

Regoli għall-qattus tal-uffiċċju

Friday, 16:00: cat check. Ċikku has come to work every day since Wednesday. Tonio has written a notice for the kitchen wall.

131 Words · 5 Exercises · Duration: 15 min.

The first week at work

Maltese

Read & listen online



LEARNING GOAL

I can read a short notice and write a short message to colleagues.

Tonio = ■ Lena (Lukas) = O

Friday afternoon. Tonio stands by the office kitchen with a sheet of paper.

■ Il-Ġimgha, sittax zero zero. Kontroll tal-qtates.

- Ċikku hawn. Mill-Erbgħa jiġi kull ġurnata.

He looks at you over his glasses.

- U qatt ma jiġi tard. Mhux bħal xi ħadd...

- Hawn hu l-avviż tiegħi. Huwa għall-ħajt tal-kċina.

You read it aloud.

- "Regoli għall-qattus tal-uffiċċju. L-ewwel: ejja fid-disgħa. It-tieni: kul fit-tnax u fil-ħamsa."

- "It-tielet: toqgħodx fuq il-kompjuters. Ir-raba': qatt, qatt fuq il-printer!"

He looks at Ċikku, who is fast asleep on the printer.

- Ir-raba' regola importanti ħafna.

- Kemm-il darba jiekol? Spiss?

- Mhux spiss. Darbtejn kuljum biss.

- U x'jagħmel wara nofsinhar?

- Xejn. Jorqod, bħalek.

- Jien ma norqodx! Jien naħdem!

- Issa ikteb messaġġ lil kulħadd, jekk jogħġbok.

You type the message.

○ "Hello lil kulħadd! Issa hawn qattus fl-uffiċċju. Jekk jogħġbok, aqraw ir-regoli fuq il-ħajt tal-kċina. U tibżgħux!"

■ Tajjeb. U hemm ukoll is-seba' regola.

○ Is-seba'? U l-ħames u s-sitt?

■ Għad m'hemm xejn. Is-seba': kull nhar ta' Ġimgħa, il-qattus joqgħod fuq is-siġġu tiegħi.

○ Fuq is-siġġu tiegħek?

Ĉikku is already on his chair. Tonio strokes him, carefully, with one finger.

■ Iva. U llum il-Ġimgħa. Imma tgħidx lil ħadd!

Tonio jaħdem fuq l-iskrivanija tiegħek, għax fuq is-siġġu tiegħu qed jorqod Ĉikku. Fuq il-ħajt tal-kċina hemm ir-regoli, u taħthom is-seba' regola, miktuba bl-idejn.

Vocabulary

DOING THINGS • AZZJONIJIET

jikteb

write

Ikteb ismek hawn: write your name here.

SMALL WORDS • KLIEM ŻGħIR

spiss

often

Also: ta' spiss.

HERE AND THERE • HAWN U HEMM

minn

since

The word for from: mill-Erbgħa, since Wednesday. With the article: mill-, mit-, mid-.

EVERYDAY THINGS · AFFARIJET TA' KULJUM**avviż**

notice

messagġ

message

DATES AND EVENTS · DATI U OKKAŻJONIJIET**darba**

times (three times a day)

Once: darba; twice: darbtejn; three times: tliet darbiet. A day: kuljum (darbtejn kuljum).

wara nofsinhar

afternoon

Literally after noon. In the afternoon: wara nofsinhar, with no preposition.

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

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

1 Xejn. Jorqod, bħalek.☐ A Tonio☐ B Lena

L2) WHAT DOES IT MEAN

Tick the right English meaning.

1 Iva. U llum il-Ġimgħa. Imma tgħidx lil ħadd!

- ☐ A Yes. And today is Friday. But don't tell anyone!
- ☐ B Not often. Only twice a day.
- ☐ C 'Three: don't sit on the computers. Four: never, ever on the printer!'

L3) HOW DO YOU SAY IT

Tick the right Maltese sentence.

1 How many times does he eat? Often?

- ☐ A Issa ikteb messaġġ lil kulħadd, jekk jogħġbok.
- ☐ B Kemm-il darba jiekol? Spiss?
- ☐ C U x'jagħmel wara nofsinhar?

L4) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Write the words in the right order on the line.

