

SCENE 47 • NUMBER 7

L-intervista

The capital: big, loud, grey. The interviewer wants to know everything: who you are, where you are from, which languages you speak, what you can do, why you came to the town, when you can start. On the bus back, you read flat ads: thirty square metres, €1,200 a month.

175 Words · 5 Exercises · Duration: 15 min.

Staying

Maltese

Read & listen online ↗



LEARNING GOAL

I can introduce myself fully and answer questions about my work, my languages and my past.

Lucía = ■ Lena (Lukas) = O

Learning as Lukas? Use the words in brackets.

Monday, ten o'clock, in Valletta: crowds, traffic, noise. The meeting room is high up in a glass office building.

■ Bongu. Jien Lucía Fernández. Poġġi, jekk jogħġbok.

- Jien Spanjola, imma ilni noqgħod f'Malta għaxar snin. Mela nitkellmu bil-Malti.
- Anna ilha magħna tliet xhur, u qaltli ftit dwarek. Issa rrakkontali int: min int, u minn fejn int?
- Jien Lena (Lukas) Becker. Jien Ġermaniża (Ġermaniż), minn Hamburg, u għandi tletin sena.
- Jien inġiniera (inġinier). Naħdem ma' kumpanija f'raħal żgħir, ħdejn il-wied.
- U kemm ilek f'Malta?
- Ilni hawn tliet xhur biss. Ġejt f'Marzu.
- Liema lingwi titkellem?
- Il-Ġermaniż, l-Ingliż, u ftit Malti.
- Mhux ftit! Titkellem tajjeb ħafna. Kemm ilek titgħallem?
- Ilni nitgħallem tliet xhur. Il-kollega tiegħi jgħinni kuljum.
- U x'taf tagħmel?
- Naf niddisinja siggijiet u mwejjed. U naf nieħu ħsieb qattus.
- She laughs.*
- Qattus?
- Storja twila. U hu ilu fid-dar iktar minni.

■ Għaliex mort toqgħod f'dak ir-raġal iż-żgħir?

○ Għax-xogħol. Imma issa... għan-nies.

■ U meta tista' tibda?

○ Il-perjodu ta' prova tiegħi jispiċċa fit-tletin ta' Ġunju.

She stands up and holds out her hand.

■ Eċċellenti. Ix-xogħol tiegħek. Tista' tibda fl-ewwel ta' Lulju?

○ Diġà? Għandi bżonn naħseb fuqha.

■ Żgur. Hu ħinek. Nistenna t-twegiba tiegħek sal-Ġimgħa.

Outside the office, a grey cat sits on a wall. It is not Ċikku.

○ Ċikku? Le... Mhux Ċikku.

On the bus back, you read flat ads on your phone.

○ Appartament fiċ-ċentru. Tletin metru kwadru. Elf u mitejn ewro fix-xahar.

○ Elf u mitejn! U bla qattus.

Il-karozza tal-linja titlaq mill-Belt. Tħares mit-tieqa, u tifhem li trid tmur id-dar. U d-dar, issa, hi n-numru sebgħa.

Vocabulary

DOING THINGS • AZZJONIJIET

jiddisinja

design

A design: disinn.

jaħseb fuq

think about (consider)

Irrid naħseb fuqha: I need to think about it.

iwiegeb

answer

An answer: twegiba.

MONEY AND SHOPPING • FLUS U XIRI

metru kwadru

square metre

Several: metri kwadri; from 11 on, singular again: tletin metru kwadru.

PLACES IN TOWN • POSTIJIET FIL-BELT

ċentru

centre

Several: ċentri. In a village the centre is the square, il-pjazza.

LISTENING & UNDERSTANDING

L1) WHO SAYS IT

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

1 Storja twila. U hu ilu fid-dar iktar minni.

☐ A Lucía

☐ B Lena

L2) WHAT DOES IT MEAN

Tick the right English meaning.

- 1 Jien Spanjola, imma ilni noqgħod f'Malta għaxar snin. Mela nitkellmu bil-Malti.**
- ☐ (A) Excellent. The job is yours. Can you start on the first of July?
 - ☐ (B) I'm Spanish, but I've lived in Malta for ten years. So we'll speak Maltese.
 - ☐ (C) Not a little! You speak very well. How long have you been learning?

L3) HOW DO YOU SAY IT

Tick the right Maltese sentence.

