

SCENE 10 • NUMBER 7

Min qed jgħin?

Friday night. You turn off the light and sit in the dark, waiting.

76 Words • 5 Exercises • Duration: 15 min.

The empty flat

Maltese

Read & listen online



LEARNING GOAL

I can ask who is there, say what is in my flat now, and thank people for their help.

Lena (Lukas) = ■ Ella = ○ Marija = ▲

You sit in the dark and whisper.

■ Jien bilqiegħda u nistenna. Min jiġi bil-lejl? U għaliex?

Nofsillejl. Xi ħadd jiftaħ il-bieb.

■ Min hemm?

The light goes on. Marija and Ella stand in the doorway with a green armchair, and Ċikku slips in behind them.

○ Xxx! Aħna!

▲ Bonswa! Qed ngħinu biss.

■ Tgħinu? Bil-lejl? Għaliex?

▲ Appartament vojt mhux tajjeb. Għandek bżonn pultruna.

○ Il-pultruna mill-kantina tan-nanna. Qadima, imma tajba ħafna.

■ Grazzi ħafna. Imma tistgħu tiġu bi nhar ukoll!

▲ Bi nhar? Bi nhar m'għandix ħin.

Ċikku jumps into the armchair and curls up.

○ Araw! Ċikku diġà fil-pultruna. Il-qtates jafu!

■ U s-sufan l-isfar? U s-siġġijiet ta' Lina?

Marija and Ella look at each other.

▲ X'sufan? X'siġġijiet?

○ Aħna ma nafu xejn.

▲ Forsi Ċikku... Il-lejl it-tajjeb!

Il-bieb jingħalaq. F'nofs il-kamra hemm pultruna ħadra, u Ċikku rieqed fiha, qisha kienet tiegħu minn dejjem. U l-bagalja l-vojta tiegħek? Marija qed tieħodha għall-kamra tal-bejt.

Vocabulary

DOING THINGS • AZZJONIJIET

bilqiegħda

sit (be sitting)

Sitting is bilqiegħda after the person: hi bilqiegħda fuq il-bank, she is sitting on the bench. Toqgħod ħdejn it-tieqa: she sits (stays) by the window.

jgħin

help

Tista' tgħinni? Can you help me? Help, the noun: għajnuna.

SMALL WORDS • KLIEM ŻGĦIR

xi ħadd

somebody / someone

Without xi, ħadd is nobody, with ma: ħadd ma jaf, nobody knows.

AT HOME • FID-DAR

pultruna

armchair

kantina

cellar

DATES AND EVENTS • DATI U OKKAŻJONIJIET

nofsillejl

midnight

Literally half the night. At midnight: f'nofsillejl. Noon is nofsinhar.

ħin

time

Time on the clock, and time to do something: m'għandix ħin, I have no time. A longer time, an age, is żmien.

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

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

1 Bi nhar? Bi nhar m'għandix ħin.

- ☐ A Ella
- ☐ B Lena
- ☐ C Marija

L2) WHAT DOES IT MEAN

Tick the right English meaning.

1 Appartament vojta mhux tajjeb. Għandek bżonn pultruna.

- ☐ A The armchair is from Grandma's cellar. It's old, but very good.
- ☐ B We don't know anything.
- ☐ C An empty flat is no good. You need an armchair.

L3) HOW DO YOU SAY IT

Tick the right Maltese sentence.

1 Maybe Ċikku... Good night!

- ☐ A Bonswa! Qed ngħinu biss.
- ☐ B Aħna ma nafu xejn.
- ☐ C Forsi Ċikku... Il-lejl it-tajjeb!

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.

- ☐ Bonswa! Qed ngħinu biss.
- ☐ Appartament vojt mhux tajjeb. Għandek bżonn pultruna.
- ☐ Aħna ma nafu xejn.
- ☐ Bi nhar? Bi nhar m'għandix ħin.
- ☐ U s-sufan l-isfar? U s-siġġijiet ta' Lina?

SCENE 10 • WORDS

Min qed jgħin?

Who is helping?

