

SCENE 18 • NUMBER 7

Telefonata minn Hamburg

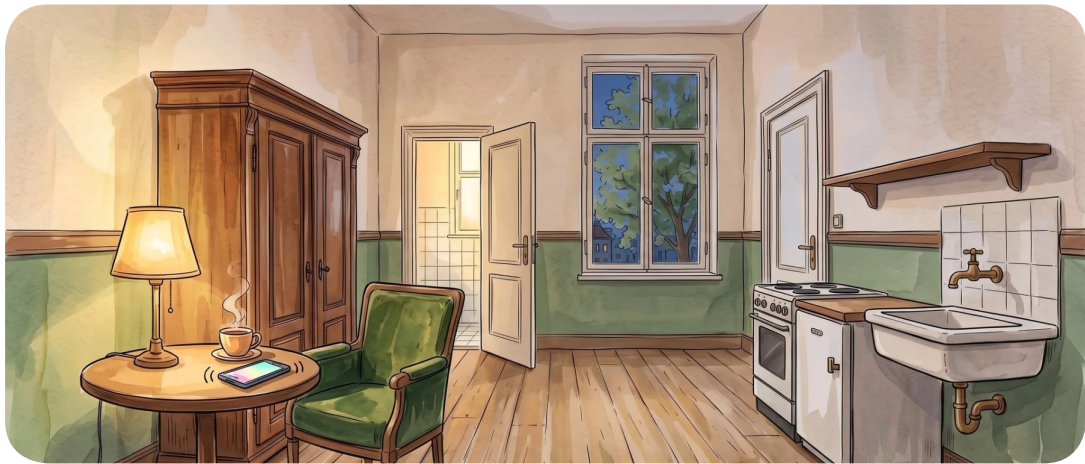
Your phone rings: Anna. She is learning Maltese too, because she has a new job in the capital, not far from you. And she wants to know everything: your flat, the town, the neighbours. You describe Ġorġ: tall, brown eyes, curly black hair... and stop. The boy in the photo.

139 Words · 5 Exercises · Duration: 15 min.

Photos on the wall

Maltese

Read & listen online ↗



LEARNING GOAL

I can say how I am on the phone, describe my flat and my town, and describe what people look like.

Anna = ■ Lena (Lukas) = O

Learning as Lukas? Use the words in brackets.

Evening in your flat. Your phone rings on the table.

Il-mowbajl idoqq: Anna, il-ħabiba tiegħek minn Hamburg.

■ Hello! Kif int? Ejja nitkellmu bil-Malti! Jien ukoll qed nitgħallem il-Malti!

○ Anna! Tajba (Tajjeb), grazzi. Imma għaliex il-Malti?

■ Għax għandi xogħol ġdid. Issa noqgħod il-Belt!

○ Il-Belt? Mela mhux bogħod!

■ Mela, kif inhu l-flat tiegħek?

You look over at the bathroom door.

○ Żgħir imma sabiħ. U fil-kamra tal-banju hemm sufan isfar.

■ Sufan? Fil-kamra tal-banju? Għaliex?

○ Storja twila.

■ U r-raġal? Kbir?

○ Le, żgħir, imma sabiħ ħafna. Id-djar qodma u sbieħ, ħdejn il-wied.

○ U isfel hemm kafetterija. Kull filgħodu, kejkijiet ġodda!

Anna laughs.

■ Int u l-kejkijiet tiegħek!

■ U l-ġirien? Kif inhuma?

○ Tajbin ħafna. Is-Sinjura Marija żgħira u anzjana, bin-nuċċali. U taf kolloxx.

■ Kollox?

○ Kollox. Anki n-numru tat-telefon tiegħi.

○ U Lina għandha l-kafetterija. Dejjem tgħid: "Kul!"

■ U min hemm ukoll?

○ Ġorġ, il-mużiċist ta' fuq. Twil, għandu għajnejn kannella u xagħar iswed, kollu kaboċċi...

You stop. You think of the photo on Marija's wall.

○ Stenna... xagħar iswed... kaboċċi suwed...

■ Hello? Għadek hemm?

○ It-tifel tar-ritratt! Skużani, Anna! Ċaw!

Tpoġġi l-mowbajl fuq il-mejda u tħares lejn is-saqaf. Fuq, Ġorġ jibda jdoqq. Xagħar iswed, kaboċċi... Ġorġ hu t-tifel tar-ritratt?

