHERE IS IT?

Preposition	Example	Meaning
fuq	fuq is-sufan	on · on the sofa
taħt	taħt il-mejda	under · under the table
ġdejn	ġdejn it-tieqa	next to · next to the window
quddiem	quddiem il-bieb	in front of · in front of the door
wara	wara l-gwardarobba	behind · behind the wardrobe
ġo	ġo-kamra	inside, in · in the room

After **wara**, which ends in a vowel, the article is **l-: wara l-bieb**, behind the door.

Fil-kamra tal-banju hemm sufan isfar kbir.

In the bathroom there's a big yellow sofa.

Fuq is-sufan hemm lampa ħamra.

On the sofa there's a red lamp.

Il-lampa tiegħi żgħira u ħadra.

My lamp is small and green.

Ara! Ċikku taħt is-sufan.

Look! Ċikku is under the sofa.

Il-bagalja wara l-bieb, ġdejn il-gwardarobba.

The suitcase is behind the door, next to the wardrobe.

GRAMMAR**G1) FIND THE WORDS**

Underline the colours.

- 1 Fil-kamra tal-banju hemm sufan isfar kbir.

Meaning: In the bathroom there's a big yellow sofa.

- 2 Fuq is-sufan hemm lampa ħamra.

Meaning: On the sofa there's a red lamp.

- 3 Il-lampa tiegħi żgħira u ħadra.

Meaning: My lamp is small and green.

- 4 U l-lampa l- ħamra? Tiegħek ukoll?

Meaning: And the red lamp? Is it yours too?

- 5 Is-sufan l- isfar il-kbir ġol-kamra tal-banju!

Meaning: The big yellow sofa is in the bathroom!

G2) MASCULINE OR FEMININE?

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Fuq is-sufan hemm lampa _____.

- ☐ A aħmar
- ☐ B ħamra

Meaning: On the sofa there's a red lamp.

2 Il-lampa tiegħi żgħira u _____.

- ☐ A ħadra
- ☐ B aħdar

Meaning: My lamp is small and green.

3 Ella għandha bagalja _____.

- ☐ A safra
- ☐ B isfar

Meaning: Ella has a yellow suitcase.

4 Ġorġ għandu sigġu _____.

☐ A aħdar

☐ B ħadra

Meaning: Ġorġ has a green chair.

5 Il-bieb kbir, imma t-tieqa _____.

☐ A żgħir

☐ B żgħira

Meaning: The door is big, but the window is small.

6 Il-gwardarobba _____ ħafna.

☐ A kbir

☐ B kbira

Meaning: The wardrobe is very big.

7 Il-bagalja ta' Ella _____.

☐ A qadima

☐ B qadim

Meaning: Ella's suitcase is old.

8 Il-kamra _____ ħafna!

☐ A vojta

☐ B vojt

Meaning: The room is very empty!

9 Is-sodda _____, u Ġorġ kbir!

☐ A qasira

☐ B qasir

Meaning: The bed is short, and Ġorġ is big!

10 Is-sodda qadima, imma _____.

☐ A tajjeb

☐ B tajba

Meaning: The bed is old, but good.

G3) THE YELLOW SOFA, THE RED LAMP

Choose the form with the right article.

1 U l-lampa _____? Tiegħek ukoll?

- ☐ A il-ħamra
- ☐ B l-ħamra
- ☐ C l-aħmar

Meaning: And the red lamp? Is it yours too?

2 Ġorġ fuq is-sufan _____.

- ☐ A l-safra
- ☐ B il-isfar
- ☐ C l-isfar

Meaning: Ġorġ is on the yellow sofa.

3 Is-sufan l-isfar _____ fil-kamra tal-banju.

- ☐ A il-kbir
- ☐ B l-kbir
- ☐ C il-kbira

Meaning: The big yellow sofa is in the bathroom.

4 Fejn hi l-lampa _____?

- ☐ A il-ħadra
- ☐ B l-ħadra
- ☐ C l-aħdar

Meaning: Where's the green lamp?

5 Il-lampa l-ħadra _____ fuq il-mejda.

- ☐ A ż-żgħira
- ☐ B il-żgħira
- ☐ C ż-żgħir

Meaning: The small green lamp is on the table.

G4) WHERE IS IT?

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Ara! Ċikku _____ is-sufan.

- ☐ A taħt
- ☐ B fuq

Meaning: Look! Ċikku is under the sofa.

2 _____ is-sufan hemm lampa ħamra.

☐ A Taħt

☐ B Fuq

Meaning: On the sofa there's a red lamp.

3 Il-bagalja _____ l-bieb.

☐ A quddiem

☐ B wara

Meaning: The suitcase is behind the door.

