

## So, what's your deal?: Malta

### Inglés 1.º de Nivel Intermedio B2

Enseñanzas  
Oficiales de  
Idiomas

Lesson

So, what's your deal?  
Malta



### Focus on



Imagen de Adam Jones,  
en [flickr](#) . Licencia [CC](#)



Imagen de Madalena Pestana  
en [flickr](#) . Licencia [CC](#)

The people you can see in these photos are **Paula** and **Carlos**. They are two Spanish students who have finished their English course at CEOLS. Now, they have got a B2 level and have found a summer job in Malta. It will give them the chance to explore and discover the country and its stunning beaches, they will meet new people and, above all, they will have the opportunity to practise a language they have been

learning for 6 months at CEOLS.

Paula is going to work as an au-pair in the capital city of Malta, Valletta, and Carlos is going to work as a kitchen assistant in St. Julian's.

Do you want to know where these two cities are?

If you want to find out their location click on [this interactive map](#)

# 1. Welcome to Malta



## Culture counts



Now, it's time for Paula and Carlos to prepare their journey and the first thing they have done is to visit the Official Tourism Site for Malta, Gozo and Comino on the Internet to find useful information.

Are you interested in knowing what useful information they have found? Let's read about it:

Imagen de Dougtone  
en [flickr](#). Licencia  
[Cc'C](#)

The Republic of Malta is a Southern European country consisting of an archipelago situated in the centre of the Mediterranean, 80 km south of Sicily. Malta has a very sunny climate with a daily average of five to six hours sunshine in mid-winter to around 12 hours in summer. Winters are mild, with the occasional short chilly period brought about by the north and north-easterly winds from central Europe. Summers are hot, dry and very sunny. Day-time temperatures in summer are often mitigated by cooling sea breezes, but in spring and autumn a very hot wind from Africa occasionally brings high temperatures and humidity. The length of the dry season in summer is longer than in neighbouring Italy. Sea bathing is quite possible well in to the 'winter' months, and the peak season can last until mid-to late October. The Maltese coastal waters are generally clean and safe for swimming as there are no tides. Some bays are exposed to north and north-easterly winds which do produce some strong undercurrents at times. The Maltese Archipelago lies virtually at the centre of the Mediterranean and has a latitude more southerly than that of northern Tunisia. You are therefore advised to take precautions to ensure you avoid overexposure to the sun. Even in winter it is advisable to wear a suitable factor sunscreen for your skin type. This is important if you are out walking, or taking part in water sports.

In Malta you'll explore 7000 years of history yet live passionately in the present. You'll span the millennia with an astonishing array of things to discover. And wherever you go, the Islands' scenery and architecture provide a spectacular backdrop. The colours are striking, honey-coloured stone against the deepest of Mediterranean blues. The Maltese Islands have been described as one big open-air museum. What makes them unique is that so much of their past is visible today. The sites to visit are endless - the Megalithic Temples, the underground St Paul's and St. Agatha's catacombs, The Knights of St. John's significant sites, such as Fort St Angelo and Fort Rinella (home to the

world's largest canon).

As in Britain, the three-pin rectangular plug system is used and also driving is on the left. There are speed limits of 80 km/h on the open road and 50 km/h in built-up areas. National or international driving licenses are accepted.

SOURCE: <http://www.visitmalta.com/useful-information>



## Do it yourself

---

Read the text again and find words or expressions for the following definitions. Write the answer in the space provided.

