

Module 9 grammar on one page

Module 9: The festival

6 Exercises • Duration: 20 min.

The festival

Maltese

Read & listen online 



Now, then and later

In the present tense and the future tense the person is a letter at the front; in the past tense it is an ending at the back. The future is **se** and the present.

Present tense	Past tense	Future tense	Meaning
nizfen	żfint	se nizfen	I dance • I danced • I'll dance
nara	rajt	se nara	I see • I saw • I'll see
immur	mort	se mmur	I go • I went • I'll go

After **se** the **i**- in front drops: **immur**, **se mmur**.

The past tense

The 3rd person singular (he, it) is the bare verb. I and you add **-t**, we **-na**, you to several **-tu**; she adds **-et** (or **-t** after a vowel), they **-u** (or **-w**). No is **ma ... -x**: **ma rajtx**, but **ma rajt xejn**.

jien · int	hu	hi	aħna	intom	huma	Meaning
Most verbs						
żfint	żifen	żifnet	żfinna	żfintu	żifnu	dance
Ending in a vowel						
rajt	ra	rat	rajna	rajtu	raw	see
A long vowel						
mort	mar	marret	morna	mortu	marru	go
kont	kien	kienet	konna	kontu	kienu	be
Irregular						
ħadt	ħa	ħadet	ħadna	ħadtu	ħadu	take

More of them: **daqq**, **daqqejt**, **daqqet** (play, music) · **qal**, **għedt**, **qalet** (say) · **ġie**, **ġejt**, **ġiet** (come) · **kiel**, **kilt**, **kielet** (eat).

The future: se

se goes in front of the present, and **mhux se** is won't. **Se jkun hemm** is there will be.

Verb	jien	int · hi	hu	aħna	intom	huma	Meaning
idoq q	se n doqq	se d doqq	se j doqq	se n doqqu	se d doqqu	se j doqqu	play (music)
jkun	se n kun	se tkun	se j kun	se nkun u	se tkun u	se jkun u	be

Telling the story

Example	Meaning
In order: l-ewwel · imbagħad · wara · fl-aħħar	
L-ewwel seraq il-bokkin, imbagħad tefa d-dawl.	First he stole the mouthpiece, then he turned off the light.

Example	Meaning
Passing it on: li	
Marija tgħid li rat kollox.	Marija says she saw everything.
Naħseb li kien Ċikku.	I think it was Ċikku.
What was going on: kien qed	
Kont qed nisma' lil Ġorġ meta d-dawl intefa.	I was listening to Ġorġ when the lights went out.

After **li**, keep the tense the speaker used; only the person changes: **Mhux se niġi.** → **Marija tgħid li mhix se tiġi.**

GRAMMAR

G1) FIND THE WORDS

Underline the verbs in the past.

- 1 Is-Sibt konna fil-festa, u żfinna ħafna.

Meaning: On Saturday we were at the festa, and we danced a lot.

- 2 In-nanna rat kollox, imma kienet rieqda!

Meaning: Grandma saw everything, but she was asleep!

- 3 In-nies raw lil Tonio, u mbagħad marru d-dar.

Meaning: People saw Tonio, and then they went home.

- 4 Intom kontu hemm? Intom rajtu lil Ċikku?

Meaning: Were you there? Did you see Ċikku?

- 5 Mama ħadet ħafna ritratti, u t-tfal ħadu l-kejk.

Meaning: Mum took lots of photos, and the children took the cake.

- 6 Ella marret id-dar, imma Ġorġ u Tonio kienu għadhom hemm.

Meaning: Ella went home, but Ġorġ and Tonio were still there.

- 7 Jien mort id-dar, u intom mortu iktar tard.

Meaning: I went home, and you went later.

- 8 Aħna rajna l-banda, u intom żfintu.

Meaning: We watched the band, and you danced.

- 9 Ċikku seraq il-bokkin u tefa d-dawl.

Meaning: Ċikku stole the mouthpiece and turned off the lights.

G2) THEN, NOW OR LATER?

Choose the right word for the gap.

- 1 Is-Sibt _____ ftit.

- ☐ A se niżfen
- ☐ B żfint
- ☐ C niżfen

Meaning: On Saturday I danced a little.

- 2 Illejlja se _____ id-dar kmieni.

- ☐ A immur
- ☐ B mort
- ☐ C mmur

Meaning: Tonight I'll go home early.

3 Kuljum _____ il-kafetterija ta' Lina.

- ☐ (A) immur
- ☐ (B) se mmur
- ☐ (C) mort

Meaning: Every day I go to Lina's café.

4 Is-Sibt _____ kollox!

- ☐ (A) nara
- ☐ (B) rajt
- ☐ (C) se nara

Meaning: On Saturday I saw everything!

5 Għada se _____ r-ritratti.

- ☐ (A) nara
- ☐ (B) ra
- ☐ (C) rajt

Meaning: Tomorrow I'll look at the photos.

