

Module 10, and the big tables of the course

Module 10: Staying

8 Exercises • Duration: 25 min.

Staying

Maltese

Read & listen online



If and would: jekk, kieku

jekk is for what may really happen. The verb after it is in the present tense, and the other half is often the future with **se**. **kieku** is the conditional, for what you only imagine, or won't do: **kieku niġi**, I would come.

jekk	kieku	Meaning
Jekk nista', niġi.	Kieku nista', niġi.	If I can, I'll come. • If I could, I'd come.
Jekk tiġi t-Tnejn, se tkun tard.	Kieku niġi bil-qalb, imma ma nistax.	If you come on Monday, you'll be late. • I'd love to come, but I can't.
Jekk ma jogħġobnix, ngħid le.	Kieku kelli ħin, insajjar.	If I don't like it, I'll say no. • If I had time, I'd cook.

Se mmorru Għawdex bil-vapur. Jekk il-vapur jitlaq!

We'll take the ferry to Gozo. If the ferry goes!

For how long, and how long ago: **ilni, ilu**

ilni with a time is how long something has gone on, and still does. A verb after it stays in the present. It takes the endings of **għandi**, with **-ni** for I. After a time, **ilu** is ago and never changes; the verb is in the past.

Person	Form	Example	Meaning
Singular			
jien	ilni	Ilni hawn tliet xhur.	I have been · I've been here three months.
int	ilek	Kemm ilek hawn?	you have been · How long have you been here?
hu	ilu	Ċikku ilu hawn ħafna snin.	he has been · Ċikku has been here for many years.
hi	ilha	Marija ilha toqgħod hawn ħamsin sena.	she has been · Marija has lived here for fifty years.
Plural			
aħna	ilna	Ilna ġirien tliet xhur.	we have been · We've been neighbours for three months.
intom	ilkom	Kemm ilkom tistennew?	you have been · How long have you been waiting?
huma	ilhom	Ilhom ħbieb tliet xhur.	they have been · They've been friends for three months.

Ago: **tliet xhur ilu**, three months ago · **xahrejn ilu**, two months ago · **għaxar minuti ilu**, ten minutes ago.

Inviting: tixtieq tiġi? ejja nieklu

nixtieq, I would like, has every person, and the next verb takes the person too. **ejja** with the **aħna** form is let's. To say no nicely, start with the yes.

Saying	Example	Meaning
Inviting	Tixtieq tiġi? Tixtiequ tiġu?	Would you like to come? (one person several)
Let's	Ejja nieklu! Ejja mmorru Għawdex!	Let's eat! Let's go to Gozo!
Yes	Iva, bil-qalb!	Yes, gladly!
No, nicely	Nixtieq, imma ma nistax, għax naħdem.	I'd like to, but I can't, because I'm working.
Another time	Ejja nagħmluha darb'oħra?	Shall we do it another time?

Last and next

Last and next follow the noun and take its gender: **l-ieħor** and **id-dieħel** for a masculine noun, **l-oħra** and **id-dieħla** for a feminine one. A day can be **li għadda**, that has passed. Soon is **dalwaqt**.

Noun	Last	Next	Meaning
Masculine			
ix-xahar	ix-xahar l-ieħor	ix-xahar id-dieħel	the month · last month · next month
it-Tnejn	it-Tnejn li għadda	it-Tnejn id-dieħel	Monday · last Monday · next Monday

Noun	Last	Next	Meaning
Feminine			
il-ġimgħa	il-ġimgħa l-oħra	il-ġimgħa d-dieħla	the week · last week · next week
is-sena	is-sena l-oħra	is-sena d-dieħla	the year · last year · next year

One set of endings, from the first evening to the last

From **tiegħi** on the first evening to **magħna** at the party, Maltese has used one set of endings for my, me and to me: **-i (-ja, -ni), -ek (-k), -u (-h), -ha, -na, -kom, -hom**. They go on the possessive and on **għand**, on family words and the body (**ommi, rasi**), on prepositions (**għalija, hdejja, miegħi**) and on verbs (**narak, jgħinni**). Even **ilni** is one of them.

