

SCENE 43 • NUMBER 7

It-tmienja u erbatax

Monday. Tonio has written a report, minute by minute. 20:00 the concert started. 20:14 the lights went out. 20:15 a noise. 20:16 he screamed.

147 Words · 5 Exercises · Duration: 15 min.

The festival

Maltese

Read & listen online



LEARNING GOAL

I can tell a short story in the past with times, and ask what someone did.

Tonio = ■ Lena (Lukas) = O

Monday morning in the office. Tonio has a typed sheet of paper, minute by minute.

■ Bongu. Ktibt rapport. Dwar is-Sibt.

O Rapport? Dwar il-festa? Għaliex?

- Għax jien dejjem nikteb rapporti, anki dwar il-festi. Minuta b'minuta.
- Isma'.
- "It-tmienja eżatt: beda l-kunċert."
- "It-tmienja u erbatax: intefa d-dawl."
- "It-tmienja u ħmistax: storbu. Xi ħaġa waqgħet."
- Xi ħaġa waqgħet? X'waqa'?
- Ma nafx. "It-tmienja u sittax: għajjatt."
- Għajjatt? Għaliex?
- Xi ħaġa sħuna u ratba messet riġli. Fid-dlam!
- Sħuna u ratba? Forsi kien Ċikku?
- Ma nafx. Ma rajt xejn. Kien dlam. U l-qtates ma jgux għall-festa, hux?
- "It-tmienja u għoxrin: id-dawl reġa' nxtegħel." U daqshekk.
- Daqshekk? U wara x'għara? X'għamilt?
- Xejn. Il-banda daqqet, in-nies żifnu, u jien mort id-dar. Fit-tmienja u nofs eżatt.
- Verament? Imma n-nies kollha rawk tiżfen!

He says it very fast.

■ Jien ma żfintx.

○ Is-Sinjura Marija ratek ukoll. Qalet: "Żifen sabiħ ħafna!"

■ Is-Sinjura Marija żbaljata.

○ Żbaljata? Is-Sinjura Marija qatt ma tkun żbaljata!

The last line of the report is crossed out, but you can still read it.

○ U hawn? L-aħħar linja?

○ "It-tmienja u ħamsa u għoxrin: żfint."

■ Dak... żball.

○ Żball? Imma int ktibtha!

He goes red, and then he smiles.

■ Żball tajjeb ħafna.

Tonio jpoġġi r-rapport fil-borża tax-xemx. Imma l-ġurnata kollha jkanta bil-kwiet.

Vocabulary

DOING THINGS • AZZJONIJIET

jaqa'

fall

Waqgħet xi ħaġa: something fell. Oqgħod attent, taqax! Careful, don't fall!

jgħajjat

scream

Also shout. Tgħajjatx! Don't shout!

imiss**touch**

Tmissx! Don't touch! Imissek also means it's your turn.

SMALL WORDS • KLIEM ŻĠHIR**żbaljat****wrong**

żbaljat (m) · żbaljata (f) · żbaljati (pl); of a person too: hi żbaljata, she is wrong. A mistake: żball.

LIFE AND WORK • IL-ĦAJJA U X-XOGĦOL**storbju****noise**

Noise, a racket: l-istorbju. A single sound, a bang: ħoss (smajt ħoss, I heard a noise).

linja**line (of text)**

Several: linji. The same word as in karozza tal-linja, the bus.

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

artab (m) · ratba (f), like the colours. Xi ħaġa ratba: something soft (ħaġa is feminine).

EVERYDAY THINGS • AFFARIJIET TA' KULJUM**rapport****report**

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

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

1 Is-Sinjura Marija żbaljata.

- ☐ A Tonio
- ☐ B Lena

L2) WHAT DOES IT MEAN

Tick the right English meaning.

1 Xi ħaġa sħuna u ratba messet riġli. Fid-dlam!

- ☐ A 'Twenty-five past eight: I danced.'
- ☐ B Something warm and soft touched my leg. In the dark!
- ☐ C I did not dance.

L3) HOW DO YOU SAY IT

Tick the right Maltese sentence.

1 'Fifteen minutes past eight: a noise. Something fell.'