- 1 jogħġbok. Issa lil jekk iktib messaġġ kulħadd,

L5) WHAT HAPPENS FIRST

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

- ☐ U x'jagħmel wara nofsinhar?
- ☐ Ċikku hawn. Mill-Erbgħa jiġi kull ġurnata.
- ☐ Ir-raba' regola importanti ħafna.
- ☐ Fuq is-siġġu tiegħek?
- ☐ Issa iktib messaġġ lil kulħadd, jekk jogħġbok.

Regoli għall-qattus tal-uffiċċju

The office cat's rules

4 Exercises • Duration: 10 min.

The first week at work

Maltese

Read & listen online



minn
since



avviż
notice



darba
times (three
times a day)



wara nofsinhar
afternoon



jikteb
write



messagg
message

Words

minn

since

Çikku hawn. Mill-Erbgħa jiġi kull ġurnata.

avviż

notice

Hawn hu l-avviż tiegħi. Huwa għall-ħajt tal-kċina.

spiss

often

Kemm-il darba jiekol? Spiss?

darba	times (three times a day) Kemml-il darba jiekol? Spiss?
wara nofsinhar	afternoon U x'jagħmel wara nofsinhar?
jikteb	write Issa ikteb messaġġ lil kulħadd, jekk jogħġbok.
messaġġ	message Issa ikteb messaġġ lil kulħadd, jekk jogħġbok.

VOCABULARY & COMMUNICATION

W1) WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

What does it mean?

1 **darba**

- ☐ A times (three times a day)
- ☐ B curly
- ☐ C evening

2 **jikteb**

- ☐ A granddaughter
- ☐ B red
- ☐ C write

3 minn

- ☐ A milk
- ☐ B since
- ☐ C soup

4 messagg

- ☐ A egg
- ☐ B sixteen
- ☐ C message

5 spiss

- ☐ A rule
- ☐ B often
- ☐ C hair (on the head)

6 wara nofsinhar

- ☐ A Mrs (polite, before a woman's name)
- ☐ B why
- ☐ C afternoon

W2) CAT CHECK

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

avviż messagġ

Hawn hu l-_____ tiegħi. Huwa għall-ħajt tal-kċina.

Meaning: Here's my notice. It's for the kitchen wall.

darba Spiss regola

Kemm-il _____ jiekol? _____?

Meaning: How many times does he eat? Often?

kuljum darba

Mhux spiss. Darbtejn _____ biss.

Meaning: Not often. Only twice a day.

nofsinhar nofsillejl

U x'jagħmel wara _____?

Meaning: And what does he do in the afternoon?

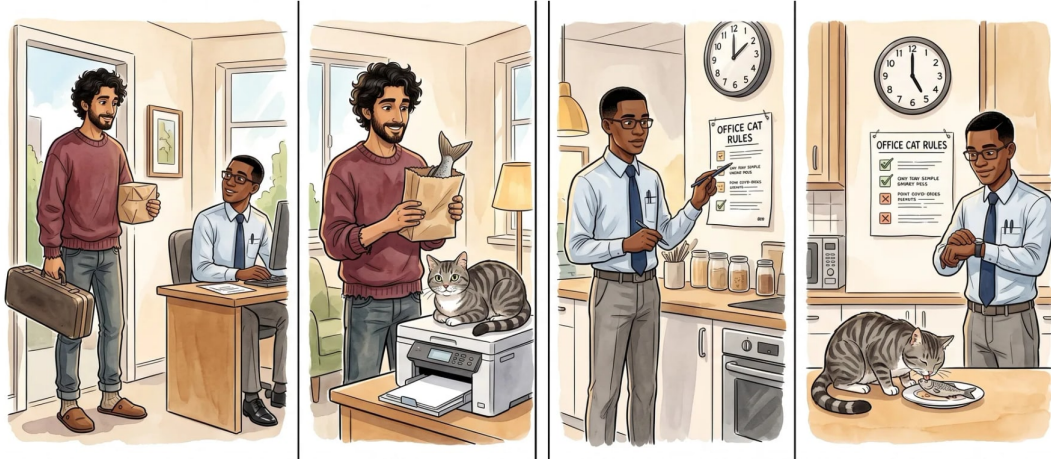
ħadd kulħadd messaġġ

Issa iktib _____ lil _____, jekk jogħġbok.

Meaning: Now write a message to everyone, please.