4 Exercises • Duration: 10 min.

The empty flat

Maltese

Read & listen online



bilqiegħda
sit (be sitting)



jgħin
help



nofsillejl
midnight



pultruna
armchair



kantina
cellar



ħin
time

Words

bilqiegħda

sit (be sitting)

Jien bilqiegħda u nistenna. Min jiġi bil-lejl?
U għaliex?

jgħin

help

Bonswa! Qed ngħinu biss.

nofsillejl

midnight

Nofsillejl. Xi ħadd jiftaħ il-bieb.

xi ħadd

somebody / someone

Nofsillejl. Xi ħadd jiftaħ il-bieb.

pultruna

armchair

Araw! Ċikku diġà fil-pultruna. Il-qtates jafu!

kantina

cellar

Il-pultruna mill-kantina tan-nanna. Qadima, imma tajba ħafna.

hin

time

Bi nhar? Bi nhar m'għandix hin.

VOCABULARY & COMMUNICATION

W1) WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

What does it mean?

1 kantina

- ☐ A cellar
- ☐ B room
- ☐ C window

2 nofsillejl

- ☐ A welcome
- ☐ B midnight
- ☐ C time

3 xi ħadd

- ☐ A somebody / someone
- ☐ B stairs
- ☐ C look / watch

4 bilqiegħda

- ☐ A guest
- ☐ B sit (be sitting)
- ☐ C open

5 jgħin

- ☐ A evening
- ☐ B help
- ☐ C window

6 ħin

- ☐ A time
- ☐ B here
- ☐ C have

W2) FRIDAY NIGHT

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

jistenna nistenna

Jien bilqiegħda u _____.

Meaning: I'm sitting here, waiting.

jgħin Nofsillejl jiftaħ

_____. Xi ħadd _____ il-bieb.

Meaning: Midnight. Somebody opens the door.

tgħinu ngħinu

Bonswa! Qed _____ biss.

Meaning: Good evening! We're just helping.

kċina kantina

Il-pultruna mill-_____ tan-nanna.

Meaning: The armchair is from Grandma's cellar.

bżonn ħin

Bi nhar m'għandix _____.

Meaning: In the daytime I have no time.

W3) WHO'S HELPING?

Fill the speech bubbles.



idoqq norqod ngħinu tgħinu indoqq jgħin

Lena: Ġorġ, Lina! Intom _____ bil-lejl ukoll?

Ġorġ: Aħna? Le! Bil-lejl jien _____.

Lina: U jien bil-lejl _____. Verament!

Marija: U jien norqod ukoll. Min _____? Ma nafx!

Meaning: 1. Ġorġ, Lina! Are you helping at night too?

2. Us? No! At night I play.

3. And at night I sleep. Really!

4. And I sleep too. Who's helping? I don't know!

W4) A VISIT AT MIDNIGHT

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| ① ħin | ① somebody |
| ② pultruna | ② time |
| ③ kantina | ③ midnight |
| ④ bilqiegħda | ④ cellar |
| ⑤ xi ħadd | ⑤ in the daytime |
| ⑥ bi nhar | ⑥ sitting |
| ⑦ jgħin | ⑦ armchair |
| ⑧ nofsillejl | ⑧ he helps |

SCENE 10 • GRAMMAR

Sigġijiet, qtates, ngħinu

More than one: plural nouns and verbs

8 Exercises • Duration: 25 min.

The empty flat

Maltese

Read & listen online 

Some plurals add an ending. Many nouns in **-a** change it to **-i**: **lampa**, a lamp, **lampi**, lamps. Others add **-ijiet**, or **-jiet** after a vowel: **sigġu**, **sigġijiet**, chairs • **kafè**, **kafejiet**, coffees.

PLURALS WITH AN ENDING

Singular	Plural	Meaning
-i		
lampa	lampi	lamp
tazza	tazzi	cup
bagalja	bagalji	suitcase
pultruna	pultruni	armchair
-ijiet		
sigġu	sigġijiet	chair
kafè	kafejiet	coffee

Many more plurals change inside the word, like English man and men, only far more often. This is called the broken plural: **qattus**, **qtates** • **mejda**, **mwejjed** • **ġar**, **ġirien**. There is no rule you can use yet, so learn every noun with its plural: **kamra**, **kmamar**, the way a dictionary gives it.

BROKEN PLURALS

Singular	Plural	Meaning
qattus	qtates	cat
ġar	ġirien	neighbour
ħabib	ħbieb	friend
mejda	mwejjed	table
kamra	kmamar	room
bieb	bibien	door
tieqa	twieqi	window
ċavetta	ċwieviet	key

A plural is the same for masculine and feminine: **il-mwejjed, il-bibien**. And cats in general are **il-qtates**, with the article, unlike English: **Il-qtates jafu!** Cats know!