- a. An extensive group of islands:
- b. Moderately warm:
- c. Unpleasantly cold:
- d. Gentle winds:
- e. Season characterized by maximum activity or demand:
- f. Broad curved arms of the sea:
- g. Excessive exposition:
- h. An impressive display or range of a particular thing:
- i. An underground cemetery:
- j. A device consisting of metal pins that fit into holes in a socket to make an electrical connection:

- a. An extensive group of islands: Archipelago.
  - b. Moderately warm: Mild.
  - c. Unpleasantly cold: Chilly.
  - d. Gentle winds: Breezes.
  - e. Season characterized by maximum activity or demand: Peak season.
  - f. Broad curved arms of the sea: Bays.
  - g. Excessive exposition: Overexposure.
  - h. An impressive display or range of a particular thing: Array.
  - i. An underground cemetery: Catacomb.
  - j. A device consisting of metal pins that fit into holes in a socket to make an electrical connection: Plug.
-

## 1.1. Words to travel

---



### Focus on

---



Imagen de Jorge Quinteros  
en [flickr](#). Licencia  
[CC](#)

Paula and Carlos have chosen to travel to Malta to work there and improve their English.

Think which place in the world you would choose for:

- a. a break
  - b. a pilgrimage
  - c. a voyage
- 



Let's check now if you are familiar with the vocabulary related to travel, click on the following links to do the activities:

1. [Listen](#) to words related to travel and complete the sentences.
  2. Useful [vocabulary](#) when planning a trip (I).
  3. [Vocabulary](#) to plan a trip (II).
- 



Could you say the type of traveller you are? Do you prefer a sophisticated city, a package tour or somewhere off the beaten track? If you click [here](#), you will know the type of traveller you are just by answering some questions of a quiz.

---

## 2. The heart of Malta

---



### Culture counts

---



Paula and Carlos seem to be more and more interested in Malta. Now, they have found a video which explains what Malta can offer them. You can also share their enthusiasm by watching the video.

Imagen de Loco Steve en [flickr](#) . Licencia [CC](#)

#### Malta Island Information



Video alojado en Youtube



### Do it yourself

---

Watch the video of Malta and say if the following statements are true or false.

If it is necessary you can watch the video twice.

a. The climate of the Maltese islands is described as dry and boiling all year round.

☐ True ☐ False

**False**

It's described as mild and sunny nine months of the year.

b. In 1555 the Great Siege of Malta took place when the Ottoman Empire invaded the island.

☐ True ☐ False

**False**

It took place in 1565.

c. The capital city of Malta was named after Jean Parison de la Valette.

☐ True ☐ False

**True**

d. Caravaggio lived in Malta for one year.

☐ True ☐ False

**True**

e. Malta, Gozo and Comino are ideal places to explore picturesque fishing villages.

☐ True ☐ False

**False**

The video only refers to Malta and its sister island Gozo.

e. If shopping is your thing, Malta has a great deal to offer.

☐ True ☐ False

True

f. Accommodation in Malta caters for all types of visitors.

☐ True ☐ False

True

g. A combination of tradition and entertainment is available in Malta.

☐ True ☐ False

True



---

Now that you know a bit more about Malta, which of the following adjectives would you use to describe the island? Go to the forum and explain to your partners why you have chosen these adjectives. Do they think the same as you?

Picturesque	Popular
Enormous	Tiny
Cosy	Touristy
Noisy	Safe
Luxurious	Lovely
Historic	Cosmopolitan
Bustling	Exciting
Exotic	Breathtaking

Dull  
Overcrowded

Lively  
Quaint

---



---

Synonyms and antonyms are an essential part of the English language since it helps you to expand your vocabulary and choose the appropriate word for the appropriate occasion. Click [here](#) and you will find a full list of words arranged alphabetically with synonyms, antonyms and contextual examples of each word you are interested in.

---



## 2.1. Why is English spoken in Malta?

---



### Focus on

---



Imagen de Daniele Pesaresi en [flickr](#).  
Licencia [CC](#)

Have you ever wondered why English is spoken in Malta? Is English the official language in Malta?

---



### Do it yourself

---

1. Read the first paragraph of the following text called **Official Languages in Malta**. In the gaps 1-4 write the letter (a-d) which corresponds to the percentage of speakers of each language in Malta.

- a. 66%
- b. 17%
- c. 88%
- d. 100%

2. Go on reading the text and fill in the gaps (5-8) using the following sentences. Write the corresponding letter (e-h) in each gap.