W3) ĠORĠ AT THE OFFICE

Fill the speech bubbles.



ħut fit-tnax Min avviż regola ħamsa

Tonio: Iva? _____ int, jekk jogħġbok?

Ġorġ: Jien Ġorġ, min-numru sebgħa. Dan _____ għal Ċikku.

Tonio: It-tieni _____: il-qattus jiekol fit-tnax u fil-ħamsa.

Ġorġ: Tajjeb! U issa diġà l-_____.

Meaning: 1. Yes? Who are you, please?

2. I'm Ġorġ, from number 7. This is fish for Ċikku.

3. Rule two: the cat eats at twelve and at five.

4. Right! And it's already five.

W4) NOTICES AND MESSAGES

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 avvż | A a message |
| 2 wara nofsinhar | B everyone |
| 3 ħadd | C a rule |
| 4 messaġġ | D a notice |
| 5 spiss | E nobody |
| 6 xejn | F in the afternoon |
| 7 regola | G nothing |
| 8 kulħadd | H often |

Toqgħodx! Tibżgħux! Xejn, ħadd

Don't, and nothing, nobody, never

8 Exercises · Duration: 25 min.

The first week at work

Maltese

Read & listen online



To tell someone not to do something, Maltese does not use the imperative. It takes the present tense of **int**, you, and adds **-x**, the same **-x** as in **ma nafx: toqgħod**, you sit, **toqgħodx!**, don't sit! · **tgħid**, you say, **tgħidx!**, don't say it! A **ma** may go in front, but is usually left out: **(ma) tmurx!**, don't go!

The last vowel often changes before the **-x**, as it does in **naħdem**, **ma naħdimx: tikteb, tiktibx!** · **tħares, tħarisx!** · **tieġu, tiġux!** To several people, take the present of **intom** and add **-x** to its **-u**: **tibżgħu**, you are afraid, **tibżgħux!**, don't be afraid! After a vowel it is **-wx**: **taqraw, taqrawx!**

DON'T!

Present	Don't!	To several	Meaning
toqgħod	toqgħodx!	toqogħdux!	you sit · don't sit!
tgħid	tgħidx!	tgħidux!	you say · don't say it!
tikteb	tiktibx!	tiktbox!	you write · don't write!
tħares	tħarisx!	tħarsux!	you look · don't look!
taqra	taqrax!	taqrawx!	you read · don't read!
tibża'	tibżax!	tibżgħux!	you're afraid · don't be afraid!

Present	Don't!	To several	Meaning
tieħu	tiħux!	tiħdux!	you take · don't take it!
tiġi	tiġix!	tiġux!	you come · don't come!
tmur	tmurx!	tmorrux!	you go · don't go!
torqod	torqodx!	torqdux!	you sleep · don't sleep!

Because don't is built on the present, the **t-** comes back: **oqgħod!**, sit!, but **toqgħodx!**, don't sit! · **ejja!**, come!, but **tiġix!**, don't come! In **tibżax** the ' at the end, a silent **għ**, drops before the **-x**, and comes back in **tibżgħux**.

It-tielet: toqgħodx fuq il-kompjuters.

Three: don't sit on the computers.

Jekk jogħġbok, aqraw ir-regoli. U tibżgħux!

Please read the rules. And don't be afraid!

Ĉikku, tiħux il-ġurdien tiegħi!

Ĉikku, don't take my mouse!

U għada tiġix tard!

And don't be late tomorrow!

Xejn, nothing, **ħadd**, nobody, and **qatt**, never, make a sentence negative with **ma**, and then the verb has no **-x**: **ma nafx**, I don't know, but **ma naf xejn**, I know nothing · **ħadd ma jaf**, nobody knows · **qatt ma jiġi tard**, he's never late. Alone, each is a whole answer: **X'jagħmel? Xejn**. What does he do? Nothing.

NOTHING, NOBODY, NEVER

Word	Example	Meaning
xejn	Ma naf xejn.	nothing · I know nothing.
ħadd	Ħadd ma jaf.	nobody · Nobody knows.
qatt	Qatt ma jiġi tard.	never · He's never late.

Where English says not ... anything or not ... anyone, Maltese says nothing and nobody. A don't keeps its **-x** even then, because it has no **ma**: **Tgħidx lil ħadd!** Don't tell anyone!, literally don't tell nobody.