Person	tiegħ-	għal	jgħin	Meaning
Singular				
jien	tiegħi	għalija	jgħinni	my, mine · for me · he helps me
int	tiegħek	għalik	jgħinek	your · for you · he helps you
hu	tiegħu	għalih	jgħinu	his · for him · he helps him
hi	tagħha	għaliha	jgħinha	her · for her · he helps her
Plural				
aħna	tagħna	għalina	jgħinna	our · for us · he helps us
intom	tagħkom	għalikom	jgħinkom	your · for you · he helps you

Person	tiegħ-	għal	jgħin	Meaning
huma	tagħhom	għalihom	jgħinhom	their · for them · he helps them

After a vowel the short forms **-ja, -k, -h**: **idejja, jarak, jarah**. To someone takes **-l-**: **jgħidli, ngħidlek, għedtilha**.

Ara, hawn int! Dan għalik.

Look, there you are! This is for you.

Il-kollega tiegħi jgħinni kuljum.

My colleague helps me every day.

The verb in three tenses

The present tense has the person at the front (**n-, t-, j-**) and **-u** at the end in the plural. The past tense has it at the end: **-t** for I and you, nothing for he, **-et** for she, **-na, -tu** and **-u** in the plural. The future tense is **se** before the present. Here is **jiekol**, eat, all the way through.

Person	Present	Past	Future	Meaning
Singular				
jien	niekol	kilt	se niekol	I eat · I ate · I will eat
int	tiekol	kilt	se tiekol	you eat · you ate · you will eat
hu	jiekol	kiel	se jiekol	he eats · he ate · he will eat
hi	tiekol	kiolet	se tiekol	she eats · she ate · she will eat
Plural				
aħna	nieklu	kilna	se nieklu	we eat · we ate · we will eat

Person	Present	Past	Future	Meaning
intom	tiekl<u>u</u>	kilt<u>u</u>	se tiekl<u>u</u>	you eat · you ate · you will eat
huma	jiek<u>lu</u>	kiel<u>u</u>	se jiek<u>lu</u>	they eat · they ate · they will eat

Not: **ma niekolx**, I don't eat · **ma kiltx**, I didn't eat · **mhux se niekol**, I won't eat.

Naf. Hmejtu l-bieraħ filgħodu.

I know. I baked it yesterday morning.

F'Lulju? Perfett! Se niġi!

In July? Great! I'll come!

Saying no

le answers no. **mhux** says not before anything that is not a verb, and before **se**. A verb takes **ma** in front and **-x** at the end; before a vowel or **għ**, **ma** becomes **m'**. With **xejn**, **ħadd** and **qatt**, the verb takes no **-x**. Don't is the **int** form with **-x**.

Word	Example	Meaning
le	Le, grazzi.	no No, thanks.
mhux	Mhux tiegħi. Mhux se nitlaq.	not It's not mine. I'm not going to leave.
ma ... -x	Ma nafx. Ma jogħġobnix.	not, with a verb I don't know. I don't like it.
m'	M'għandix ħin. M'hemmx bżonn.	not, the short form I don't have time. There's no need.

Word	Example	Meaning
xejn	M'għedt xejn.	nothing
ħadd	Ħadd ma jaf.	nobody
qatt	Qatt ma jiġi tard.	never
		I said nothing.
		Nobody knows.
		He's never late.
Don't	Tgħidx lil ħadd! Tiġix tard!	Don't tell anyone! Don't be late!

Tibqa'? Imma jien għadni m'għedt xejn!

'You're staying'? But I haven't said anything yet!

GRAMMAR

G1) FIND THE WORDS

Underline the verbs in the past tense.

- 1 Il-bieraħ kilt imqarrun il-forn għand Marija.

Meaning: Yesterday I ate baked macaroni at Marija's.

- 2 Ċikku kiel il-ħut kollu, u Ella kiolet il-kejk.

Meaning: Ċikku ate all the fish, and Ella ate the cake.

- 3 Aħna kilna fil-bitħa, ma' kulħadd.