- ☐ A "It-tmienja u ħmistax: storbu. Xi ħaġa waqgħet."
- ☐ B Verament? Imma n-nies kollha rawk tiżfen!
- ☐ C "It-tmienja u erbatax: intefa d-dawl."

L4) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Write the words in the right order on the line.

- 1 id-dar. mort in-nies jien u eżatt. u daqqet,
Fit-tmienja Il-banda żifnu, Xejn. nofs
-

L5) WHAT HAPPENS FIRST

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

- ☐ Is-Sinjura Marija żbaljata.
- ☐ Żball? Imma int ktibtha!
- ☐ "It-tmienja eżatt: beda l-kunċert."
- ☐ Ma nafx. "It-tmienja u sittax: għajjatt."
- ☐ Daqshekk? U wara x'għara? X'għamilt?

SCENE 43 • WORDS

It-tmienja u erbatax

20.14

4 Exercises • Duration: 10 min.

The festival

Maltese

Read & listen online



rapport
report



storbju
noise



jaqa'
fall



jgħajjat
scream



artab
soft



imiss
touch



linja
line (of text)

Words

rapport

report

Rapport? Dwar il-festa? Għaliex?

storbju

noise

"It-tmienja u ħmistax: storbju. Xi ħaġa waqgħet."

jaqa'

fall

Xi ħaġa waqgħet? X'waqa'?

jgħajjat

scream

Għajjatt? Għaliex?

artab

soft

Sħuna u ratba? Forsi kien Ċikku?

imiss

touch

Xi ħaġa sħuna u ratba messet riġli. Fid-dlam!

żbaljat

wrong

Dak... żball.

linja

line (of text)

U hawn? L-aħħar linja?

VOCABULARY & COMMUNICATION

W1) WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

What does it mean?

1 storbju

- ☐ A Tuesday
- ☐ B noise
- ☐ C wait

2 jaqa'

- ☐ A like
- ☐ B when (question)
- ☐ C fall

3 linja

- ☐ A line (of text)
- ☐ B umbrella
- ☐ C today

4 rapport

- ☐ A start
- ☐ B report
- ☐ C listen

5 imiss

- ☐ A touch
- ☐ B new
- ☐ C thirty

6 jghajjat

- ☐ A scream
- ☐ B a little
- ☐ C brown

W2) TONIO'S REPORT

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

linja rapport

Ktibt _____. Dwar is-Sibt.

Meaning: I've written a report. About Saturday.

waqgħet storbu għajjatt

It-tmienja u ħmistax: _____. Xi ħaġa _____.

Meaning: Fifteen minutes past eight: a noise. Something fell.

misset ratba artab

Xi ħaġa sħuna u _____ rigli.

Meaning: Something warm and soft touched my leg.

rapport linja

U hawn? L-aħħar _____?

Meaning: And here? The last line?

storbju żball

Dak... _____.

Meaning: That's... a mistake.

W3) A PIECE OF PAPER

Fill the speech bubbles.



ratba Ċikku Biċċa waqgħet linja kiteb

Tonio: X'inhi din? _____ karta fuq l-iskrivanija tiegħi?

Tonio: "Żfint sabiħ ħafna." Min _____ dan?

Tonio: Ajma! Xi ħaġa _____ messitni!

Lena: Tonio, dak _____. U għandu l-pinna tiegħek.

Meaning: 1. What's this? A piece of paper on my desk?

2. 'You danced really nicely.' Who wrote this?

3. Oh! Something soft touched me!

4. Tonio, that's Ċikku. And he's got your pen.

W4) MINUTE BY MINUTE

Match the pairs.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| ① waqa' | ① A a noise |
| ② għajjat | ② B a report |
| ③ żball | ③ C it touched |
| ④ storbu | ④ D he screamed |
| ⑤ mess | ⑤ E soft |
| ⑥ linja | ⑥ F it fell |
| ⑦ artab · ratba | ⑦ G a line (of writing) |
| ⑧ rapport | ⑧ H a mistake |

SCENE 43 • GRAMMAR

Ra, rat, raw

The past: he, she and they

8 Exercises • Duration: 25 min.

The festival

Maltese

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The 3rd person singular (he, it) is the bare verb, the base of the past tense: **beda**, it started • **ra**, he saw • **żifen**, he danced. The 3rd person singular for she, and for a feminine thing, adds **-et**: **żifnet**, she danced • **Xi haġa waqgħet**. Something fell (**haġa** is feminine). The 3rd person plural (they) adds **-u**: **żifnu**, they danced • **In-nies żifnu**. People danced. After a vowel, she takes only **-t** and they take **-w**: **ra**, **rat**, **raw**.

