

SCENE 1 • NUMBER 7

Bonswa!

Late evening in front of number 7. You stand there with one suitcase. An older woman waits on the front steps under the lamp, a big old key in her hand.

37 Words · 5 Exercises · Duration: 15 min.

Arrival

Maltese

Read & listen online ↗

**LEARNING GOAL**

I can greet an older neighbour politely and say my name.

Lena (Lukas) = ■ Marija = O

Learning as Lukas? Use the words in brackets.

■ Bonswa!

O Bonswa! Int il-ġara l (ġar il)-ġdida (ġdid)?

■ Iva. Jisimni Lena (Lukas).

○ Għandi pjaċir. Jien Marija. Din id-dar tiegħi.

She holds out a big old key.

○ Hawn hi ċ-ċavetta tiegħek.

■ Grazzi!

A grey cat sits down between you and looks at the key.

■ U dan min hu?

○ Dan Ċikku. Mhux tiegħi.

Ċikku jieħu ċ-ċavetta.

○ Ċikku! Le!

■ Iċ-ċavetta tiegħi! Saħħa, ċavetta...

Ċikku jaħtaf iċ-ċavetta l-għdida tiegħek u jgħri għewwa d-dar biha.

Vocabulary

DOING THINGS • AZZJONIJIET

jieħu

take (take hold of)

Ħudha: take it (for a feminine word, like ċavetta).

SMALL WORDS • KLIEM ŻGħIR

iva

yes

isem

name

Jisimni: my name is. X'jismek? What's your name?

dan / din

this

dan for a masculine word, din for a feminine one: dan il-kejk, din id-dar.

min

who

u

and

le

no

Le is the answer no. Not, before a word that is not a verb: mhux (mhux tiegħi, not mine). Before a verb: ma ... -x.

GREETINGS AND COURTESY • TISLIJET U KORTESIJA**bonswa**

good evening

From the late afternoon on.

għandi pjaċir

nice to meet you

Literally: I have pleasure.

hawn hu / hawn hi

here is

hu for a masculine word, hi for a feminine one: hawn hu l-kafè, hawn hi ċ-ċavetta.

grazzi

thank you

saħħa

goodbye

Literally: health. Also: cheers! Many people just say ċaw or bye.

AT HOME • FID-DAR**ċavetta**

key

Several keys: ċwieviet.

PEOPLE AROUND YOU • NIES MADWAREK**ġar**

neighbour

Several neighbours: ġirien.

ġara

neighbour (a woman)

PLACES IN TOWN • POSTIJET FIL-BELT**dar**

house / building

A house, a home or a building. Id-dar: the house, and also home.

WHAT THINGS AND PEOPLE ARE LIKE · KIF INHU? KIF INHI?**ġdid**

new

ġdid (m) · ġdida (f)

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

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

1 Għandi pjaċir. Jien Marija. Din id-dar tiegħi.

- ☐ A Lena
- ☐ B Marija

L2) WHAT DOES IT MEAN

Tick the right English meaning.

1 Dan Ċikku. Mhux tiegħi.

- ☐ A Thank you!
- ☐ B Nice to meet you. I'm Marija. This is my house.
- ☐ C This is Ċikku. He's not mine.

L3) HOW DO YOU SAY IT

Tick the right Maltese sentence.

1 Good evening! Are you the new neighbour?

- ☐ A Grazzi!
- ☐ B Bonswa! Int il-ġara l-ġdida?
- ☐ C Ċikku! Le!

L4) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Write the words in the right order on the line.

- 1**
-

L5) WHAT HAPPENS FIRST

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

- ☐ Hawn hi ċ-ċavetta tiegħek.
- ☐ U dan min hu?
- ☐ Iċ-ċavetta tiegħi! Saħħa, ċavetta...
- ☐ Għandi pjaċir. Jien Marija. Din id-dar tiegħi.
- ☐ Bonswa! Int il-ġara l-ġdida?

SCENE 1 • WORDS

Bonswa!