Meaning: We ate in the courtyard, with everyone.

- 4 Intom kiltu kollox? Il-kejk ukoll?

Meaning: Did you eat everything? The cake too?

- 5 Il-ġirien kielu u żifnu sa nofsillejl.

Meaning: The neighbours ate and danced until midnight.

- 6 Jien ġejt Malta tliet xhur ilu, u llum niekol bħal Malti.

Meaning: I came to Malta three months ago, and today I eat like a Maltese.

G2) HOW LONG, AND WHEN?

Choose the form that fits.

- 1 Jien _____ f'Malta għaxar snin.

- (A) ilu
- (B) ilni
- (C) ilna

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

2 Ella, kemm _____ tpingi mapep?

- ☐ A ilni
- ☐ B ilek
- ☐ C ilhom

Meaning: Ella, how long have you been drawing maps?

3 Ċikku _____ fin-numru sebgħa ħafna snin.

- ☐ A ilkom
- ☐ B ilu
- ☐ C ilha

Meaning: Ċikku has been at number 7 for many years.

4 Marija _____ toqgħod hawn ħamsin sena.

- ☐ A ilu
- ☐ B ilha
- ☐ C ilni

Meaning: Marija has lived here for fifty years.

5 Jien u n-nanna _____ nistennew!

- ☐ A ilhom
- ☐ B ilna
- ☐ C ilkom

Meaning: Grandma and I have been waiting!

6 Tfal, kemm _____ fil-bitħa?

- ☐ A ilkom
- ☐ B ilu
- ☐ C ilna

Meaning: Children, how long have you been in the courtyard?

7 Ġorġ u Tonio _____ ħbieb tliet xhur.

- ☐ A ilhom
- ☐ B ilkom
- ☐ C ilha

Meaning: Ġorġ and Tonio have been friends for three months.

8 Il-pinna ta' Tonio sparixxiet il-ġimgħa _____.

- ☐ A l-ieħor
- ☐ B l-oħra

Meaning: Tonio's pen went missing last week.

9 Anna se tiġi għandi x-xahar _____.

- ☐ A d-dieġla
- ☐ B id-dieġel

Meaning: Anna is coming to stay next month.

10 Is-sena _____ nagħmel kejk akbar!

- ☐ A d-dieġla
- ☐ B id-dieġel

Meaning: Next year I'll make a bigger cake!

G3) WHOSE, AND WHO HELPS?

Choose the form that fits the person.

1 Jien? Il-kamra _____ fuq il-bejt.

- ☐ A tiegħi
- ☐ B tagħha
- ☐ C tiegħek

Meaning: Me? My room is on the roof.

2 Int? Iċ-ċwieviet _____ fuq il-mejda.

- ☐ A tiegħi
- ☐ B tiegħu
- ☐ C tiegħek

Meaning: You? Your keys are on the table.

3 Ġorġ? Il-bokkin _____ sparixxa.

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

Meaning: Ġorġ? His mouthpiece went missing.

4 Jien? Tonio _____ kuljum.

- ☐ A jgħinek
- ☐ B jgħinha
- ☐ C jgħinni

Meaning: Me? Tonio helps me every day.

5 Ella, Ġorġ _____ bix-xogħol tad-dar tiegħek?

- ☐ A jgħinek
- ☐ B jgħinni
- ☐ C jgħinhom

Meaning: Ella, does Ġorġ help you with your homework?

6 Tonio għajjen, u Ġorġ _____.

- ☐ A jgħinha
- ☐ B jgħinkom
- ☐ C jgħinu

Meaning: Tonio is tired, and Ġorġ helps him.

7 Ella għandha ħafna xogħol, u Ġorġ _____.

- ☐ A jgħinna
- ☐ B jgħinu
- ☐ C jgħinha

Meaning: Ella has a lot of work, and Ġorġ helps her.

8 Jien u n-nanna? Tonio _____.

- ☐ A jgħinna
- ☐ B jgħinkom
- ☐ C jgħinhom

Meaning: Grandma and me? Tonio helps us.

9 Ġorġ u Ella, Tonio _____?

