

Estonian in everyday situations

Module 6: Around town

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Around town

Estonian

Read & listen online 



Jaama, jaamas, jaamast

Form	Example	Meaning
jaama	Ma lähen jaama.	I go to the station.
jaamas	Ma olen jaamas.	I am at the station.
jaamast	Ma tulen jaamast.	I come from the station.
koju	Ma lähen koju.	I go home.
kodus	Ma olen kodus.	I am at home.
kodust	Ma tulen kodust.	I come from home.

Estonian has three inside-location cases. Illative means into or to: **jaama**, or the longer **jaamasse**. Inessive means at/in: **jaamas**. Elative means from/out of: **jaamast**. Other useful sets: **tuppa/toas/toast**, **koju/kodus/kodust**, **Tallinna/Tallinnas/Tallinnast**.

Direction words are **vasakule**, **paremale**, **otse**. Names of places have their own usual cases: **Saksamaal/Saksamaale/Saksamaalt** uses the outside set. Learning a place with to/at/from avoids a literal English preposition translation.

Kilo õunu, pudel piima

Form	Example	Meaning
õunu	Kilo õunu.	A kilo of apples.
kartuleid	Kaks kilo kartuleid.	Two kilos of potatoes.
juustu	Pool kilo juustu.	Half a kilo of cheese.
piima	Pudel piima.	A bottle of milk.
kooki	Tükk kooki.	A piece of cake.
abi	Mul on abi vaja.	I need help.

Use a partitive after a measure: **kilo õunu, kaks kilo kartuleid, pool kilo juustu, pudel piima, tükk kooki**. Separate countable items often use partitive plural; substances use partitive singular.

A noun's partitive plural is not always nominative plural plus an ending: **õunad/õunu, kartulid/kartuleid, tomatid/tomateid**. A need is **mul on ... vaja**, with the needed noun in partitive: **mul on piima vaja**.

Rongiga, bussiga, jala

Form	Example	Meaning
rongiga	Ma sõidan rongiga.	I travel by train.
bussiga	Ma sõidan bussiga.	I travel by bus.
jala	Ma lähen jala.	I go on foot.
rongis	Ma olen rongis.	I am on the train.
piletit	Kaks edasi-tagasi piletit.	Two return tickets.
tühistatud	Rong on tühistatud.	The train is cancelled.

Transport normally uses comitative: **rongiga, bussiga, autoga, jalgrattaga**. Walking is the fixed word **jala**. A location inside a train instead uses **rongis**.

An exact digital time can name the hour then the minutes: **kell üheksa kaksteist, kell seitseteist nelikümmend**. A ticket is **ühe otsa** or **edasi-tagasi**. Learn **rong on tühistatud** as an announcement chunk; the participle is not a gender form.

Saan, võin, oskan

Person	saama	Meaning
mina	saan	I — can
sina	saad	you, familiar singular — can
tema	saab	he/she — can
meie	saame	we — can
teie	saate	you, plural/polite — can
nemad	saavad	they — can

Saama means can or be able in context: **saan, saad, saab, saame, saate, saavad**. **Võima** often gives permission or possibility: **võin, võid, võib, võime, võite, võivad**. Both take the **da** infinitive: **saan aidata, võin tulla**.

A learned skill uses **oskama**: **oskan ujuda**. **Teadma** is facts, **tundma** is people, and **oskama** is know how. The same English can does not require one Estonian verb in every situation.

Lauale, laual, laualt

Form	Example	Meaning
lauale	Ma panen võtme lauale.	I put the key on the table.
lual	Võti on lual.	The key is on the table.
lualt	Ma võtan võtme lualt.	I take the key from the table.
toolil	Muri istub toolil.	Muri is sitting on the chair.
Jaanil	Jaanil on võti.	Jaan has a key.
vahel	Postkontor on panga ja apteegi vahel.	The post office is between the bank and pharmacy.

The outside-location set uses allative **-le**, adessive **-l** and ablative **-lt** on the genitive stem: **lauale/lual/lualt**, **toolile/toolil/toolilt**. The adessive also expresses a possessor: **Jaanil on võti**.

Postpositions can express motion or location too: **laua peale** to the top, **laua peal** on top, **laua pealt** from the top. **Panga ja apteegi vahel** means between the bank and pharmacy; both preceding nouns are genitive. **Rääkis mulle** and **joonistasin** are explained completed-past chunks in the map conversation.

GRAMMAR**G1) NOTICE THE USEFUL PATTERN**

Underline the form practised in this unit.

- 1 Mina olen Lukas. Ma olen kodus.

Meaning: I am Lukas. I am at home.

- 2 Mina olen Lena. Ma olen kodus.

Meaning: I am Lena. I am at home.

- 3 Mina olen Lukas. Tükk kooki.

Meaning: I am Lukas. A piece of cake.

- 4 Mina olen Lena. Tükk kooki.

Meaning: I am Lena. A piece of cake.

- 5 Mina olen Lukas. Kaks edasi-tagasi piletit.

Meaning: I am Lukas. Two return tickets.

- 6 Mina olen Lena. Kaks edasi-tagasi piletit.

Meaning: I am Lena. Two return tickets.

- 7 Mina olen Lukas. Te saate tulla.

Meaning: I am Lukas. You can come, polite/plural.