THE PAST TENSE, ALL PERSONS

jien • int	hu	hi	aħna	intom	huma	Meaning
żfint	żifen	żifnet	żfinna	żfintu	żifnu	dance
rajt	ra	rat	rajna	rajtu	raw	see
mort	mar	marret	morna	mortu	marru	go

Before **-et** and **-u** the last vowel of the base drops: **żifen**, **żifnet**, **żifnu**. **mar** doubles its r: **marret**, **marru**. So the base is the key: from **żifen** you can make every other person.

HE, SHE, THEY

hu	hi	huma	Meaning
Most verbs: -et • -u			
ħadem	ħadmet	ħadmu	work
waqa'	waqgħet	waqgħu	fall
sema'	semgħet	semgħu	hear

hu	hi	huma	Meaning
Ending in a vowel: -iet · -ew			
beda	bdiet	bdew	start
A long vowel: it stays			
kien	kienet	kienu	be
sab	sabet	sabu	find
A double letter: -et · -u			
daqq	daqqet	daqqu	play (music)
mess	messet	messu	touch
Irregular			
ħa	ħadet	ħadu	take
qal	qalet	qalu	say
ġie	ġiet	ġew	come

waqa' and **sema'** end in a hidden **gh**, which comes back before an ending: **waqgħet**, **semgħu**. **Il-banda daqqet** is The band played: **banda** is feminine, and **daqq** here is play, for music. The same verb is used when a bell or a phone rings.

Things take the gender of their noun: **Il-kunċert beda**. The concert started. **Id-dawl intefa**. The light went out. In a report or a story the verb often comes first: **Beda l-kunċert. Intefa d-dawl**.

TIP

An object ending comes after all this, as in the last module: raw and -k, you, is rawk, they saw you; rat and -ek is ratek, she saw you.

It-tmienja eżatt: beda l-kunċert.

Eight o'clock sharp: the concert started.

It-tmienja u ħmistax: storbju. Xi ħaġa waqgħet.

Fifteen minutes past eight: a noise. Something fell.

Il-banda daqquet, in-nies żifnu, u jien mort id-dar.

The band played, people danced, and I went home.

Is-Sinjura Marija ratek ukoll. Qalet: Żifen sabiħ ħafna!

Mrs Marija saw you too. She said: He danced really nicely!

GRAMMAR

G1) FIND THE WORDS

Underline the verbs in the past.

- 1 It-tmienja eżatt: beda l-kunċert.

Meaning: Eight o'clock sharp: the concert started.

- 2 It-tmienja u ħmistax: storbu. Xi ħaġa waqgħet.

Meaning: Fifteen minutes past eight: a noise. Something fell.

- 3 Xi ħaġa sħuna u ratba messet riġli.

Meaning: Something warm and soft touched my leg.

- 4 Il-banda daqquet, in-nies żifnu, u jien mort id-dar.

Meaning: The band played, people danced, and I went home.

- 5 In-nies kollha raw lil Tonio, u Marija rat kollox.

Meaning: Everybody saw Tonio, and Marija saw everything.

- 6 Marija qalet: Tonio żifen sabiħ!

Meaning: Marija said: Tonio danced beautifully!

- 7 Lina u Ella ħadmu, u t-tfal kienu fuq il-palk.

Meaning: Lina and Ella worked, and the children were on the stage.

- 8 Ella żifnet u mbagħad marret id-dar.

Meaning: Ella danced and then she went home.

- 9 It-tfal semgħu storbu, u bdew jgħajtu.

Meaning: The children heard a noise, and they started screaming.