This and that have a plural too, **dawn**, these, and **dawk**, those, the same for both genders. Like **dan** and **din**, they stand before the noun with its article: **dawn is-siġġijiet**, these chairs · **dawk il-mwejjed**, those tables.

THESE AND THOSE

Singular	Plural	Meaning
dan · din	dawn	this · these
dak · dik	dawk	that · those

Araw! Ċikku diġà fil-pultruna. Il-qtates jafu!

Look! Ċikku is already in the armchair. Cats know!

U s-sufan l-isfar? U s-siġġijiet ta' Lina?

And the yellow sofa? And Lina's chairs?

Fil-kafetterija għad hemm mwejjed.

There are still tables in the café.

Dawn is-siġġijiet tal-kafetterija.

These chairs are the café's.

A plural subject takes a plural verb. In the present tense the plural keeps the person letter at the front and adds **-u** at the end: the 1st person plural (**aħna**, we) is **n-...-u**, the 2nd person plural (**intom**, you, to several people) **t-...-u**, and the 3rd person plural (**huma**, they) **j-...-u**. A verb that ends in **-a** takes **-w** instead: **nistennew**.

THE PRESENT TENSE, PLURAL

hu	aħna	intom	huma	Meaning
jgħin	ngħinu	tgħinu	jgħinu	help
jaf	nafu	tafu	jafu	know
jiġi	niġu	tigū	jiġu	come
jorqod	norqdu	torqdu	jorqdu	sleep
jieħu	nieħdu	tieħdu	jieħdu	take
jistenna	nistennew	tistennew	jistennew	wait
With an i- in front				
idoqq	indoqqu	iddoqqu	idoqqu	play

Before the **-u**, the last vowel often drops: **norqod**, **norqdu**. **jieħu** gets back a **d**: **nieħdu**. **jista'** is **nistgħu**, **tistgħu**, **jistgħu**, and both verbs take the **-u**: **Tistgħu tigū bi nhar!** You can come in the daytime!

Not works as in the singular, and the **-x** comes after the **-u**: **ma nafux**, we don't know. With **xejn** the **-x** goes, as you know: **Aħna ma nafu xejn**. We don't know anything.

Bonswa! Qed ngħinu biss.

Good evening! We're just helping.

Tgħinu? Bil-lejl? Għaliex?

Helping? At night? Why?

Grazzi ħafna. Imma tistgħu tiġu bi nhar ukoll!

Thank you very much. But you can come in the daytime too!

Aħna ma nafu xejn.

We don't know anything.

GRAMMAR

G1) FIND THE WORDS

Underline the words in the plural: nouns and verbs.

- 1 Ċikku diġà fil-pultruna. Il- qtates jafu!

Meaning: Ċikku is already in the armchair. Cats know!

- 2 U s-sufan l-isfar? U s- siġġijiet ta' Lina?

Meaning: And the yellow sofa? And Lina's chairs?

- 3 Fil-kafetterija għad hemm mwejjed.

Meaning: There are still tables in the café.

- 4 Bonswa! Qed ngħinu biss.

Meaning: Good evening! We're just helping.

- 5 Imma tistgħu tiġu bi nhar ukoll!

Meaning: But you can come in the daytime too!

- 6 Iċ-ċavetta ta' Marija tiftaħ il-bibien kollha.

Meaning: Marija's key opens all the doors.

- 7 Hemm kmamar u twieqi, imma m'hemmx mwejjed.

Meaning: There are rooms and windows, but there are no tables.

G2) ONE OR MORE?

Choose the right plural.

- 1 Il-_____ jafu!

- ☐ A qattus
- ☐ B qtates
- ☐ C qattusi

Meaning: Cats know!

2 U s-_____ ta' Lina?

- ☐ (A) siġġijiet
- ☐ (B) siġġiet

Meaning: And Lina's chairs?

3 Fil-kafetterija għad hemm _____.

- ☐ (A) mejdi
- ☐ (B) mwejjed
- ☐ (C) mejdiet

Meaning: There are still tables in the café.

4 Iċ-ċavetta ta' Marija tiftaħ il-_____ kollha.

- ☐ (A) bibien
- ☐ (B) biebi

Meaning: Marija's key opens all the doors.

5 Marija għandha ċ-_____ kollha.

- ☐ (A) ċavetti
- ☐ (B) ċwieviet

Meaning: Marija has all the keys.

6 Ġorġ u Lina huma l-_____ tiegħi.