Good evening

3 Exercises • Duration: 10 min.

Arrival

Maltese

Read & listen online ↗

bonswa
good evening



ġdid
new



ġar
neighbour



għandi pjaċir
nice to meet
you



dar
house /
building



**hawn hu /
hawn hi**
here is



ċavetta
key



grazzi
thank you



jieħu
take (take hold
of)



saħħa
goodbye



tarag
stairs



merħba
welcome

Words

FROM THE SCENE

bonswa	good evening Bonswa!
ġdid	new Bonswa! Int il-ġara l-ġdida?
ġar	neighbour Bonswa! Int il-ġara l-ġdida?
iva	yes Iva. Jisimni Lena.
isem	name Iva. Jisimni Lena.
għandi pjaċir	nice to meet you Għandi pjaċir. Jien Marija. Din id-dar tiegħi.
dar	house / building Għandi pjaċir. Jien Marija. Din id-dar tiegħi.
hawn hu / hawn hi	here is Hawn hi ċ-ċavetta tiegħek.
ċavetta	key Ċikku jieħu ċ-ċavetta.
grazzi	thank you Grazzi!
dan / din	this U dan min hu?
min	who U dan min hu?
u	and U dan min hu?
le	no Ċikku! Le!
jieħu	take (take hold of) Ċikku jieħu ċ-ċavetta.
saħħa	goodbye Iċ-ċavetta tiegħi! Saħħa, ċavetta...

NEW WORDS**tarag**

stairs

The staircase: it-tarag. Fuq it-tarag: on the stairs.

merħba

welcome

Welcome! Merħba fid-dar: welcome home.

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

What does it mean?

1 isem

- ☐ A who
- ☐ B name
- ☐ C house / building

2 ġdid

- ☐ A new
- ☐ B good evening
- ☐ C thank you

3 bonswa

- ☐ A thank you
- ☐ B good evening
- ☐ C yes

4 ġar

- ☐ A neighbour
- ☐ B welcome
- ☐ C and

5 merħba

- ☐ A neighbour
- ☐ B take (take hold of)
- ☐ C welcome

6 għandi pjaċir

- ☐ A nice to meet you
- ☐ B thank you
- ☐ C here is

W2) AT THE FRONT DOOR

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

ġdida Grazzi Bonswa

_____! Int il-ġara l-_____?

Meaning: Good evening! Are you the new neighbour?

čavetta Jisimni

Iva. _____ Lena.

Meaning: Yes. My name is Lena.

tiegħi tiegħek pjačir

Għandi _____. Din id-dar _____.

Meaning: Nice to meet you. This is my house.

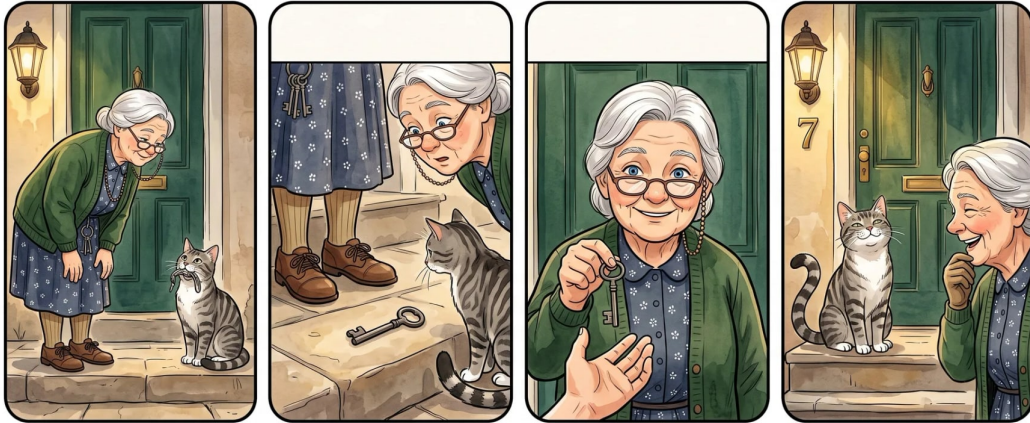
Grazzi Hawn

_____ hi ċ-ċavetta tiegħek.

Meaning: Here is your key.

W3) GOOD EVENING, ĆIKKU!

Fill the speech bubbles.



čavetta le Ćikku Hawn Grazzi dar

Marija: Bonswa, _____!

Marija: U din? Ič-_____ tiegħi?

Marija: Le. Din ič-čavetta tiegħek! _____ hi.

Lena: _____! U grazzi, Ćikku!

Meaning: 1. Good evening, Ćikku!