6 Wara l-kunċert _____ id-dar.

- ☐ A immur
- ☐ B mort
- ☐ C se mmur

Meaning: After the concert I went home.

7 Kuljum _____ mat-tfal.

- ☐ A żfint
- ☐ B se niżfen
- ☐ C niżfen

Meaning: I dance with the children every day.

8 Illejla se _____ għalik.

- ☐ A daqqajt
- ☐ B ndoqq
- ☐ C indoqq

Meaning: Tonight I'll play for you.

9 Iktar tard se _____ hemm riħ qawwi.

- ☐ A kienet
- ☐ B jkun
- ☐ C kien

Meaning: Later there'll be a strong wind.

10 Lukas: Is-Sibt filgħaxija _____ għajjen ħafna, imma kuntent.

- ☐ A se nkun
- ☐ B kont
- ☐ C nkun

Meaning: On Saturday evening I was very tired, but happy.

11 Lena: Is-Sibt filgħaxija _____ għajjena ħafna, imma kuntenta.

- ☐ A kont
- ☐ B nkun
- ☐ C se nkun

Meaning: On Saturday evening I was very tired, but happy.

G3) ANSWER THE QUESTION

Answer the questions.

1 Is-Sibt x'għamiltu, Ella?

- ☐ A Aħna żfinna, u n-nanna rat kollox.
- ☐ B Aħna żfintu, u n-nanna rajt kollox.
- ☐ C Aħna żifnu, u n-nanna raw kollox.

Meaning: What did you do on Saturday, Ella?

2 Nanna, jien u Tonio x'għamilna?

- ☐ A Intom żfinna, u t-tfal żifnet ukoll.
- ☐ B Intom żfintu, u t-tfal żifnu wkoll.
- ☐ C Intom żifnu, u t-tfal żfintu wkoll.

Meaning: Grandma, what did Tonio and I do?

3 Intom rajtu lil Tonio jiżfen?

- ☐ A Iva, rajna, u n-nies kollha raw ukoll.
- ☐ B Iva, rat, u n-nies kollha ra wkoll.
- ☐ C Iva, rajtu, u n-nies kollha rajna wkoll.

Meaning: Did you see Tonio dancing?

4 Aħna rajna lil Ċikku fid-dlam?

- ☐ A Le, intom rajtu denb biss!
- ☐ B Le, intom rajna denb biss!
- ☐ C Le, intom raw denb biss!

Meaning: Did we see Ċikku in the dark?

5 Fejn marret Ella wara l-kunċert?

- ☐ A Marret id-dar, u t-tfal marru magħha.
- ☐ B Marru d-dar, u t-tfal mar magħha.
- ☐ C Mar id-dar, u t-tfal marret magħha.

Meaning: Where did Ella go after the concert?

6 Lina, meta morna d-dar aħna?

- ☐ A Intom marru kmieni, imma aħna mar tard.
- ☐ B Intom mortu kmieni, imma aħna morna tard.
- ☐ C Intom morna kmieni, imma aħna mortu tard.

Meaning: Lina, when did we go home?

7 Fejn kienu Marija u Ella? U intom?

- ☐ (A) Huma konna fuq il-bank, u aħna kienu fil-bankarell.
- ☐ (B) Huma kienu fuq il-bank, u aħna konna fil-bankarell.
- ☐ (C) Huma kienet fuq il-bank, u aħna kont fil-bankarell.

Meaning: Where were Marija and Ella? And you?

8 U aħna, fejn konna?

- ☐ (A) Intom kontu quddiem il-palk, u Ella kienet mat-tfal.
- ☐ (B) Intom konna quddiem il-palk, u Ella kien mat-tfal.
- ☐ (C) Intom kienu quddiem il-palk, u Ella kont mat-tfal.

Meaning: And where were we?

9 Min ħa r-ritratti? U l-imqarrun?

- ☐ (A) Omm Ella ħadu r-ritratti, u t-tfal ħadet l-imqarrun.
- ☐ (B) Omm Ella ħadet ir-ritratti, u t-tfal ħadu l-imqarrun.
- ☐ (C) Omm Ella ħadt ir-ritratti, u t-tfal ħadna l-imqarrun.

Meaning: Who took the photos? And the macaroni?

10 Meta se ddoqqu mill-ġdid?

- (A) Se jdoqqu għada, u t-tfal se nkunu fil-bitħa.
- (B) Se ndoqqu għada, u t-tfal se jkunu fil-bitħa.
- (C) Daqqejna għada, u t-tfal kienu fil-bitħa.

Meaning: When will you all play again?

G4) WHO SAID WHAT?

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

żifen rat żfint rajt

Tonio jgħid li _____ ftit biss. Imma Marija tgħid li _____
kollox.

Meaning: Tonio says he only danced a little. But Marija says she saw everything.

rat nara ra rajt

Jien _____ kollox, u għada se _____ r-ritratti.