☐ A ġarijiet

☐ B ġirien

Meaning: Ġorġ and Lina are my neighbours.

7 Ella u Ċikku _____.

☐ A ħabibijiet

☐ B ħbieb

Meaning: Ella and Ċikku are friends.

8 Hemm _____ fil-kantina wkoll.

☐ A lampijiet

☐ B lampi

Meaning: There are lamps in the cellar too.

9 _____ is-siġġijiet tal-kafetterija.

☐ A Dan

☐ B Dawn

☐ C Din

Meaning: These chairs are the café's.

10 _____ il-mwejjed ta' Lina.

- ☐ A Dawk
- ☐ B Dak
- ☐ C Dik

Meaning: Those tables are Lina's.

G3) WE, YOU, THEY

Choose the form that fits the person.

1 Bonswa! Qed _____ biss.

- ☐ A ngħinu
- ☐ B jgħinu
- ☐ C tgħinu

Meaning: Good evening! We're just helping.

2 _____? Bil-lejl?

- ☐ A Jgħinu
- ☐ B Tgħinu
- ☐ C Ngħinu

Meaning: You're helping? At night?

3 Lina u Ġorġ _____ ukoll?

- ☐ A tgħinu
- ☐ B jgħinu
- ☐ C ngħinu

Meaning: Are Lina and Ġorġ helping too?

4 Il-qtates _____!

- ☐ A jafu
- ☐ B nafu
- ☐ C tafu

Meaning: Cats know!

5 Aħna ma _____ xejn.

- ☐ A tafu
- ☐ B jafu
- ☐ C nafu

Meaning: We don't know anything.

6 Intom tistgħu _____ bi nhar ukoll!

- ☐ A niġu
- ☐ B jiġu
- ☐ C tiġu

Meaning: You can come in the daytime too!

7 Marija u Ella _____ bil-lejl.

- ☐ A tiġu
- ☐ B jiġu
- ☐ C niġu

Meaning: Marija and Ella come at night.

8 Aħna _____ bil-lejl, għax bi nhar m'għandix ħin.

- ☐ A tiġu
- ☐ B jiġu
- ☐ C niġu

Meaning: We come at night, because in the daytime I have no time.

9 Ġorġ u Ċikku _____ fuq is-sufan.

- ☐ A jorqdu
- ☐ B torqdu
- ☐ C norqdu

Meaning: Ġorġ and Ċikku sleep on the sofa.

10 Aħna _____ bil-lejl, u Ġorġ idoqq.

- ☐ A jorqdu
- ☐ B norqdu
- ☐ C torqdu

Meaning: We sleep at night, and Ġorġ plays.

G4) WAITING, TAKING, PLAYING

Choose the form that fits the person.

1 Aħna _____ hawn.

- ☐ A nistennew
- ☐ B nistenna
- ☐ C jistennew

Meaning: We're waiting here.

2 Intom _____ isfel?

- ☐ A tistennew
- ☐ B nistennew
- ☐ C jistennew

Meaning: Are you two waiting downstairs?

3 Il-ġirien _____ isfel.

- ☐ A tistennew
- ☐ B nistennew
- ☐ C jistennew

Meaning: The neighbours are waiting downstairs.

4 Aħna _____ l-pultruna.

- ☐ A nieħdu
- ☐ B tieħdu
- ☐ C jieħdu

Meaning: We're taking the armchair.

5 Intom _____ te jew kafè?

- ☐ A tieħdu
- ☐ B jieħdu
- ☐ C nieħdu

Meaning: Will you have tea or coffee?

6 Marija u Ella _____ l-bagalja.

- ☐ A jieħdu
- ☐ B tieħdu
- ☐ C nieħdu

Meaning: Marija and Ella take the suitcase.

7 Aħna _____ bil-lejl.

- ☐ A iddoqqu
- ☐ B idoqqu
- ☐ C indoqqu

Meaning: We play at night.

8 Intom _____ issa? Nofsillejl!

- ☐ A indoqqu
- ☐ B idoqqu
- ☐ C iddoqqu

Meaning: You're playing now? It's midnight!

9 Ġorġ u l-ħbieb tiegħu _____ bil-lejl.

- ☐ A indoqqu
- ☐ B idoqqu
- ☐ C iddoqqu

Meaning: Ġorġ and his friends play at night.

G5) MIDNIGHT

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

nistenna nistennew

Jien bilqiegħda u _____.

Meaning: I'm sitting here, waiting.