Vocabulary

DOING THINGS • AZZJONIJIET

jitgħallem

learn

Qed nitgħallem il-Malti: I'm learning Maltese.

THE BODY • IL-ĠISEM

għajn

eye

Eyes: għajnejn, the dual. Għajnejja: my eyes.

xagħar

hair (on the head)

A collective noun: all of it. One hair: xagħra. Għandha xagħar twil: she has long hair.

COLOURS • KULURI**kannella**

brown

It does not change: għajnejn kannella,
brown eyes.

SMALL WORDS • KLIEM ŻGĦIR**għax**

because

Għaliex? Why? Għax ...: because

dejjem

always

LIFE AND WORK • IL-ĦAJJA U X-XOGĦOL**xogħol**

job

Work and a job both. X'xogħol tagħmel?
What's your job?

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

village

Most Maltese towns are villages: ir-raħal,
several rħula. A city is belt (bliet); il-Belt
alone is Valletta.

wied

valley

Malta has no rivers. A wied is a valley, dry
most of the year, with a stream after the
rain. Several: widien.

WHAT THINGS AND PEOPLE ARE LIKE • KIF INHU? KIF INHI?**sabiħ**

beautiful

sabiħ (m) · sabiħa (f) · sbieħ (pl). Also nice,
pretty, lovely: x'temp sabiħ! More beautiful:
isbaħ.

twil

long

twil (m) · twila (f) · twal (pl). Longer: itwal.
Storja twila: a long story.

twil

tall, high

Of people, tall is twil, the same word as
long: twil (m) · twila (f) · twal (pl). High, of a
wall or a temperature: għoli (għolja).

kaboċċi

curly

Xagħar kaboċċi: curly hair, literally hair of
curls; it does not change. One curl:
kaboċċa.

HERE AND THERE · HAWN U HEMM**ħdejn**

next to

Next to me: ħdejja; ħdejk, ħdejh, ħdejha.
ħdejn il-wied: by the valley.

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

story

Several stories: stejjer. Storja twila: a long story.

nuċċali

glasses

One pair or several: nuċċali.

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

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

1 U Lina għandha l-kafetterija. Dejjem tgħid: "Kul!"☐ A Lena☐ B Anna

L2) WHAT DOES IT MEAN

Tick the right English meaning.

1 Għax għandi xogħol ġdid. Issa noqgħod il-Belt!

- ☐ A Because I've got a new job. I live in Valletta now!
- ☐ B A sofa? In the bathroom? Why?
- ☐ C Very nice. Mrs Marija is small and elderly, with glasses. And she knows everything.

L3) HOW DO YOU SAY IT

Tick the right Maltese sentence.

1 Small but nice. And there's a yellow sofa in the bathroom.

- ☐ A Int u l-kejkijiet tiegħek!
- ☐ B U l-ġirien? Kif inhuma?
- ☐ C Żgħir imma sabiħ. U fil-kamra tal-banju hemm sufan isfar.

L4) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Write the words in the right order on the line.

1

Le,

żgħir,

u

Id-djar

sbieħ,

qodma

imma

sabiħ

ħdejn

ħafna.

il-wied.

L5) WHAT HAPPENS FIRST

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

- ☐ Sufan? Fil-kamra tal-banju? Għaliex?
- ☐ U Lina għandha l-kafetterija. Dejjem tgħid: "Kul!"
- ☐ Int u l-kejkijiet tiegħek!
- ☐ Hello? Għadek hemm?
- ☐ Għax għandi xogħol għdid. Issa noqgħod il-Belt!

SCENE 18 • WORDS

Telefonata minn Hamburg

A call from Hamburg

4 Exercises • Duration: 10 min.

Photos on the wall

Maltese

Read & listen online



jitgħallem
learn



xogħol
job



sabiħ
beautiful



twil
long



storja
story



raħal
village



ħdejn
next to



wied
valley



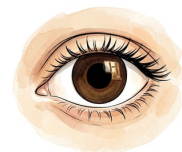
nuċċali
glasses



twil
tall, high



kannella
brown



għajn
eye

Words

FROM THE SCENE

jitgħallem

learn

Hello! Kif int? Ejja nitkellmu bil-Malti! Jien ukoll qed nitgħallem il-Malti!

għax

because

Għax għandi xogħol ġdid. Issa noqgħod il-Belt!

xogħol

job

Għax għandi xogħol ġdid. Issa noqgħod il-Belt!

sabiħ

beautiful

Żgħir imma sabiħ. U fil-kamra tal-banju hemm sufan isfar.

twil

long

Storja twila.

storja

story

Storja twila.

raħal

village

U r-raħal? Kbir?