2. And what's this? My key?

3. No. This is your key! Here it is.

4. Thank you! And thank you, Ćikku!

SCENE 1 • GRAMMAR

Il-ġar, il-ġara, jien Marija

Who is who, and the article

7 Exercises · Duration: 20 min.

Arrival

Maltese

Read & listen online



Every Maltese noun is masculine or feminine. Most feminine nouns end in **-a**: **ċavetta**, a key, and **ġara**, a neighbour (a woman). Most nouns that end otherwise are masculine: **ġar**, a neighbour (a man), **taragħ**, the stairs, **isem**, a name. A few feminine nouns don't end in **-a**, and **dar**, a house, is one of them. Names work the same way: **Marija** and **Lena** are feminine, **Ċikku** and **Lukas** masculine. Tap a word in the tables to hear it.

MASCULINE AND FEMININE

Masculine	Feminine	Meaning
ġar	ġara	neighbour
taragħ	ċavetta	the stairs · a key
isem	dar	a name · a house
Ċikku · Lukas	Marija · Lena	

Words that describe a noun, the adjectives, come after it and take its gender: **ġdid**, new, for a masculine noun, **ġdida** for a feminine one. That is why Marija asks Lukas and Lena two different questions. **dan** and **din**, this, work the same way: **dan Ċikku**, **din id-dar**.

Int il-ġar il-ġdid?

Are you the new neighbour? (to Lukas)

Int il-ġara l-ġdida?

Are you the new neighbour? (to Lena)

Din id-dar tiegħi.

This is my house.

The article, the word for the, is **il-**, joined to its noun with a hyphen: **il-ġar**. Before a vowel it is just **l-**: **l-isem**, the name. Before the sun letters **ċ d n r s t x ż z** the l takes the sound of the next letter: **iċ-ċavetta**, **id-dar**, **it-taraġ**. After a word that ends in a vowel, the i drops: **hawn hi ċ-ċavetta**, **il-ġara l-ġdida**.

THE ARTICLE IL-

Before	Article	Example	Meaning
Most letters	il-	il-ġar	the neighbour
A vowel	l-	l-isem	the name
A sun letter	iċ-	iċ-ċavetta	the key
	id-	id-dar	the house
	it- ...	it-taraġ	the stairs
After a vowel	l-	il-ġara l-ġdida	the new neighbour
	ċ-	Hawn hi ċ-ċavetta.	Here's the key.
	d- ...		

The sun letters are **ċ d n r s t x ż z**. An adjective after the noun takes the article too: **il-ġar il-ġdid**, the new neighbour (literally the neighbour the new).

The pronouns say who: **jien**, I, **int**, you, **hu**, he, **hi**, she. They are the same for the 1st person (the speaker), the 2nd person (the one you speak to) and the 3rd person (everyone else), in the singular (one) and the plural (more than one). And in the present Maltese has no word for am, is or are: **Jien Marija**. I'm Marija. **Dan Ċikku**. This is Ċikku.

THE PRONOUNS

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	Hu mhux tiegħi.	he · she · He isn't mine.
Plural		
aħna	Aħna ġirien.	we · We're neighbours.
intom	Intom ġirien.	you · You're neighbours.
huma	Huma ġirien.	they · They're neighbours.

int is one person, **intom** several. A thing is **hu** or **hi**, like its noun: **hawn hu**, here it is, for a masculine word, **hawn hi** for a feminine one like **iċ-ċavetta**.

TIP

One person is always **int**, a child or an old lady, a friend or a stranger. Respect shows in the title: **Sinjura Marija**.

Jien Marija.

I'm Marija.

Dan Ċikku. Hu mhux tiegħi.

This is Ċikku. He isn't mine.

Aħna ġirien.

We are neighbours.

GRAMMAR**G1) FIND THE WORDS**

Underline the words for I, you, he, she, we and they.

- 1 Jien Marija, u int il-ġara l-ġdida.

Meaning: I'm Marija, and you're the new neighbour.

- 2 Dan Ċikku. Hu mhux tiegħi.

Meaning: This is Ċikku. He isn't mine.

- 3 Min int? Int Ċikku!

Meaning: Who are you? You're Ċikku!

- 4 Aħna ġirien, u huma ġirien.

Meaning: We are neighbours, and they are neighbours.

G2) THE RIGHT ARTICLE

Choose the article that fits the word.