- 8 Mina olen Lena. Te saate tulla.

Meaning: I am Lena. You can come, polite/plural.

G2) MIXED PERSON FORMS 1

Choose the right word for the gap.

- 1 Ma _____ aidata.

- ☐ A saad
☐ B saan
☐ C saab

Meaning: I can help.

2 Sa _____ aidata.

- ☐ A saab
- ☐ B saad
- ☐ C saan

Meaning: You (familiar singular) can help.

3 Ta _____ aidata.

- ☐ A saan
- ☐ B saab
- ☐ C saad

Meaning: He/she can help.

4 Me _____ aidata.

- ☐ A saan
- ☐ B saame
- ☐ C saad

Meaning: We can help.

5 Te _____ aidata.

- ☐ A saad
- ☐ B saate
- ☐ C saan

Meaning: You (polite/plural) can help.

6 Nad _____ aidata.

- ☐ A saan
- ☐ B saavad
- ☐ C saad

Meaning: They can help.

G3) RECALL THE PERSON FORMS 1

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

saame saan saad saab

Ma _____ aidata.

Meaning: I can help.

saame saab saan saad

Sa _____ aidata.

Meaning: You (familiar singular) can help.

saab saad saame saan

Ta _____ aidata.

Meaning: He/she can help.

saad saan saab saame

Me _____ aidata.

Meaning: We can help.

saab saate saad saan

Te _____ aidata.

Meaning: You (polite/plural) can help.

saan saad saab saavad

Nad _____ aidata.

Meaning: They can help.

G4) BUILD A SENTENCE

Put the words in order.

1 kodus. Lukas. Mina olen Ma olen

Meaning: I am Lukas. I am at home.

2 Lena. Ma olen olen Mina kodus.

Meaning: I am Lena. I am at home.

3 kooki. Tükk Mina Lukas. olen

Meaning: I am Lukas. A piece of cake.

4 Tükk Lena. olen Mina kooki.

Meaning: I am Lena. A piece of cake.

5 Kaks olen Mina piletit. edasi-tagasi Lukas.

Meaning: I am Lukas. Two return tickets.

6 olen piletit. edasi-tagasi Kaks Mina Lena.

Meaning: I am Lena. Two return tickets.

7 Mina tulla. Te olen Lukas. saate

Meaning: I am Lukas. You can come, polite/plural.

8 Mina Lena. olen saate tulla. Te

Meaning: I am Lena. You can come, polite/plural.

9 Mina Lukas. Jaanil olen võti. on

Meaning: I am Lukas. Jaan has a key.

- 10 Mina olen on Jaanil Lena. võti.

Meaning: I am Lena. Jaan has a key.

- 11 jaama. lähen Ma

Meaning: I go to the station.

G5) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 Lukas: I am Lukas/Lena. I am at home. You say:

- ☐ A Mina olen Lukas. Ma olen kodus.
☐ B Mina olen Lukas. Ma olen koju.

- 2 Lena: I am Lukas/Lena. I am at home. You say:

- ☐ A Mina olen Lena. Ma olen koju.
☐ B Mina olen Lena. Ma olen kodus.

3 Lukas: I am Lukas/Lena. A piece of cake. You say:

- ☐ A Mina olen Lukas. Tükk kooki.
- ☐ B Mina olen Lukas. Tükk kook.

4 Lena: I am Lukas/Lena. A piece of cake. You say:

- ☐ A Mina olen Lena. Tükk kooki.
- ☐ B Mina olen Lena. Tükk kook.

5 Lukas: I am Lukas/Lena. Two return tickets. You say:

- ☐ A Mina olen Lukas. Kaks edasi-tagasi piletit.
- ☐ B Mina olen Lukas. Kaks edasi-tagasi piletid.

6 Lena: I am Lukas/Lena. Two return tickets. You say:

- ☐ A Mina olen Lena. Kaks edasi-tagasi piletid.
- ☐ B Mina olen Lena. Kaks edasi-tagasi piletit.

7 Lukas: I am Lukas/Lena. You can come, polite/plural. You say:

- ☐ A Mina olen Lukas. Te saan tulla.
- ☐ B Mina olen Lukas. Te saate tulla.

8 Lena: I am Lukas/Lena. You can come, polite/plural. You say:

- ☐ A Mina olen Lena. Te saate tulla.
- ☐ B Mina olen Lena. Te saan tulla.

G6) CONNECT MESSAGES AND MEANINGS

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ① Ma lähen jaama. | Ⓐ I travel by train. |
| ② Kilo õunu. | Ⓑ I am Lena. Jaan has a key. |
| ③ Mina olen Lena. Ma olen kodus. | Ⓒ I am Lena. Two return tickets. |
| ④ Mina olen Lena. Te saate tulla. | Ⓓ I am Lena. I am at home. |
| ⑤ Mina olen Lena. Jaanil on võti. | Ⓔ I am Lena. A piece of cake. |
| ⑥ Mina olen Lena. Kaks edasi-tagasi piletit. | Ⓕ I am Lena. You can come, polite/plural. |
| ⑦ Mina olen Lena. Tükk kooki. | Ⓖ A kilo of apples. |
| ⑧ Ma sõidan rongiga. | Ⓗ I go to the station. |