- 10

Meaning: We danced, and you danced too!

G2) SHE: -ET OR -T

Choose the right word for the gap.

- 1 Xi ħaġa _____ fid-dlam.

- ☐ A waqajt
- ☐ B waqgħet
- ☐ C waqgħu

Meaning: Something fell in the dark.

- 2 Marija _____ lil Tonio jiżfen.

- ☐ A raw
- ☐ B rat
- ☐ C ra

Meaning: Marija saw Tonio dancing.

3 Lina _____ fil-bankarell l-għaxija kollha.

- ☐ A ħadmu
- ☐ B ħadmet
- ☐ C ħadem

Meaning: Lina worked at the stall all evening.

4 Ella _____ mat-tfal.

- ☐ A żifen
- ☐ B żifnet
- ☐ C żifnu

Meaning: Ella danced with the children.

5 Il-banda _____ wara l-kunċert.

- ☐ A daqq
- ☐ B daqqet
- ☐ C daqqejna

Meaning: The band played after the concert.

6 Xi ħaġa sħuna _____ riġel Tonio.

- ☐ A mess
- ☐ B messejt
- ☐ C messet

Meaning: Something warm touched Tonio's leg.

7 Marija _____: Żifen sabiħ ħafna!

- ☐ A qalu
- ☐ B qal
- ☐ C qalet

Meaning: Marija said: He danced really nicely!

8 Ella _____ quddiem il-palk.

- ☐ A mar
- ☐ B mort
- ☐ C marret

Meaning: Ella went in front of the stage.

9 Lina _____ lil Ġorġ idoqq.

- ☐ A smajt
- ☐ B semgħet
- ☐ C sema'

Meaning: Lina heard Ġorġ playing.

10 Is-Sinjura Marija _____ fuq il-bank.

- ☐ A kienet
- ☐ B kont
- ☐ C kien

Meaning: Mrs Marija was on the bench.

G3) THEY: -U OR -W

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 In-nies _____ wara l-kunċert.

- ☐ A żifnet
- ☐ B żifen
- ☐ C żifnu

Meaning: People danced after the concert.

2 In-nies kollha _____ lil Tonio.

- ☐ A rat
- ☐ B ra
- ☐ C raw

Meaning: Everybody saw Tonio.

3 Ġorġ u l-banda _____ sal-għaxra.

- ☐ A daqqu
- ☐ B daqq
- ☐ C daqqet

Meaning: Ġorġ and the band played until ten.

4 Il-ħbieb ta' Ġorġ _____ d-dar.

- ☐ A marru
- ☐ B marret
- ☐ C mar

Meaning: Ġorġ's friends went home.

5 It-tfal _____ storbu.

- ☐ A semgħu
- ☐ B semgħet
- ☐ C sema'

Meaning: The children heard a noise.

6 Ġorġ u Marija _____ ħdejn il-palk.

- ☐ A kienet
- ☐ B kienu
- ☐ C kien

Meaning: Ġorġ and Marija were next to the stage.

7 Lina u Ella _____ fil-bankarell.

- ☐ A ħadmu
- ☐ B ħadmet
- ☐ C ħadem

Meaning: Lina and Ella worked at the stall.

8 It-tfal _____: Fantażma!

- ☐ A qalu
- ☐ B qal
- ☐ C qalet

Meaning: The children said: A ghost!

9 Ħafna nies _____ għall-festa.

- ☐ A ġiet
- ☐ B ġie
- ☐ C ġew

Meaning: Lots of people came to the festa.

10 In-nies _____ jiżfnu.

- ☐ A bdew
- ☐ B bdiet
- ☐ C beda

Meaning: People started dancing.

G4) EVERY PERSON

Choose the right word for the gap.

1 Jien _____ id-dar fit-tmienja u nofs.

- ☐ A mort
- ☐ B marru
- ☐ C mar

Meaning: I went home at half past eight.

2 Int _____, Tonio!

- ☐ A żfint
- ☐ B żifen
- ☐ C żifnu

Meaning: You danced, Tonio!