- ☐ A jgħinna
- ☐ B jgħinu
- ☐ C jgħinkom

Meaning: Ġorġ and Ella, does Tonio help you?

10 It-tfal għandhom xogħol, u Ġorġ _____.

- ☐ A jgħinhom
- ☐ B jgħinkom
- ☐ C jgħinha

Meaning: The children have work, and Ġorġ helps them.

G4) PRESENT, PAST, FUTURE

Choose the right answer.

1 X'kilt il-bieraħ għand Marija?

- ☐ A Kiel l-imqarrun tagħha!
- ☐ B Kilt l-imqarrun tagħha!
- ☐ C Niekol l-imqarrun tagħha!

Meaning: What did you eat at Marija's yesterday?

2 U Ella, għand Ġorġ u Lina?

- ☐ A Kielu l-kejk tagħhom.
- ☐ B Kiel il-kejk tagħhom.
- ☐ C Kielet il-kejk tagħhom.

Meaning: And Ella, at Ġorġ and Lina's?

3 Intom x'kiltu fil-festin?

- ☐ A Kielu l-kejk tagħkom!
- ☐ B Kiltu l-kejk tagħkom!
- ☐ C Kilna l-kejk tagħkom!

Meaning: What did you all eat at the party?

4 X'kielu l-ġirien?

- ☐ A Kilna l-imqarrun tagħna kollu!
- ☐ B Kielet l-imqarrun tagħna kollu!
- ☐ C Kielu l-imqarrun tagħna kollu!

Meaning: What did the neighbours eat?

5 Il-kejk tal-ġirien m'għadux hawn! Tfal, intom...?

- ☐ A Kielet il-kejk? Kien għalihom!
- ☐ B Kilna l-kejk? Kien għalihom!
- ☐ C Kiltu l-kejk? Kien għalihom!

Meaning: The neighbours' cake isn't here any more! Children, did you...?

6 X'tiekol kuljum għal nofsinhar?

- ☐ A Niekol is-soppa li Marija tagħmel għalija.
- ☐ B Tiekol is-soppa li Marija tagħmel għalija.
- ☐ C Kilt is-soppa li Marija tagħmel għalija.

Meaning: What do you eat for lunch every day?

7 Tonio x'jiekol it-Tnejn? U Ella?

- ☐ (A) Tiekol soppa, u Ella jiekol il-kejk.
- ☐ (B) Jiekol soppa, u Ella niekol il-kejk.
- ☐ (C) Jiekol soppa, u Ella tiekol il-kejk.

Meaning: What does Tonio eat on Mondays? And Ella?

8 Il-ġirien ġejjin għall-ikel. X'tistaqsihom Lina?

- ☐ (A) Intom tieklu ħut? Dan kollu għalikom, aħna nieklu wara!
- ☐ (B) Intom niekol ħut? Dan kollu għalikom, aħna nieklu wara!
- ☐ (C) Intom jieklu ħut? Dan kollu għalikom, aħna nieklu wara!

Meaning: The neighbours are coming to eat. What does Lina ask them?

9 Ella u Ċikku jieklu fil-bitħa?

- ☐ (A) Iva, tieklu hemm: il-kejk għaliha, u l-ħut għalih.
- ☐ (B) Iva, jieklu hemm: il-kejk għalih, u l-ħut għaliha.
- ☐ (C) Iva, jieklu hemm: il-kejk għaliha, u l-ħut għalih.

Meaning: Do Ella and Ċikku eat in the courtyard?

10 Kemm ilek hawn?

- ☐ A Ilu hawn tliet xhur, u issa jien Malti ftit.
- ☐ B Ilni hawn tliet xhur, u issa jien Malti ftit.
- ☐ C Ilni hawn tliet xhur ilu, u issa jien Malti ftit.

Meaning: How long have you been here?

11 Kemm ilek hawn?

- ☐ A Ilu hawn tliet xhur, u issa jien Maltija ftit.
- ☐ B Ilni hawn tliet xhur ilu, u issa jien Maltija ftit.
- ☐ C Ilni hawn tliet xhur, u issa jien Maltija ftit.