ħdejn

next to

Le, żgħir, imma sabiħ ħafna. Id-djar qodma u sbieħ, ħdejn il-wied.

wied

valley

Le, żgħir, imma sabiħ ħafna. Id-djar qodma u sbieħ, ħdejn il-wied.

nuċċali

glasses

Tajbin ħafna. Is-Sinjura Marija żgħira u anzjana, bin-nuċċali. U taf kollox.

dejjem

always

U Lina għandha l-kafetterija. Dejjem tgħid: "Kul!"

twil

tall, high

Ġorġ, il-mużiċist ta' fuq. Twil, għandu għajnejn kannella u xagħar iswed, kollu kaboċċi...

kannella**brown**

Ġorġ, il-mużiċist ta' fuq. Twil, għandu għajnejn kannella u xagħar iswed, kollu kaboċċi...

għajn**eye**

Ġorġ, il-mużiċist ta' fuq. Twil, għandu għajnejn kannella u xagħar iswed, kollu kaboċċi...

kaboċċi**curly**

Stenna... xagħar iswed... kaboċċi suwed...

xagħar**hair (on the head)**

Stenna... xagħar iswed... kaboċċi suwed...

NEW WORDS**qasir****short**

qasir (m) · qasira (f) · qosra (pl), of people, hair and a visit alike. Shorter: iqsar.

griz**grey**

griz (m) · griza (f) · grizi (pl). One hair: xagħra; a grey hair: xagħra griza.

daqna**beard**

Daqnu: his beard. Għandu d-daqna: he has a beard.

imnieħer**nose**

Imnieħri: my nose. After a vowel it loses the i: u mnieħer.

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

What does it mean?

1 għax

- ☐ A need
- ☐ B daughter
- ☐ C because

2 qasir

- ☐ A because
- ☐ B good night
- ☐ C short

3 jitgħallem

- ☐ A November
- ☐ B spell
- ☐ C learn

4 twil

- ☐ A tall, high
- ☐ B everybody / everyone
- ☐ C big

5 sabiħ

- ☐ A daughter
- ☐ B beautiful
- ☐ C how

6 għajn

- ☐ A granddaughter
- ☐ B no
- ☐ C eye

W2) A CALL FROM ANNA

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

nitgħallem tgħid nitkellmu

Ejja _____ bil-Malti! Jien ukoll qed _____ il-Malti!

Meaning: Let's speak Maltese! I'm learning Maltese too!

Belt wied xogħol

Għandi _____ ġdid. Issa noqgħod il-_____!

Meaning: I've got a new job. I live in Valletta now!

wied sabiħ kaboċċi

Ir-raħal żgħir, imma _____ ħafna, ħdejn il-_____.

Meaning: The village is small, but very pretty, by the valley.

għajnejn nuċċali

Is-Sinjura Marija żgħira u anzjana, bin-_____.

Meaning: Mrs Marija is small and elderly, with glasses.

kannella twil għajnejn qasir xagħhar

Ġorġ _____, għandu għajnejn _____ u _____

iswed, kollu kaboċċi.

Meaning: Ġorġ is tall, with brown eyes and black hair, all curls.

W3) WHO IS HE?

Fill the speech bubbles.



qasir twil għajnejn Ġorġ kannella kelb

Ella: Min hu? Għandu għajnejn _____ u xagħar iswed.

Lena: Dan _____!

Ella: Le! Hu _____, u kollu xagħar!

Lena: Hmm... Dan _____!

Meaning: 1. Who is he? He has brown eyes and black hair.

2. It's Ġorġ!

3. No! He's short, and he's all hair!

4. Hmm... It's a dog!

W4) FACES AND PLACES

Match the pairs.