1 Din _____ tiegħi.

- ☐ A id-dar
- ☐ B il-dar

Meaning: This is my house.

2 Hawn hi _____ tiegħek.

- ☐ A il-ċavetta
- ☐ B ċ-ċavetta

Meaning: Here is your key.

3 _____ tiegħi! Saħħa, ċavetta...

- ☐ A lċ-ċavetta
- ☐ B Il-ċavetta

Meaning: My key! Goodbye, key...

4 Dan _____.

- ☐ A il-taraġ
- ☐ B it-taraġ

Meaning: These are the stairs.

5 _____ tiegħi Marija.

- ☐ A Il-isem
- ☐ B L-isem

Meaning: My name is Marija.

6 Dan _____ il-ġdid.

- ☐ A iġ-ġar
- ☐ B il-ġar

Meaning: This is the new neighbour.

G3) MASCULINE OR FEMININE?

Choose the form that fits the noun.

1 Int il-ġar il-_____?

- ☐ A ġdida
- ☐ B ġdid

Meaning: Are you the new neighbour (a man)?

2 Int il-ġara l-_____?

- ☐ A ġdid
- ☐ B ġdida

Meaning: Are you the new neighbour (a woman)?

3 Din iċ-ċavetta l-_____.

- ☐ A ġdid
- ☐ B ġdida

Meaning: This is the new key.

4 _____ id-dar tiegħi.

- ☐ A Din
- ☐ B Dan

Meaning: This is my house.

5 _____ Ċikku.

- ☐ A Dan
- ☐ B Din

Meaning: This is Ċikku.

6 Hawn hi ċ-ċavetta _____.

- ☐ A l-ġdid
- ☐ B l-ġdida

Meaning: Here is the new key.

7 Marija hi l-_____ tiegħi.

- ☐ A ġar
- ☐ B ġara

Meaning: Marija is my neighbour.

8 Din _____ ġdida.

- ☐ A taraġ
- ☐ B ċavetta

Meaning: This is a new key.

9 Din _____.

- ☐ A Ċikku
- ☐ B Marija

Meaning: This is Marija.

10 Din _____.

- ☐ A Lena
- ☐ B Lukas

Meaning: This is Lena.

G4) THE KEY, THE HOUSE, THE STAIRS

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

ġar ġara

Jien Marija, il-_____ tiegħek.

Meaning: I'm Marija, your neighbour.

Il-ġar L-isem

_____ tiegħi Marija.

Meaning: My name is Marija.

iċ-ċavetta it-taraġ id-dar

Dan _____, u din _____.

Meaning: These are the stairs, and this is the house.

ċavetta Id-dar Iċ-ċavetta

_____ tiegħi! Saħħa, _____...

Meaning: My key! Goodbye, key...

G5) WHO IS WHO?

Match the pairs.

① hu

Ⓐ they

② intom

Ⓑ you (several people)

③ huma

Ⓒ you (one person)

④ hi

Ⓓ he (or it)

⑤ jien

Ⓔ she (or it)

⑥ int

Ⓕ I

⑦ aħna

Ⓖ we

G6) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

- 1 din Jien id-dar u tiegħi. Marija,

Meaning: I'm Marija, and this is my house.

- 2 Int il-ġara l-ġdida?

Meaning: Are you the new neighbour?

- 3 u tiegħi ċ-ċavetta tiegħi. id-dar Din

Meaning: This is my house and my key.

- 4 hu mhux u Dan Ċikku, tiegħi.

Meaning: This is Ċikku, and he isn't mine.

G7) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 An old woman at the door asks if you are the new neighbour. Say yes, and give your name. You say:**

- ☐ A Le. Din id-dar tiegħi.
- ☐ B Saħħa!
- ☐ C Iva. Jisimni Lena.

- 2 The landlady hands you your key. You say:**

- ☐ A Grazzi!
- ☐ B Min hu?
- ☐ C Bonswa!

- 3 A grey cat walks in. Ask who this is. You say:**

- ☐ A Għandi pjaċir.
- ☐ B U dan min hu?
- ☐ C Hawn hi ċ-ċavetta tiegħek.

4 Marija tells you who the cat is, and that he isn't hers. Marija says:

- ☐ A Dan Ċikku. Mhux tiegħi.
- ☐ B Dan Ċikku. Hu tiegħi.
- ☐ C Din Ċikku. Mhux tiegħi.