4 Is-sufan _____ it-tieqa.

☐ A ħdejn

☐ B taħt

Meaning: The sofa is next to the window.

5 Ġorġ _____ il-bieb tiegħek.

☐ A quddiem

☐ B wara

Meaning: Ġorġ is in front of your door.

6 Ċikku _____ tiegħek!

- ☐ A ġol-kamra
- ☐ B ġo il-kamra

Meaning: Ċikku is in your room!

G5) WHO IS WHERE?

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

safra kbir kbira isfar

Fil-kamra tal-banju hemm sufan _____.

Meaning: In the bathroom there's a big yellow sofa.

Fuq ħamra Quddiem aħmar

_____ is-sufan hemm lampa _____.

Meaning: On the sofa there's a red lamp.

ħadra żgħira żgħir aħdar

Il-lampa tiegħi _____ u _____.

Meaning: My lamp is small and green.

taħt isfar l-isfar ħdejn

Ara! Ċikku _____ is-sufan _____.

Meaning: Look! Ċikku is under the yellow sofa.

ħdejn fuq wara

Il-gwardarobba _____ it-tieqa, u l-bagalja _____ l-bieb.

Meaning: The wardrobe is next to the window, and the suitcase is behind the door.

quddiem ġol-kamra taħt

Ġorġ _____ il-bieb, u Ċikku _____.

Meaning: Ġorġ is in front of the door, and Ċikku is in the room.

qadima vojta vojt qadim tajba

Il-gwardarobba _____, imma _____. Il-bagalja
_____.

Meaning: The wardrobe is old, but good. The suitcase is empty.

l-ħamra qasira ż-żgħira qasir il-ħamra

Is-sodda _____, u l-lampa l-ħadra _____ fuq il-mejda
_____.

Meaning: The bed is short, and the small green lamp is on the red table.

safra kbira kbir

Ella għandha bagalja _____.

Meaning: Ella has a big yellow suitcase.

G6) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

- 1 tal-banju hemm Fil-kamra sufan isfar kbir.

Meaning: In the bathroom there's a big yellow sofa.

- 2 Ċikku l-isfar. is-sufan taħt

Meaning: Ċikku is under the yellow sofa.

3 l-ħamra mhux il-lampa tiegħi.

Meaning: The red lamp isn't mine.

4 qadima il-gwardarobba u it-tieqa kbira ħdejn

Meaning: The big old wardrobe is next to the window.

5 il-bagalja vojta wara l-bieb.

Meaning: The suitcase is empty, behind the door.

6 Ġorġ il-bieb tiegħek quddiem

Meaning: Ġorġ is in front of your door.

7 fuq il-lampa ż-żgħira l-ħadra il-mejda.

Meaning: The small green lamp is on the table.

8 il-kbir tal-banju. ġol-kamra l-isfar Is-sufan

Meaning: The big yellow sofa is in the bathroom.

9 Is-sodda tajba. imma qasira,

Meaning: The bed is short, but good.

10 Ella lampa bagalja safra. u ħamra għandha

Meaning: Ella has a red lamp and a yellow suitcase.

G7) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Ġorġ asks what the lamp in your bathroom looks like. It's small and red. You say:

- ☐ A Żgħira u ħamra.
- ☐ B Kbira u ħadra.
- ☐ C Żgħir u aħmar.

2 Ask Ġorġ if he has a yellow sofa. You say:

- ☐ A Għandek isfar sufan?
- ☐ B Għandek sufan safra?
- ☐ C Għandek sufan isfar?

3 Ġorġ tells you what his own lamp is like. Ġorġ says:

- ☐ A Il-lampa tiegħi żgħira u ħadra.
- ☐ B Il-lampa tiegħi żgħir u aħdar.
- ☐ C Il-lampa tiegħi kbira u ħamra.

4 Ġorġ can't find Ċikku. He's under the sofa. You say:

- ☐ A Ċikku taħt is-sufan.
- ☐ B Ċikku taħt sufan l-isfar.
- ☐ C Ċikku fuq is-sufan.

5 Ella is looking for your suitcase. It's behind the door. You say:

- ☐ A Il-bagalja quddiem il-bieb.
- ☐ B Il-bagalja taħt il-bieb.
- ☐ C Il-bagalja wara l-bieb.

6 Tell Ġorġ that the big yellow sofa is in your bathroom. You say:

- ☐ A Is-sufan il-kbir isfar fil-banju tiegħi.
- ☐ B Is-sufan l-isfar il-kbir fil-banju tiegħi.
- ☐ C Is-sufan l-isfar il-kbira fil-banju tiegħi.