① griz

Ⓐ short

② wied

Ⓑ brown

③ qasir

Ⓒ glasses

④ twil

Ⓓ grey

⑤ kannella

Ⓔ eyes

⑥ kaboċċi

Ⓕ curls; curly

⑦ għajnejn

Ⓖ valley

⑧ nuċċali

Ⓗ tall; long

SCENE 18 • GRAMMAR

Twil, twila, twal

Adjectives in the plural, and describing people

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

Photos on the wall

Maltese

Read & listen online



You know that an adjective takes the gender of its noun: **tajjeb**, **tajba**. For more than one, it has a plural too, the same for men, women and things: **Il-ġirien tajbin**. The neighbours are nice. **Id-djar qodma u sbieħ**. The houses are old and lovely.

Some adjectives make the plural with an ending, **-in** or **-i**. Many more change their shape inside, like the nouns **ġar**, **ġirien**: **kbir** becomes **kbar**, **ġdid** becomes **ġodda**. These broken plurals are best learnt with the word, as Anna hears them on the phone: **kejkiġiet ġodda**, new cakes.

ADJECTIVES IN THE PLURAL

Masculine	Feminine	Plural	Meaning
With an ending: -in or -i			
tajjeb	tajba	tajbin	good, nice
kuntent	kuntenta	kuntenti	happy
qawwi	qawwija	qawwijin	strong
għajjen	għajjena	għajjenin	tired
A new shape: the broken plural			
kbir	kbira	kbar	big
żgħir	żgħira	żgħar	small, little
ġdid	ġdida	ġodda	new
qadim	qadima	qodma	old (of things)

Masculine	Feminine	Plural	Meaning
sabiħ	sabiħa	sbieħ	beautiful, lovely
twil	twila	twal	tall, long
qasir	qasira	qosra	short
żagħżuġħ	żagħżuġħa	żgħażaġħ	young
xiħ	xiħa	xjuħ	old (of people)

interessanti never changes: **Ċikku interessanti, il-qtates interessanti**. For people, **anzjan, anzjana** is a kinder word than **xiħ**: **Is-Sinjura Marija anzjana**.

The colours have a plural of their own, and three of them sound alike: **ħomor, ħodor, sofor**. **griż**, grey, simply adds **-i**. **kannella**, brown, never changes.

THE COLOURS IN THE PLURAL

Masculine	Feminine	Plural	Meaning
iswed	sewda	suwed	black
aħmar	ħamra	ħomor	red
aħdar	ħadra	ħodor	green
isfar	safra	sofor	yellow
griż	griza	griżi	grey
kannella	kannella	kannella	brown

To describe someone, say what they have, with **għand**: **Għandu għajnejn kannella**. He has brown eyes. **xagħar**, hair, is all of it together, a collective noun like **bajd**: it is masculine and singular, so **xagħar twil, xagħar iswed**. **għajnejn**, eyes, is a pair, and a pair takes the plural: **għajnejn suwed**, black eyes; **għajnejn kbar**, big eyes.

DESCRIBING SOMEONE

Word	Example	Meaning
xagħar	xagħar twil u iswed	hair (all of it) long black hair
kaboċċi	xagħar kaboċċi	curls curly hair
għajnejn	għajnejn suwed għajnejn kbar	eyes (a pair) black eyes big eyes
kannella	għajnejn kannella	brown brown eyes
nuċċali	bin-nuċċali	glasses with glasses

TIP

To ask what someone is like, Anna says *Kif inhu?*, and for several *Kif inhuma?*: *Kif inhuma l-ġirien?* What are the neighbours like? *Tajbin ħafna*. Very nice.

Id-djar qodma u sbieħ, ħdejn il-wied.

The houses are old and lovely, by the valley.

Il-ġirien tajbin ħafna.

The neighbours are very nice.

Ġorġ twil, għandu għajnejn kannella u xagħar iswed, kollu kaboċċi.

Ġorġ is tall, with brown eyes and black hair, all curls.

Is-Sinjura Marija żgħira u anzjana, bin-nuċċali.

Mrs Marija is small and elderly, with glasses.

Ċikku għandu għajnejn ħodor u kbar.

Ċikku has big green eyes.

GRAMMAR**G1) FIND THE WORDS**

Underline the adjectives in the plural.

- 1 Id-djar qodma u sbieħ, ħdejn il-wied.

Meaning: The houses are old and lovely, by the valley.

- 2 Il-ġirien tajbin ħafna.

Meaning: The neighbours are very nice.

- 3 Kull filgħodu, kejkijiet ġodda!

Meaning: New cakes every morning!