THE -X, WITH AND WITHOUT XEJN AND ĦADD

With -x	With xejn, ħadd, qatt	Meaning
Ma nafx.	Ma naf xejn.	I don't know. · I know nothing.
M'hemmx qattus.	M'hemm xejn.	There's no cat. · There's nothing.
Ma jiġix.	Qatt ma jiġi.	He isn't coming. · He never comes.
Tgħidx!	Tgħidx lil ħadd!	Don't say it! · Don't tell anyone!

M'hemmx loses its **-x** before **xejn**: **Għad m'hemm xejn.** There's nothing there yet.

U qatt ma jiġi tard. Mhux bħal xi ħadd...

And he's never late. Not like somebody...

Xejn. Jorqod, bħalek.

Nothing. He sleeps, like you.

Għad m'hemm xejn.

There's nothing there yet.

Imma tgħidx lil ħadd!

But don't tell anyone!

GRAMMAR

G1) FIND THE WORDS

Underline the words that say don't, nothing, nobody and never.

- 1 It-tielet: toqgħodx fuq il-kompjuters.

Meaning: Three: don't sit on the computers.

- 2 Jekk jogħġbok, aqraw ir-regoli. U tibżgħux!

Meaning: Please read the rules. And don't be afraid!

- 3 Imma tgħidx lil ħadd!

Meaning: But don't tell anyone!

- 4 U qatt ma jiġi tard.

Meaning: And he's never late.

- 5 Xejn. Jorqod, bħalek.

Meaning: Nothing. He sleeps, like you.

- 6 Għad m'hemm xejn.

Meaning: There's nothing there yet.

- 7 Ċikku, torqodx fuq il-printer!

Meaning: Ċikku, don't sleep on the printer!

- 8 Ella, Ġorġ: tmorrux! Ċikku ġej!

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ: don't go! Ċikku is coming!

G2) DON'T!

Choose the form that says don't, to one person (or one cat).

- 1 Ċikku, _____ fuq il-kompjuter!

- (A) toqgħodx
- (B) toqgħod
- (C) oqgħod

Meaning: Ċikku, don't sit on the computer!

2 Imma _____ lil ħadd!

- ☐ A tgħidx
- ☐ B tgħid
- ☐ C għid

Meaning: But don't tell anyone!

3 _____ fuq l-avviż tiegħi, jekk jogħġbok!

- ☐ A Tiktbox
- ☐ B Tiktibx
- ☐ C Ikteb

Meaning: Don't write on my notice, please!

4 Sur Tonio, _____! Ċikku fuq is-siġġu tiegħek.

- ☐ A ħares
- ☐ B tħaresx
- ☐ C tħarisx

Meaning: Mr Tonio, don't look! Ċikku is on your chair.

5 _____ il-messaġġ tiegħi!

- ☐ A Aqra
- ☐ B Taqrax
- ☐ C Taqrawx

Meaning: Don't read my message!

6 Sur Tonio, _____! Ċikku mhux ħażin.

- ☐ A tibżgħux
- ☐ B tibżax
- ☐ C tibża'

Meaning: Mr Tonio, don't be afraid! Ċikku isn't bad.

7 Ċikku, _____ il-ġurdien tiegħi!

- ☐ A tieħux
- ☐ B ħu
- ☐ C tiħux

Meaning: Ċikku, don't take my mouse!

8 U għada _____ tard!

- ☐ A tigi
- ☐ B ejja
- ☐ C tigix

Meaning: And don't be late tomorrow!

9 Ċikku, _____ fil-kċina!

- ☐ A mur
- ☐ B tmorrux
- ☐ C tmurx

Meaning: Ċikku, don't go into the kitchen!

10 Ċikku, _____ fuq il-printer!

- ☐ A torqodx
- ☐ B torqdux
- ☐ C orqod

Meaning: Ċikku, don't sleep on the printer!

G3) DON'T, ALL OF YOU!

Now to several people: -ux.

1 Hello lil kulħadd! U _____!

- ☐ A tibżgħu
- ☐ B tibżax
- ☐ C tibżgħux

Meaning: Hello, everyone! And don't be afraid!

2 Ella, Ġorġ: _____ fuq is-sigġu tiegħi!

- ☐ A toqogħdux
- ☐ B oqogħdu
- ☐ C toqgħodx

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ: don't sit on my chair!