- 1 So soon? I need to think about it.**
- ☐ (A) Naf niddisinja siggijiet u mwejjed. U naf nieħu ħsieb qattus.
 - ☐ (B) Appartament fiċ-ċentru. Tletin metru kwadru. Elf u mitejn ewro fix-xahar.
 - ☐ (C) Diġà? Għandi bżonn naħseb fuqha.

L4) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Write the words in the right order on the line.

1

jgħinni

xhur.

tiegħi

tliet

Il-kollega

nitgħallem

Ilni

kuljum.

L5) WHAT HAPPENS FIRST

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

- ☐ Ċikku? Le... Mhux Ċikku.
- ☐ Il-perjodu ta' prova tiegħi jispiċċa fit-tletin ta' Ġunju.
- ☐ Storja twila. U hu ilu fid-dar iktar minni.
- ☐ Mhux ftit! Titkellem tajjeb ħafna. Kemm ilek titgħallem?
- ☐ U kemm ilek f'Malta?

SCENE 47 • WORDS

L-intervista

The interview

4 Exercises • Duration: 10 min.

Staying

Maltese

Read & listen online



jiddisinja
design



jaħseb fuq
think about
(consider)



iwieġeb
answer



ċentru
centre



metru kwadru
square metre

Words

jiddisinja

design

Naf niddisinja sigġijiet u mwejjed. U naf nieħu ħsieb qattus.

jaħseb fuq

think about (consider)

Diġà? Għandi bzonn naħseb fuqha.

iwieġeb

answer

Žgur. Hu ħinek. Nistenna t-tweġiba tiegħek sal-Ġimgħa.

ċentru

centre

Appartament fiċ-ċentru. Tletin metru kwadru. Elf u mitejn ewro fix-xahar.

metru kwadru

square metre

Appartament fiċ-ċentru. Tletin metru kwadru. Elf u mitejn ewro fix-xahar.

VOCABULARY & COMMUNICATION

W1) WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

What does it mean?

1 metru kwadru

- ☐ A and you?
- ☐ B square metre
- ☐ C times (three times a day)

2 ċentru

- ☐ A mirror
- ☐ B centre
- ☐ C tablet

3 iwiegeb

- ☐ A ear
- ☐ B answer
- ☐ C cancelled

4 jaħseb fuq

- ☐ A think about (consider)
- ☐ B August
- ☐ C open

5 jiddisinja

- ☐ A October
- ☐ B design
- ☐ C when (question)

W2) THE INTERVIEW

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

snin sena ilu ilni

Jien Spanjola, imma _____ noqgħod f'Malta għaxar
_____.

Meaning: I'm Spanish, but I've lived in Malta for ten years.

ilni ilek

U kemm _____ f'Malta?

Meaning: And how long have you been in Malta?

xahar Marzu Ġunju xhur

Ilni hawn tliet _____ biss. Ġejt f' _____.

Meaning: I've only been here three months. I came in March.

nsajjar niddisinja

Naf _____ sigġijiet u mwejjed.

Meaning: I can design chairs and tables.

naħseb fuqha naħsel fuqu

Diġà? Għandi bżonn _____.

Meaning: So soon? I need to think about it.

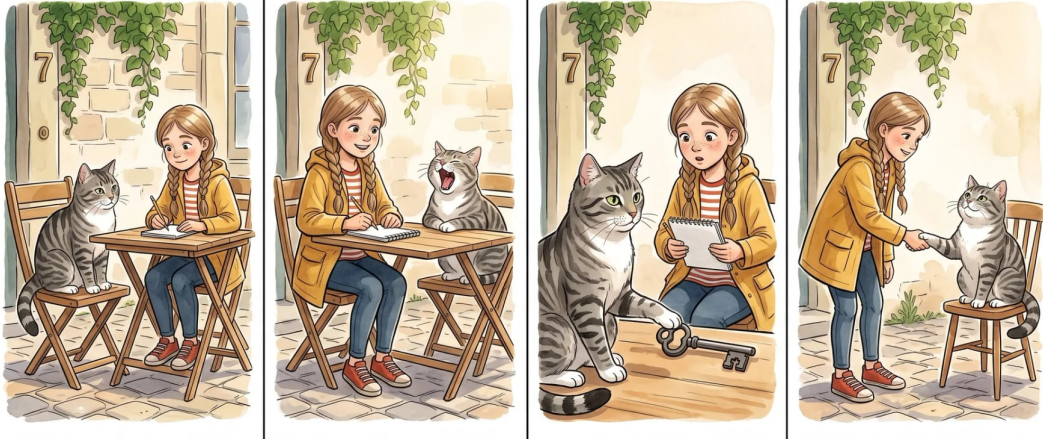
intervista twegiba

Ħu ħinek. Nistenna t-_____ tiegħek sal-Ġimgħa.