- 4 Ġorġ għandu xagħar iswed, kollu kaboċċi suwed.

Meaning: Ġorġ has black hair, all black curls.

- 5 Ella u Ċikku kuntenti.

Meaning: Ella and Ċikku are happy.

- 6 Lina u Ġorġ twal, u Marija żgħira.

Meaning: Lina and Ġorġ are tall, and Marija is small.

- 7 Il-qtates kbar, u l-klieb żgħar.

Meaning: The cats are big, and the dogs are small.

- 8 Is-siġġijiet ta' Lina ħomor.

Meaning: Lina's chairs are red.

- 9 Ċikku għandu għajnejn ħodor.

Meaning: Ċikku has green eyes.

G2) ONE OR MORE?

Choose the form that fits the noun: masculine, feminine or plural.

- 1 Il-ġirien _____ ħafna.

- ☐ A tajjeb
- ☐ B tajba
- ☐ C tajbin

Meaning: The neighbours are very nice.

2 Id-djar _____.

- ☐ A qadima
- ☐ B qodma
- ☐ C qadim

Meaning: The houses are old.

3 Ir-raĥal _____ ħafna.

- ☐ A sbieħ
- ☐ B sabiħa
- ☐ C sabiħ

Meaning: The village is very pretty.

4 Id-djar _____.

- ☐ A sabiħa
- ☐ B sbieħ
- ☐ C sabiħ

Meaning: The houses are lovely.

5 Kull filġhodu, kejkijiet _____!

- ☐ A ġdida
- ☐ B ġodda
- ☐ C ġdid

Meaning: New cakes every morning!

6 Ġorġ _____.

- ☐ A twil
- ☐ B twal
- ☐ C twila

Meaning: Ġorġ is tall.

7 Lina u Ġorġ _____.

- ☐ A twil
- ☐ B twila
- ☐ C twal

Meaning: Lina and Ġorġ are tall.

8 Is-Sinjura Marija _____.

- ☐ A żgħir
- ☐ B żgħira
- ☐ C żgħar

Meaning: Mrs Marija is small.

9 Ella u ħuha _____.

- ☐ A żgħir
- ☐ B żgħira
- ☐ C żgħar

Meaning: Ella and her brother are little.

10 Ella u ħuha _____, imma Ġorġ twil.

- ☐ A qosra
- ☐ B qasira
- ☐ C qasir

Meaning: Ella and her brother are short, but Ġorġ is tall.

11 Ella u Ċikku _____.

- ☐ A kuntent
- ☐ B kuntenta
- ☐ C kuntenti

Meaning: Ella and Ċikku are happy.

12 Ġorġ u Lina _____.

- ☐ A qawwija
- ☐ B qawwi
- ☐ C qawwijin

Meaning: Ġorġ and Lina are strong.

13 Ġorġ u Ċikku _____.

- ☐ A għajjen
- ☐ B għajjenin
- ☐ C għajjiena

Meaning: Ġorġ and Ċikku are tired.

G3) COLOURS, AND OTHER PLURALS

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Ġorġ għandu xagħar _____.

- ☐ A iswed
- ☐ B suwed
- ☐ C sewda

Meaning: Ġorġ has black hair.

2 Għandu kaboċċi _____.

- ☐ A suwed
- ☐ B sewda
- ☐ C iswed

Meaning: He has black curls.

3 Ċikku għandu għajnejn _____.

- ☐ A ħadra
- ☐ B aħdar
- ☐ C ħodor

Meaning: Ċikku has green eyes.

4 Is-siġġijiet ta' Lina _____.

- ☐ A aħmar
- ☐ B ħomor
- ☐ C ħamra

Meaning: Lina's chairs are red.

5 Il-lampa _____.

- ☐ A ħamra
- ☐ B aħmar
- ☐ C ħomor

Meaning: The lamp is red.

6 Is-sufan _____.

- ☐ A isfar
- ☐ B sofor
- ☐ C safra

Meaning: The sofa is yellow.

7 Is-siġġijiet il-godda _____.

- ☐ A safra
- ☐ B sofor
- ☐ C isfar

Meaning: The new chairs are yellow.

8 Il-qtates tan-numru sebgħa _____.

- ☐ A griż
- ☐ B griži
- ☐ C griża

Meaning: The cats of number 7 are grey.