3 Ella, Ġorġ: _____ lil ħadd!

- ☐ A tgħidx
- ☐ B għidu
- ☐ C tgħidux

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ: don't tell anyone!

4 Kulħadd: _____ fuq il-ħajt!

- ☐ A iktbu
- ☐ B tiktbox
- ☐ C tiktibx

Meaning: Everyone: don't write on the wall!

5 Ella, Ġorġ: _____! Ċikku qed jiekol.

- ☐ A ħarsu
- ☐ B tħarisx
- ☐ C tħarsux

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ: don't look! Ċikku is eating.

6 Ella u Ġorġ, _____ il-messaġġ tiegħi!

- ☐ A taqrax
- ☐ B aqraw
- ☐ C taqrawx

Meaning: Ella and Ġorġ, don't read my message!

7 Ella, Ġorġ: _____ il-kejk kollu!

- ☐ A tiħdux
- ☐ B tiħux
- ☐ C ħudu

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ: don't take all the cake!

8 Ġorġ u Lina, _____ tard għada!

- ☐ A tiġux
- ☐ B tiġix
- ☐ C ejjew

Meaning: Ġorġ and Lina, don't be late tomorrow!

9 Ella, Ġorġ, _____! Il-kejk ġej!

- ☐ A tmorrux
- ☐ B morru
- ☐ C tmurx

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ, don't go! The cake is coming!

10 Ġorġ, Ella: _____ fuq is-sufan!

- ☐ A torqodx
- ☐ B orqdu
- ☐ C torqdux

Meaning: Ġorġ, Ella: don't sleep on the sofa!

G4) NOTHING, NOBODY, NEVER

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 X'jagħmel wara nofsinhar? _____.

- ☐ A Xejn
- ☐ B Qatt
- ☐ C Ħadd

Meaning: What does he do in the afternoon? Nothing.

2 Min jaf fejn hi ċ-ċavetta? _____ ma jaf.

- ☐ A Qatt
- ☐ B Xejn
- ☐ C Ħadd

Meaning: Who knows where the key is? Nobody knows.

3 Ċikku _____ ma jiġi tard.

- ☐ A qatt
- ☐ B ħadd
- ☐ C dejjem

Meaning: Ċikku is never late.

4 Il-frigġ tiegħi vojta. M'hemm _____.

- ☐ A xejn
- ☐ B qatt
- ☐ C ħadd

Meaning: My fridge is empty. There's nothing.

5 Tgħidx lil _____!

- ☐ A qatt
- ☐ B xejn
- ☐ C ħadd

Meaning: Don't tell anyone!

6 Taf fejn hu Ċikku? Le, ma _____.

- ☐ A naf
- ☐ B jafx
- ☐ C nafx

Meaning: Do you know where Ċikku is? No, I don't know.

7 Le, ma _____ xejn!

- ☐ A nafx
- ☐ B naf

Meaning: No, I know nothing!

8 Fejn hu l-qattus? _____ qattus hawn!

- ☐ A M'hemmx
- ☐ B M'hemm
- ☐ C Mhux

Meaning: Where's the cat? There's no cat here!

9 Ġorġ? Illum ma _____.

- ☐ A jiġi
- ☐ B jiġix
- ☐ C tiġix

Meaning: Ġorġ? He isn't coming today.

10 Ċikku _____ ma jaqra.

- ☐ A ħadd
- ☐ B qatt
- ☐ C qed

Meaning: Ċikku never reads.

G5) TONIO'S NOTICE

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

kul tiekolx

L-ewwel: ejja fid-disgħa. It-tieni: _____ fit-tnax u fil-ħamsa.

Meaning: One: come at nine. Two: eat at twelve and at five.

toqgħodx oqgħod

It-tielet: _____ fuq il-kompjuters.

Meaning: Three: don't sit on the computers.

qatt xejn

Ir-raba': _____, qatt fuq il-printer!

Meaning: Four: never, ever on the printer!

tibżax Aqraw tibżgħux Taqrawx

Hello lil kulħadd! _____ ir-regoli, u _____!

Meaning: Hello, everyone! Read the rules, and don't be afraid!

xejn ħadd

Il-ħames u s-sitt? Għad m'hemm _____.