Meaning: Take your time. I'll wait for your answer until Friday.

W3) THE JOB IS YOURS!

Fill the speech bubbles.



xogħol Meta Poġġi ċwieviet twegiba tagħmel

Ella: Bongu. Jien Ella. _____, jekk jogħġbok.

Ella: Mela, min int? U x'taf _____?

Lena: Hu jaf jieħu ċ-_____!

Ella: Eċċellenti! Ix-_____ tiegħek!

Meaning: 1. Good afternoon. I'm Ella. Please sit down.

2. So, who are you? And what can you do?

3. He can take keys!

4. Excellent! The job is yours!

W4) WORK AND FLATS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| ① liema? | Ⓐ I think about it |
| ② jiddisinja | Ⓑ a square metre |
| ③ tweġiba | Ⓒ the centre |
| ④ metru kwadru | Ⓓ an answer |
| ⑤ ċentru | Ⓔ which? |
| ⑥ naħseb fuqha | Ⓕ to design (niddisinja, I design) |

SCENE 47 • GRAMMAR

Ilni, ilek, ilu

For how long: ilni hawn tliet xhur

7 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Staying

Maltese

Read & listen online



To say how long something has been going on, when it still is, Maltese puts **ilni**, I have been, before the time: **Ilni hawn tliet xhur.** I've been here three months, and I'm still here. It takes the endings you know from **għandi**. A verb after it stays in the present tense, because it is still going on: **Ilni nitgħallem il-Malti tliet xhur.** I've been learning Maltese for three months. To ask, put **kemm**, how much, in front: **Kemm ilek hawn?** How long have you been here?

ILNI WITH EVERY PERSON

Person	Form	Example	Meaning
Singular			
jien	ilni	Ilni hawn tliet xhur.	I have been · I've been here three months.
int	ilek	Kemm ilek f'Malta?	you have been · How long have you been in Malta?
hu	ilu	Ġorġ ilu jfittex il-bokkin.	he has been · Ġorġ has been looking for the mouthpiece.
hi	ilha	Lina ilha tagħmel il-kejk għoxrin sena.	she has been · Lina has been making cakes for twenty years.
Plural			
aħna	ilna	Ilna ġirien tliet xhur.	we have been · We've been neighbours for three months.

Person	Form	Example	Meaning
intom	ilkom	Kemm ilkom tistennew?	you have been · How long have you been waiting?
huma	ilhom	Ilhom f'Għawdex ġimgħa.	they have been · They've been in Gozo for a week.

The endings are the ones of **għandi**, except that I is **-ni: ilni**. A thing takes the ending of its noun: **il-kafetterija ilha hawn**, the café has been here.

Jien Spanjola, imma ilni noqgħod f'Malta għaxar snin.

I'm Spanish, but I've lived in Malta for ten years.

Ilni nitgħallem tliet xhur.

I've been learning for three months.

U hu ilu fid-dar iktar minni.

And he's been in the house longer than me.

The time comes straight after, with no word for for. One is the noun on its own, two is the dual (**-ejn**), three to ten take the plural, and from eleven on the noun is singular again: **għoxrin sena**.

Compare the past: **Ġejt f'Marzu**, I came in March, is over and done; **Ilni hawn tliet xhur** is still going on.

HOW LONG

One	Two	Three to ten	Meaning
minuta	minutejn	għaxar minuti	a minute · two minutes · ten minutes
siegħa	sagħtejn	tmien sigħat	an hour · two hours · eight hours
xahar	xahrejn	tliet xhur	a month · two months · three months

One	Two	Three to ten	Meaning
sena	sentejn	għaxar snin	a year · two years · ten years

A week is **gimgħa**, two weeks **gimagħtejn**.

TIP

Kemm ilek hawn? is the first question every Maltese neighbour asks. Ilni hawn ... and the time is all you need.