Meaning: I saw everything, and tomorrow I'll look at the photos.

rat rajt

Lina tgħid li _____ fantażma b'denb.

Meaning: Lina says she saw a ghost with a tail.

kien kont

Marija tgħid li Ċikku _____ id-dar.

Meaning: Marija says Ċikku was at home.

kienet kont

Ella tgħid li n-nanna _____ riegda.

Meaning: Ella says Grandma was asleep.

ħadem voluntier Kien Kont ħdimt

Lukas: Jien _____ fil-bankarell. _____ il- _____
ta' Lina.

Meaning: I worked at the stall. I was Lina's helper.

ħadem voluntiera Kien Kont ħdimt

Lena: Jien _____ fil-bankarell. _____ il- _____ ta'
Lina.

Meaning: I worked at the stall. I was Lina's helper.

tigì nigì

Marija tgħid li mhix se _____.

Meaning: Marija says she isn't coming.

ddoqq daqqet

Ġorġ jgħid li l-banda se _____ għada.

Meaning: Ġorġ says the band will play tomorrow.

nkun kienu jkunu tkun

Ella tgħid li t-tfal se _____ fil-bitħa, u li hi se _____

magħhom.

Meaning: Ella says the children will be in the courtyard, and that she'll be with them.

ddoqqu ndoqqu

Ġorġ jgħid li intom se _____ għada wkoll.

Meaning: Ġorġ says you'll all play tomorrow too.

G5) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

1

Niżfen

ħafna.

żfint

kuljum.

Is-Sibt

Meaning: I dance every day. On Saturday I danced a lot.

2

magħha.

żifnu

t-tfal

Ella

żifnet,

u

Meaning: Ella danced, and the children danced with her.

3 ta' Lina. il-kafetterija immur Kuljum

Meaning: Every day I go to Lina's café.

4 il-flus, ħadt Jien u mbagħad ħadna l-imqarrun.

Meaning: I took the money, and then we took the macaroni.

5 ħadtu Ċikku? ħsieb Intom

Meaning: Did you look after Ċikku?

6 d-dar morna tard. l-festa Wara

Meaning: After the festa we went home late.

7 mal-banda. se u għada ndoqq, Illejla se ndoqqu

Meaning: Tonight I'll play, and tomorrow we'll play with the band.

8 riĥ, se hemm jkun imma Se jdoqq. Ġorġ

Meaning: There'll be wind, but Ġorġ will play.

9 se quddiem Intom nkunu se il-bank. il-palk?
tkunu fuq Aħna

Meaning: We'll be on the bench. Will you be in front of the stage?

10 d-dawl qed meta nisma' Kont Ġorġ intefa.
lil

Meaning: I was listening to Ġorġ when the lights went out.

G6) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 Ask Tonio and Lina together if they saw Ċikku. You say:**
 - ☐ (A) Intom raw lil Ċikku?
 - ☐ (B) Intom rajtu lil Ċikku?
 - ☐ (C) Intom rajna lil Ċikku?

- 2 Lukas: Marija asks how the festa was for you. You were tired, but it was really nice. You say:**
 - ☐ (A) Kont għajjen, imma kien ħelu ħafna.
 - ☐ (B) Kont għajjen, imma kien stramb ħafna.
 - ☐ (C) Se nkun għajjen, imma se jkun ħelu ħafna.

- 3 Lena: Marija asks how the festa was for you. You were tired, but it was really nice. You say:**
 - ☐ (A) Kont għajjena, imma kien stramb ħafna.
 - ☐ (B) Se nkun għajjena, imma se jkun ħelu ħafna.
 - ☐ (C) Kont għajjena, imma kien ħelu ħafna.

4 Promise Ġorġ you'll find the mouthpiece. You say:

- ☐ A Se nsib il-bokkin!
- ☐ B Se ssib il-bokkin!
- ☐ C Sibt il-bokkin!

5 Tell Anna what the cat did: he stole a mouthpiece. You say:

- ☐ A Il-qattus se jisraq bokkin.
- ☐ B Il-qattus seraq bokkin.
- ☐ C Il-qattus sraqt bokkin.

6 Ella asks where Tonio went after the concert. Say he went home, and you went home too. You say:

- ☐ A Mar id-dar. U jien mort id-dar ukoll.
- ☐ B Mort id-dar. U jien mar id-dar ukoll.
- ☐ C Se jmur id-dar. U jien se mmur id-dar ukoll.

7 Ġorġ asks if you'll come to the courtyard tonight. Say yes, you'll go after work. You say:

- ☐ A Iva, se mmur wara x-xogħol.
- ☐ B Iva, mort wara x-xogħol.
- ☐ C Iva, se tmur wara x-xogħol.

8 Ġorġ tells Marija when the children will sing tonight. Ġorġ says:

- ☐ A It-tfal se nkantaw wara l-banda.
- ☐ B It-tfal kantaw wara l-banda.
- ☐ C It-tfal se jkantaw wara l-banda.