Meaning: How long have you been here?

G5) JUNE AT NUMBER 7

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

tiegħi Ilni Ilu tiegħek

_____ f'Malta tliet xhur, u l-Malti _____ tajjeb!

Meaning: I've been in Malta for three months, and my Maltese is good!

marid ilu ilni

Lukas: Xahrejn _____ kont _____, u Ella kienet it-tabiba tiegħi.

Meaning: Two months ago I was ill, and Ella was my doctor.

marida ilu ilni

Lena: Xahrejn _____ kont _____, u Ella kienet it-tabiba tiegħi.

Meaning: Two months ago I was ill, and Ella was my doctor.

ilu tagħha tiegħu ilha

Anna _____ magħna tliet xhur, u x-xogħol _____ tajjeb.

Meaning: Anna has been with us for three months, and her work is good.

kiltu kilna għalik għaliya

Is-Sibt _____ fil-bitħa, u l-kejk kien _____.

Meaning: On Saturday we ate in the courtyard, and the cake was for me.

tagħkom kiltu kilna tagħna

Tfal, _____ l-kejk _____?

Meaning: Children, did you eat our cake?

kiel kielu kilna kielet

Ġorġ u Ella _____ l-imqarrun, u Ella _____ il-kejk ukoll.

Meaning: Ġorġ and Ella ate the macaroni, and Ella ate the cake too.

jgħinu jgħinek jgħinni jgħinha

Ġorġ _____ bix-xogħol tad-dar. U Tonio? Ġorġ _____
wkoll.

Meaning: Ġorġ helps me with my homework. And Tonio? Ġorġ helps him too.

għalik tagħhom tagħkom għalina

Ġorġ u Lina? Dan il-festin _____. U l-kejk _____!

Meaning: Ġorġ and Lina? This party is theirs. And the cake is for you!

ilna ilkom

Ġirien, intom _____ ħbieb ħafna snin, hux?

Meaning: Neighbours, you've been friends for many years, haven't you?

d-dieħla id-dieħel

Ix-xahar _____ se niġi għandek!

Meaning: Next month I'm coming to stay with you!

G6) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

- 1
- fil-kamra, niekol Jien u tiekol fil-bitħa. l-ġirien
hawn, Ella jieklu

Meaning: I eat here, Ella eats in her room, and the neighbours eat in the courtyard.

- 2
- immorru Jekk Għawdex. il-vapur jitlaq,

Meaning: If the ferry goes, we'll go to Gozo.

3 ma imma bil-qalb, Kieku nistax. niġi

Meaning: I'd love to come, but I can't.

4 tiegħu! jiekol Ċikku qed nieklu, il-ħut Ejja

Meaning: Let's eat, Ċikku is eating his fish!

5 l-ieħor lx-xahar sparixxa għal Ċikku jumejn.

Meaning: Last month Ċikku disappeared for two days.

6 se ls-sena sena. ħdax-il jkollha d-dieġla Ella

Meaning: Next year Ella will be eleven.

- 7 aħna ħbieb ilna ġirien. snin, u ilhom u Tonio
Ġorġ
-

Meaning: Ġorġ and Tonio have been friends for years, and we've been neighbours for a while.

- 8 għalina, għaliha! l-kafè ll-kejk għalih, il-ħut u
-

Meaning: The cake is for us, the fish is for him, and the coffee is for her!

- 9 l-kafè ll-kejk għalihom, ll-ġirien? għalikom. u
-

Meaning: The neighbours? The cake is for them, and the coffee is for you two.

- 10 Ġorġ Ella? Ġorġ jgħinha. It-tfal? jgħinhom.
-

Meaning: Ella? Ġorġ helps her. The children? Ġorġ helps them.

G7) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Lukas: Lucía asks where you're from and how long you've been in Malta. Three months. You say:

- ☐ A Jien Ġermaniż, u ilni f'Malta tliet xhur.
- ☐ B Jien Ġermaniż, u ilni f'Malta tliet xhur ilu.
- ☐ C Jien Ġermaniż, u ilu f'Malta tliet xhur.