9 In-nanna u n-nannu ta' Anna? Huma _____.

- ☐ A xiħa
- ☐ B xjuħ
- ☐ C xiħ

Meaning: Anna's grandmother and grandfather? They're old.

10 Fil-Belt, il-ġirien tiegħi _____.

- ☐ A żagħżugħa
- ☐ B żgħażagħ
- ☐ C żagħżugħ

Meaning: In Valletta, my neighbours are young.

11 Ċikku għandu għajnejn _____.

- ☐ A kbira
- ☐ B kbar
- ☐ C kbir

Meaning: Ċikku has big eyes.

G4) WHO IS WHO?

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

iswed suwed twal twil

Ġorġ _____. Għandu għajnejn kannella u xagħar _____

.

Meaning: Ġorġ is tall. He has brown eyes and black hair.

żgħira żgħar

Is-Sinjura Marija _____ u anzjana, bin-nuċċali.

Meaning: Mrs Marija is small and elderly, with glasses.

żgħira twal twil żgħar

Ella u ħuha _____. Ella għandha xagħar _____.

Meaning: Ella and her brother are little. Ella has long hair.

kbar kbir ħodor aħdar

Ċikku qattus _____. Għandu għajnejn _____.

Meaning: Ċikku is a big cat. He has green eyes.

qadima sbieħ qodma sabiħ

Id-djar tar-raħal _____ u _____.

Meaning: The houses of the village are old and lovely.

twal qasir twila qosra

Ġorġ u Lina mhux _____: huma _____.

Meaning: Ġorġ and Lina aren't short: they're tall.

tajjeb tajbin ġodda ġdid

Il-ġirien _____, u l-kejkijiet ta' Lina _____ kull filgħodu.

Meaning: The neighbours are nice, and Lina's cakes are new every morning.

qawwi għajjen qawwijin għajjenin

Ġorġ u Lina _____, imma issa _____.

Meaning: Ġorġ and Lina are strong, but now they're tired.

G5) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

1 u qodma Id-djar sbieħ.

Meaning: The houses are old and lovely.

2 tajbin Il-ġirien ħafna.

Meaning: The neighbours are very nice.

3 iswed. xagħar Ġorġ u twil għandu

Meaning: Ġorġ is tall and has black hair.

4 ħodor. għandu Ċikku għajnejn

Meaning: Ċikku has green eyes.

5 ħuha u żgħar. Ella

Meaning: Ella and her brother are little.

6 u kbar. griži ll-qtates

Meaning: The cats are grey and big.

7 Lina Is-siġġijiet ta' ħomor.

Meaning: Lina's chairs are red.

8 Lina Ġorġ qosra. u mhux

Meaning: Ġorġ and Lina aren't short.

9 Anna n-nannu ta' xjuħ. In-nanna u

Meaning: Anna's grandmother and grandfather are old.

10 il-ġodda Is-siġġijiet sofor.

Meaning: The new chairs are yellow.

- 11 žgħażagħ. tiegħi Il-ġirien

Meaning: My neighbours are young.

G6) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 Anna asks what Ġorġ looks like. Tell her he's tall, with black hair, all curls. You say:

- ☐ A Hu twal, u għandu xagħar iswed, kollu kaboċċi.
- ☐ B Hu twil, u għandu xagħar iswed, kollu kaboċċi.
- ☐ C Hu twil, u għandu xagħar suwed, kollu kaboċċi.

- 2 Describe Mrs Marija to Anna. She's small and elderly, with glasses. You say:

- ☐ A Hu żgħir u anzjan, bin-nuċċali.
- ☐ B Hi żgħira u anzjana, bin-nuċċali.
- ☐ C Hi żgħar u anzjani, bin-nuċċali.

3 Tell Anna that Ćikku has green eyes. You say:

- ☐ A Ćikku għandu għajn ħodor.
- ☐ B Ćikku għandu għajnejn aħdar.
- ☐ C Ćikku għandu għajnejn ħodor.

4 Anna asks about the neighbours. Tell her they're very nice. You say:

- ☐ A Tajjeb ħafna.
- ☐ B Tajbin ħafna.
- ☐ C Tajba ħafna.

5 Tell Anna that the houses in the village are old and lovely. You say:

- ☐ A Id-djar qodma u sbieħ.
- ☐ B Id-djar qadima u sabiħa.
- ☐ C Id-djar qadim u sabiħ.