Tgħinu Jgħinu

_____? Bil-lejl? Għaliex?

Meaning: Helping? At night? Why?

nafu qtates qattus jafu

Araw! Ċikku diġà fil-pultruna. Il-_____ !

Meaning: Look! Ċikku is already in the armchair. Cats know!

siġġijiet siġġu

U s-sufan l-isfar? U s-_____ ta' Lina?

Meaning: And the yellow sofa? And Lina's chairs?

naflu jafu

Aħna ma _____ xejn.

Meaning: We don't know anything.

mejda kafejiet mwejjed tazza tazzi

Fil-kafetterija hemm _____ u siġġijiet, u fil-kċina hemm
_____ u _____.

Meaning: In the café there are tables and chairs, and in the kitchen there are cups and coffees.

pultruni dawk Din Dawn lampi dik

_____ il-_____ mill-kantina, u _____ il-
_____ wkoll.

Meaning: These armchairs are from the cellar, and so are those lamps.

kamra bagalji bibien ċwieviet kmamar bieb twieqi

Fid-dar hemm _____, _____, _____ u

_____, u fil-kantina hemm _____.

Meaning: In the house there are rooms, doors, windows and keys, and in the cellar there are suitcases.

ġirien jorqdu norqdu ħbieb idoqqu ġar

Il-_____, u l-_____ ta' Ġorġ _____.

Meaning: The neighbours are asleep, and Ġorġ's friends are playing.

jiġu nieħdu niġu jieħdu

Aħna _____ bil-lejl, u _____ l-bagalja l-vojta.

Meaning: We come at night, and we take the empty suitcase.

G6) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

- 1 Il-qtates jafu kollox.

Meaning: Cats know everything.

- 2 jigħu bil-lejl. Ella u Marija

Meaning: Marija and Ella come at night.

- 3 wkoll? jgħinu Lina Ġorġ u

Meaning: Are Lina and Ġorġ helping too?

- 4 norqdu, imma intom Aħna iddoqqu!

Meaning: We're sleeping, but you're playing!

5 isfel, u fuq. aħna jistennew nistennew Il-ġirien

Meaning: The neighbours wait downstairs, and we wait upstairs.

6 fejn huma l-qtates? Intom tafu

Meaning: Do you know where the cats are?

7 Intom aħna u nieħdu kafè. torqdu,

Meaning: You sleep, and we have coffee.

8 l-pultruna. jieħdu Intom tistennew, huma u

Meaning: You wait, and they take the armchair.

- 9 kafè? Intom tiegħdu te jew

Meaning: Will you have tea or coffee?

- 10 indoqqu Aħna l-ġirien u bil-lejl, jorqdu.

Meaning: We play at night, and the neighbours sleep.

G7) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 Marija and Ella come in at midnight with an armchair. Ask them if they're helping. You say:
- (A) Ngħinu?
 - (B) Jgħinu?
 - (C) Tgħinu?

2 Tell the two of them that they can come in the daytime too. You say:

- ☐ A Tistgħu tiġu bi nhar ukoll!
- ☐ B Tistgħu tiġi bi nhar ukoll!
- ☐ C Tista' tiġu bi nhar ukoll!

3 Ċikku jumps into the armchair at once. Ella explains. Ella says:

- ☐ A Il-qtates jafu!
- ☐ B Il-qattus jafu!
- ☐ C Il-qtates jaf!

4 You ask about the sofa and Lina's chairs. Marija and Ella know nothing, of course. Marija says:

- ☐ A Aħna ma jafu xejn.
- ☐ B Aħna ma nafu xejn.
- ☐ C Aħna ma nafux xejn.

5 There are chairs in your kitchen. Ask whose they are. You say:

- ☐ A Ta' min hu s-siġġijiet?
- ☐ B Ta' min huma s-siġġijiet?
- ☐ C Ta' min huma s-siġġu?

6 Ġorġ's friends are playing at midnight. Tell them the neighbours are asleep. You say:

- ☐ A Il-ġirien jorqdu!
- ☐ B Il-ġar jorqdu!
- ☐ C Il-ġirien norqdu!

G8) ONE AND MORE

Match each plural to its singular.

1 qtates

A bieb

2 mwejjed

B ċavetta

3 ċwievet

C ħabib

4 ħbieb

D qattus

5 bibien

E siġġu

6 siġġijiet

F kamra

7 kmamar

G mejda

8 ġirien

H ġar