GRAMMAR

G1) FIND THE WORDS

Underline the words for has been, have been.

- 1 Jien Spanjola, imma ilni noqgħod f'Malta għaxar snin.

Meaning: I'm Spanish, but I've lived in Malta for ten years.

- 2 Anna ilha magħna tliet xhur.

Meaning: Anna has been with us for three months.

3 Ċikku ilu fid-dar iktar minni.

Meaning: Ċikku has been in the house longer than me.

4 Jien u Lina ilna ħbieb għoxrin sena.

Meaning: Lina and I have been friends for twenty years.

5 Ella, Ġorġ: kemm ilkom tistennew?

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ: how long have you been waiting?

6 Il-ġenituri tiegħi ilhom f'Hamburg tletin sena.

Meaning: My parents have been in Hamburg for thirty years.

7 Kemm ilek titgħallem?

Meaning: How long have you been learning?

G2) WHO HAS BEEN?

Choose the form that fits the person.

1 Jien _____ f'Malta għaxar snin.

- ☐ A ilni
- ☐ B ilha
- ☐ C ilu

Meaning: I've been in Malta for ten years.

2 U int, kemm _____ f'Malta?

- ☐ A ilhom
- ☐ B ilni
- ☐ C ilek

Meaning: And you, how long have you been in Malta?

3 Ċikku _____ fid-dar iktar minni.

- ☐ A ilu
- ☐ B ilna
- ☐ C ilha

Meaning: Ċikku has been in the house longer than me.

4 Anna _____ magħna tliet xhur.

- ☐ A ilu
- ☐ B ilkom
- ☐ C ilha

Meaning: Anna has been with us for three months.

5 Aħna _____ ħbieb tliet xhur!

- ☐ A ilna
- ☐ B ilek
- ☐ C ilhom

Meaning: We've been friends for three months!

6 Intom _____ hawn ħafna snin, hux?

- ☐ A ilu
- ☐ B ilkom
- ☐ C ilna

Meaning: You've been here for many years, haven't you?

7 Il-ġenituri tiegħi _____ f'Hamburg tletin sena.

- ☐ A ilhom
- ☐ B ilha
- ☐ C ilkom

Meaning: My parents have been in Hamburg for thirty years.

8 Jien _____ nitgħallem il-Malti tliet xhur.

- ☐ A ilek
- ☐ B ilhom
- ☐ C ilni

Meaning: I've been learning Maltese for three months.

9 Lina _____ tagħmel il-kejk għoxrin sena.

- ☐ A ilha
- ☐ B ilu
- ☐ C ilni

Meaning: Lina has been making cakes for twenty years.

10 Ġorġ _____ jfittex il-bokkin mill-festa.

- ☐ A ilu
- ☐ B ilha
- ☐ C ilna

Meaning: Ġorġ has been looking for the mouthpiece since the festa.

G3) HOW LONG?

Choose the right answer.

1 Kemm ilek f'Malta?

- ☐ A Ilni hawn tliet xhur.
- ☐ B Ilni hawn tliet xhur ilu.
- ☐ C Ilu hawn tliet xhur.

Meaning: How long have you been in Malta?

2 Kemm ilha Anna magħkom?

- ☐ A Ilha magħna tliet xhur.
- ☐ B Ilu magħna tliet xhur.
- ☐ C Ilhom magħna tliet xhur.

Meaning: How long has Anna been with you?

3 Kemm ilek titgħallem il-Malti?

- ☐ A Ilni titgħallem tliet xhur.
- ☐ B Ilek nitgħallem tliet xhur.
- ☐ C Ilni nitgħallem tliet xhur.

Meaning: How long have you been learning Maltese?

4 Ġorġ u Ella, kemm ilkom ħbieb?

- ☐ A Ilna ħbieb tliet snin.
- ☐ B Ilhom ħbieb tliet snin.
- ☐ C Ilkom ħbieb tliet snin.

Meaning: Ġorġ and Ella, how long have you been friends?

5 Kemm ilhom il-ġenituri tiegħek f'Hamburg?

- ☐ A Ilhom hemm tletin sena.
- ☐ B Ilna hemm tletin sena.
- ☐ C Ilhom hemm tletin snin.

Meaning: How long have your parents been in Hamburg?