3 Aħna ma _____ xejn.

- ☐ A rajna
- ☐ B rat
- ☐ C raw

Meaning: We didn't see anything.

4 Tonio, Lina: intom _____ sa nofsillejl?

- ☐ A żfintu
- ☐ B żfinna
- ☐ C żifnu

Meaning: Tonio, Lina: did you dance until midnight?

5 Il-kunċert _____ fit-tmienja eżatt.

- ☐ A bdew
- ☐ B beda
- ☐ C bdiet

Meaning: The concert started at eight sharp.

6 Ella _____ tkanta mat-tfal.

- ☐ A bdiet
- ☐ B beda
- ☐ C bdew

Meaning: Ella started singing with the children.

7 Fid-dlam, Ella _____ lil Marija.

- ☐ A sab
- ☐ B sabu
- ☐ C sabet

Meaning: In the dark, Ella found Marija.

8 Ella _____ biċċa imqarrun.

- ☐ A ħadu
- ☐ B ħadet
- ☐ C ħa

Meaning: Ella took a piece of macaroni.

9 Marija _____ fis-sebgha.

- ☐ A ġiet
- ☐ B ġie
- ☐ C ġew

Meaning: Marija came at seven.

10 It-tfal _____ lil Ella taħt il-mejda.

- ☐ A sab
- ☐ B sabet
- ☐ C sabu

Meaning: The children found Ella under the table.

G5) ANSWER THE QUESTION

Answer the questions.

1 Intom x'għamiltu wara l-kunċert?

- ☐ A Morna d-dar, u żfinna ftit.
- ☐ B Mortu d-dar, u żfintu ftit.
- ☐ C Marru d-dar, u żifnu ftit.

Meaning: What did you do after the concert?

2 U aħna, fejn morna?

- ☐ A Intom mortu quddiem il-palk.
- ☐ B Intom marru quddiem il-palk.
- ☐ C Intom morna quddiem il-palk.

Meaning: And where did we go?

3 X'rajt fid-dlam, Tonio?

- ☐ A Ma rajt xejn. Kien dlam.
- ☐ B Ma ra xejn. Kien dlam.
- ☐ C Ma rajna xejn. Kien dlam.

Meaning: What did you see in the dark, Tonio?

4 Aħna rajna lil Tonio jiżfen?

- ☐ A Iva, intom rajtu lil Tonio jiżfen!
- ☐ B Iva, intom raw lil Tonio jiżfen!
- ☐ C Iva, intom rajna lil Tonio jiżfen!

Meaning: Did we see Tonio dancing?

5 U t-tfal? X'għara fid-dlam?

- ☐ A Waqgħet mill-bank!
- ☐ B Waqa' mill-bank!
- ☐ C Waqgħu mill-bank!

Meaning: And the children? What happened in the dark?

6 Min mess it-trumbetta ta' Ġorġ?

- ☐ A It-tfal messu t-trumbetta.
- ☐ B It-tfal mess it-trumbetta.
- ☐ C It-tfal messet it-trumbetta.

Meaning: Who touched Ġorġ's trumpet?

7 U l-imqarrun? Fejn hu?

- ☐ A In-nies ħadet l-imqarrun kollu.
- ☐ B In-nies ħadu l-imqarrun kollu.
- ☐ C In-nies ħa l-imqarrun kollu.

Meaning: And the macaroni? Where is it?

8 X'qalet is-Sinjura Marija?

- ☐ A Qalu: Tonio żifen sabiħ ħafna!
- ☐ B Qal: Tonio żifen sabiħ ħafna!
- ☐ C Qalet: Tonio żifen sabiħ ħafna!

Meaning: What did Mrs Marija say?

G6) WHO DID WHAT ON SATURDAY?

Fill the gaps with the words from the box.

ħadmu kienet kienu ħadmet

Lina _____ fil-bankarell, u Ella _____ mat-tfal.

Meaning: Lina worked at the stall, and Ella was with the children.

daqqet daqqu

Ġorġ u l-banda _____ sal-għaxra.

Meaning: Ġorġ and the band played until ten.

semgħu qalet semgħet qalu

Marija _____ lil Ġorġ, u _____: Sabiħ!