Meaning: The fifth and the sixth? There's nothing there yet.

xejn ħadd għid tgħidx

Is-seba': il-Ġimgħa l-qattus joqgħod fuq is-sigġu tiegħi. Imma

_____ lil _____!

Meaning: Seven: on Friday the cat sits on my chair. But don't tell anyone!

G6) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

- 1 kulħadd! Ħello tibżgħux! lil U

Meaning: Hello, everyone! And don't be afraid!

- 2 is-sigġu Ġorġ: Ella, toqogħdux fuq tiegħi!

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ: don't sit on my chair!

3 jekk jogħġbok! ħadd, lil Tgħidux

Meaning: Don't tell anyone, please! (to several people)

4 tiktbox il-ħajt fuq tal-kċina! Kulħadd,

Meaning: Everyone, don't write on the kitchen wall!

5 Ċikku Ella, tħarsux! jiekol. Ġorġ, qed

Meaning: Ella, Ġorġ, don't look! Ċikku is eating.

6 il-messaġġ Taqrawx tiegħi!

Meaning: Don't read my message! (to several people)

7 Tiħdux kollu! il-kejk

Meaning: Don't take all the cake! (to several people)

8 tiġux tard! Għada

Meaning: Don't be late tomorrow! (to several people)

9 Qtates fl-uffiċċju? għad Le, m'hemmx.

Meaning: Cats in the office? No, not yet.

10 Ġorġ, is-sufan! fuq torqdux Ella:

Meaning: Ġorġ, Ella: don't sleep on the sofa!

G7) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

1 Ċikku is about to sit on Tonio's computer. Tell him not to. You say:

- ☐ A Ċikku, toqogħdux fuq il-kompjuter!
- ☐ B Ċikku, oqgħod fuq il-kompjuter!
- ☐ C Ċikku, toqgħodx fuq il-kompjuter!

2 Tonio asks you to keep the seventh rule a secret. Tonio says:

- ☐ A Għid lil kulħadd!
- ☐ B Tgħidx lil ħadd!
- ☐ C Tgħid lil ħadd!

3 Tonio is scared of Ċikku. Tell him not to be afraid. You say:

- ☐ A Sur Tonio, tibża'!
- ☐ B Sur Tonio, tibżgħux!
- ☐ C Sur Tonio, tibzax!

4 Ċikku has Tonio's mouse again. Tonio tells him not to take it.

Tonio says:

- ☐ A Ċikku, ħu l-ġurdien!
- ☐ B Ċikku, tiħux il-ġurdien!
- ☐ C Ċikku, tieħu l-ġurdien!

5 Tonio tells you not to be late tomorrow. Tonio says:

- ☐ A U għada ejja tard!
- ☐ B U għada tiġi tard!
- ☐ C U għada tiġix tard!

6 Ċikku has found Tonio's pen. Tell him not to write on the notice.

You say:

- ☐ A Ċikku, tiktibx fuq l-avviż!
- ☐ B Ċikku, ikteb fuq l-avviż!
- ☐ C Ċikku, tikteb fuq l-avviż!

7 Lina asks what Ċikku does in the afternoon. You say:

- ☐ A Ħadd. Jorqod.
- ☐ B Xejn. Jorqod.
- ☐ C Qatt. Jorqod.

8 Marija asks who knows where her key is. Nobody does. You say:

- ☐ A Ħadd ma jaf.
- ☐ B Xejn ma jaf.
- ☐ C Ħadd jaf.

9 Ella asks where Ċikku is. You don't know. You say:

- ☐ A Ma naf.
- ☐ B Mhux naf.
- ☐ C Ma nafx.

10 Tonio asks if Ċikku is coming today. He isn't. You say:

- ☐ A Le, illum ma jiġi.
- ☐ B Le, illum ma jiġix.
- ☐ C Le, illum tiġix.

G8) DON'T!

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| ① Taqrax! | Ⓐ Don't be late! |
| ② Toqgħodx! | Ⓑ Don't look! |
| ③ Tiġix tard! | Ⓒ Don't say it! |
| ④ Tmurx! | Ⓓ Don't go! |
| ⑤ Torqodx! | Ⓔ Don't sit! |
| ⑥ Tibżax! | Ⓕ Don't read it! |
| ⑦ Tgħidx! | Ⓖ Don't be afraid! |
| ⑧ Tħarix! | Ⓗ Don't sleep! |