6 Kemm ilu Ċikku fid-dar?

- ☐ A Ilha hawn iktar minni.
- ☐ B Ilni hawn iktar minni.
- ☐ C Ilu hawn iktar minni.

Meaning: How long has Ċikku been in the house?

7 Kemm ilkom tistennew?

- ☐ A Ilkom nistennew għaxar minuti.
- ☐ B Ilna nistennew għaxar minuti.
- ☐ C Ilna tistennew għaxar minuti.

Meaning: How long have you two been waiting?

G4) AT THE INTERVIEW

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

ilni sena ilu snin

Jien Spanjola, imma _____ noqgħod f'Malta għaxar
_____.

Meaning: I'm Spanish, but I've lived in Malta for ten years.

ilha ilu

Anna _____ magħna tliet xhur.

Meaning: Anna has been with us for three months.

ilek ilkom

U kemm _____ f'Malta?

Meaning: And how long have you been in Malta?

Ġejt Ilu Ilni Niġi

_____ hawn tliet xhur biss. _____ f'Marzu.

Meaning: I've only been here three months. I came in March.

ilu ilha

U Ċikku _____ fid-dar iktar minni.

Meaning: And Ċikku has been in the house longer than me.

ilna ilhom

Jien u Lina _____ ħbieb għoxrin sena.

Meaning: Lina and I have been friends for twenty years.

ilkom ilna

Ella u Ġorġ, kemm _____ tistennew?

Meaning: Ella and Ġorġ, how long have you been waiting?

ilhom ilkom

Il-ġenituri tiegħi _____ f'Hamburg tletin sena.

Meaning: My parents have been in Hamburg for thirty years.

G5) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

- 1 noqgħod f'Malta Ilni għaxar snin.

Meaning: I've lived in Malta for ten years.

- 2 titgħallem Kemm il-Malti? ilek

Meaning: How long have you been learning Maltese?

3 biss. tliet hawn Ilni xhur

Meaning: I've only been here three months.

4 magħna xhur. Anna tliet ilha

Meaning: Anna has been with us for three months.

5 iktar ilu fid-dar Ċikku minni.

Meaning: Ċikku has been in the house longer than me.

6 tliet Aħna ilna ħbieb xhur.

Meaning: We've been friends for three months.

- 7 Ella tistennew? u kemm ilkom Ġorġ,

Meaning: Ella and Ġorġ, how long have you been waiting?

- 8 tiegħi f'Hamburg. ilhom Il-ġenituri

Meaning: My parents have been in Hamburg for a long time.

G6) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 **Lucía asks how long you've been in Malta. It's three months. You say:**

- ☐ A Ilu hawn tliet xhur.
- ☐ B Ilni hawn tliet xhur.
- ☐ C Kont hawn tliet xhur.

- 2 **Ask Ġorġ how long he's been playing the trumpet. You say:**

- ☐ A Kemm ilu jdoqq it-trumbetta?
- ☐ B Kemm ilek iddoqq it-trumbetta?
- ☐ C Kemm ilni ndoqq it-trumbetta?

3 Ġorġ tells you he's been playing in the band for twenty years.

Ġorġ says:

- ☐ A Ilni ndoqq mal-banda għoxrin sena.
- ☐ B Ilu ndoqq mal-banda għoxrin sena.
- ☐ C Ilni ndoqq mal-banda għoxrin snin.

4 Lucía tells you how long Anna has been with the company. Lucía says:

- ☐ A Anna ilu magħna tliet xhur.
- ☐ B Anna ilha magħna tliet xahar.
- ☐ C Anna ilha magħna tliet xhur.

5 Tell Lina that you and Ella have been waiting for ten minutes. You say:

- ☐ A Ilna nistennew għaxar minuti.
- ☐ B Ilna nistennew għaxar minuta.
- ☐ C Ilhom jistennew għaxar minuti.

G7) ILNI, ILEK, ILU

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| ① ilu | Ⓐ I have been |
| ② ilna | Ⓑ you have been (one person) |
| ③ Kemm ilek? | Ⓒ they have been |
| ④ ilkom | Ⓓ he has been, it has been |
| ⑤ ilni | Ⓔ she has been, it has been |
| ⑥ ilek | Ⓕ we have been |
| ⑦ ilhom | Ⓖ How long have you been? |
| ⑧ ilha | Ⓗ you have been (several people) |