Meaning: Marija heard Ġorġ, and said: Beautiful!

sab sabu sabet

Fid-dlam, it-tfal _____ lil Ella, u Ella _____ lil Marija.

Meaning: In the dark, the children found Ella, and Ella found Marija.

bdiet ġiet bdew ġew

Ella _____ tkanta, u t-tfal _____ magħha.

Meaning: Ella started singing, and the children came with her.

mar marru

Ħafna nies _____ d-dar, imma Tonio żifen!

Meaning: Lots of people went home, but Tonio danced!

waqqġet waqa' waqqġu

Xi ħaġa _____, u t-tfal _____ ukoll!

Meaning: Something fell, and the children fell too!

ħa ħadu ħadet

Ella _____ biċċa imqarrun, u t-tfal _____ l-kejk.

Meaning: Ella took a piece of macaroni, and the children took the cake.

ġie ġiet rat

Marija _____ fis-sebgħa, u _____ kollox.

Meaning: Marija came at seven, and saw everything.

G7) PUT THE WORDS IN ORDER

Put the words in order.

- 1 It-tmienja eżatt: beda l-kunċert.

Meaning: Eight o'clock sharp: the concert started.

- 2 n-nies ll-banda żifnu. daqqet, u

Meaning: The band played, and people danced.

- 3 rajt Ma Kien dlam. xejn.

Meaning: I didn't see anything. It was dark.

- 4 Ħafna għall-festa. ġew nies

Meaning: Lots of people came to the festa.

5 u xi ħaġa Id-dawl intefa, waqgħet.

Meaning: The lights went out, and something fell.

6 intom Aħna wara. mortu morna d-dar, imma

Meaning: We went home, but you went later.

7 raw kollha Tonio In-nies lil jiżfen.

Meaning: Everybody saw Tonio dancing.

8 żfint! rajna Aħna int Tonio, kollox.

Meaning: Tonio, you danced! We saw everything.

- 9 Ġorġ. messu t-trumbetta It-tfal ta'

Meaning: The children touched Ġorġ's trumpet.

- 10 fid-dlam? lil rajtu Intom Ċikku

Meaning: Did you see Ċikku in the dark?

G8) THE RIGHT WORDS

Choose the right words for the situation.

- 1 Tell Tonio that everybody saw him dancing. You say:

- (A) In-nies kollha rajt tiżfen!
- (B) In-nies kollha rat tiżfen!
- (C) In-nies kollha rawk tiżfen!

- 2 Tonio reads out what happened at a quarter past eight.
Something fell. Tonio says:

- (A) Xi ħaġa waqgħu.
- (B) Xi ħaġa waqgħet.
- (C) Xi ħaġa waqajt.

3 Ella asks what the children said when the lights went out. They said it was a ghost. You say:

- ☐ A Qalu: Fantażma!
- ☐ B Qal: Fantażma!
- ☐ C Qalet: Fantażma!

4 Tell Tonio that Mrs Marija saw him too. You say:

- ☐ A Is-Sinjura Marija rajtek ukoll.
- ☐ B Is-Sinjura Marija ratek ukoll.
- ☐ C Is-Sinjura Marija rawk ukoll.

5 Tell Ella that the band played and people danced. You say:

- ☐ A Il-banda daqq, u n-nies żifnet.
- ☐ B Il-banda daqqu, u n-nies żifen.
- ☐ C Il-banda daqget, u n-nies żifnu.

6 Tonio insists he did not dance. Tonio says:

- ☐ A Jien ma żfintx.
- ☐ B Jien ma żifinx.
- ☐ C Jien żfint.

7 Tell Tonio that Lina and Ella worked all evening. You say:

- ☐ A Lina u Ella ħadmet l-għaxija kollha.
- ☐ B Lina u Ella ħdimna l-għaxija kollha.
- ☐ C Lina u Ella ħadmu l-għaxija kollha.

8 Ella asks if lots of children came to the festa. Say yes. You say:

- ☐ A Iva, ġiet ħafna tfal.
- ☐ B Iva, ġie ħafna tfal.
- ☐ C Iva, ġew ħafna tfal.