2 Lena: Lucía asks where you're from and how long you've been in Malta. Three months. You say:

- ☐ A Jien Ġermaniża, u ilu f'Malta tliet xhur.
- ☐ B Jien Ġermaniża, u ilni f'Malta tliet xhur ilu.
- ☐ C Jien Ġermaniża, u ilni f'Malta tliet xhur.

3 Tell Anna: if the ferry goes, we'll go to Gozo. You say:

- ☐ A Jekk il-vapur jitlaq, morna Għawdex.
- ☐ B Jekk il-vapur jitlaq, immorru Għawdex.
- ☐ C Jekk il-vapur jitlaqx, immorru Għawdex.

4 Invite Ġorġ and Ella, both at once, to eat at your place. You say:

- ☐ (A) Tixtieq tieklu għandi?
- ☐ (B) Nixtiequ nieklu għandi?
- ☐ (C) Tixtiequ tieklu għandi?

5 Ella reminds you when she made the map of the roof. Ella says:

- ☐ (A) Ilni għamilt il-mappa xahrejn!
- ☐ (B) Għamilt il-mappa xahrejn ilu!
- ☐ (C) Għamilt il-mappa xahrejn id-dieħel!

6 Tell your neighbours that you're staying with them. You say:

- ☐ (A) Nibqa' magħhom!
- ☐ (B) Nibqa' magħkom!
- ☐ (C) Tibqa' magħkom!

7 Lukas: Tell Ella that you were ill when her thermometer went missing. You say:

- ☐ (A) Kont marid meta sparixxa t-termometru tiegħi.
- ☐ (B) Kien marid meta sparixxa t-termometru tiegħek.
- ☐ (C) Kont marid meta sparixxa t-termometru tiegħek.

8 Lena: Tell Ella that you were ill when her thermometer went missing. You say:

- ☐ A Kienet marida meta sparixxa t-termometru tiegħek.
- ☐ B Kont marida meta sparixxa t-termometru tiegħi.
- ☐ C Kont marida meta sparixxa t-termometru tiegħek.

9 Anna is sorry you're not coming to Valletta, but she understands. Anna says:

- ☐ A Hasra, imma nifhem.
- ☐ B Hasra, imma ma nifhimx.
- ☐ C Perfett, imma nifhem.

10 Tell Lina that last week you ate her bread every day. You say:

- ☐ A Il-ġimgħa l-oħra kilt il-ħobż tiegħek kuljum.
- ☐ B Il-ġimgħa d-dieħla kilt il-ħobż tiegħek kuljum.
- ☐ C Il-ġimgħa l-oħra kilt il-ħobż tiegħi kuljum.

11 Ġorġ and Ella ask who is helping them carry the chairs on Saturday. Tonio is; Karim is helping you and Marija. You say:

- ☐ A Tonio jgħinhom, u Karim jgħinha.
- ☐ B Tonio jgħinna, u Karim jgħinkom.
- ☐ C Tonio jgħinkom, u Karim jgħinna.

12 Tell Ġorġ and Lina that their party was great. You say:

- ☐ A Il-festin tagħkom kien perfett!
- ☐ B Il-festin tagħhom kien perfett!
- ☐ C Il-festin tagħna kien perfett!

G8) QUESTION AND ANSWER

Match each question to its answer.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ① Tixtieq tiġi s-Sibt? | ① Immorru darb'oħra. |
| ② Kemm ilek hawn? | ② Iva, bil-qalb! |
| ③ Min jgħinek bil-Malti? | ③ Ilni hawn tliet xhur. |
| ④ Il-kejk għal min? | ④ Tonio jgħinni. |
| ⑤ Meta se tiġi Anna? | ⑤ Għalik! |
| ⑥ Meta għamilt il-mappa? | ⑥ Ix-xahar id-dieħel. |
| ⑦ U jekk il-vapur ma jitlaqx? | ⑦ Xahrejn ilu. |
| ⑧ X'kilt il-bieraħ? | ⑧ Imqarrun il-forn. |