- e. the variety of English commonly spoken in Malta is heavily influenced by Italian
- f. a large number of Maltese learn Italian through Italian television
- g. Italian was the official language of Malta
- h. Malta was a British possession

## Official Languages in Malta

The current national language of Malta is Maltese, which along with English, is one of the official languages.

Having been governed by many different countries in the past, the Maltese population carry linguistic imprints from many places. Almost 1.  of Maltese people can speak Maltese, 2.  of the Maltese people can speak English, 3.  can speak Italian, and nowadays more than 4.  of the Maltese speak French.

Before independence in 1964, 5.  , and a result of this is that English is still an official language, with government business being carried out in both English and Maltese. Although standard English is official, 6.  , not only in vocabulary, but extending to phonology, with the English being heavily accented in an Italian style.

Before the 1930s, 7.  . Italian irredentists and Italian Maltese wanted to promote its use throughout Malta for plans to re-unify it to Italy (Malta was part of the Kingdom of Sicily up to 16th century). Although only the rich could speak Italian, with Maltese being generally spoken by those less well off, Italian was regarded as the official language.

An interesting fact is that 8.  , mainly Mediaset and RAI, as their broadcasts reach the Maltese Islands. In addition to this, many products, services, and businesses that reach Malta are Italian, with Malta being too small on its own to produce some things, so many people learn Italian like this.

SOURCE: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages\\_of\\_Malta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_of_Malta)

NUMBER LETTER	
1	d
2	c
3	a
4	b
5	h
6	e
7	g
8	f



## Moving on

---

If you are interested in knowing a bit more about the ability of Maltese people to speak English, click [here](#) and read a newspaper article.

---

### 3. Order of adjectives in English

---



#### Reading activity

---

Look at these three photos and descriptions of some typical sites in Malta taken from holiday brochures:



Imagen de karstensfotos en [flickr](#) . Licencia [CC](#)

1. It's a **magnificent huge prehistoric** stone temple.

Seven of the Megalithic Temples of Malta are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

You'll be impressed when visiting them!



Imagen de ramonbaile en [flickr](#) . Licencia [CC](#)

2. Malta and Gozo offer a number of places ideal for bathing. The most obvious choice for families are **popular golden sandy** beaches, but bathing off the rocks is also extremely popular. Rocky beaches are not beaches with rocks instead of sand, but bathing spots where the coast is natural rock, often in

the form of flat platforms ideal for sunbathing (without the sand) and sometimes improved by means of diving platforms and steps or ladders.



Imagen de JaviC en [flickr](#)  
Licencia [CC](#)

3. Most tours will take you to parts of Malta where you'll be able to pass through these **typical long narrow Maltese** streets.



## Do it yourself

According to the description in bold in the texts, which is the correct order of adjectives before a noun in English?

- a. Opinion, size, age, shape, colour, origin, material.
- b. Age, size, opinion, colour, origin, material.
- c. Opinion, size, shape, age, origin, colour, material.

The correct order of adjectives in English before a noun is:

- a. Opinion, size, age, shape, colour, origin, material.



## Reading activity

Click [here](#) to watch a presentation which will be useful for you to understand better the word order in English sentences.



Now, it's time to practice the correct adjective order. Click on the links below and do the activities:

1. Which is the correct sentence?

2. Which is the correct order?

---

## 3.1 Pronunciation

---

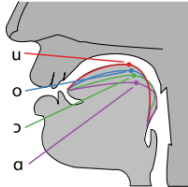


Imagen de [Ishwar](#) de Wikimedia Commons con licencia [CC](#)

In this section of the unit we are going to concentrate on pairs of words which share the same pronunciation, but differing in only one different phonological element.

They are called **minimal pairs**.

In the examples shown below the difference lies in the short vowel /ʊ/ or the long vowel /u:/.

	/ʊ/		/u:/
Look	/lʊk/	Luke	/lu:k/
Full	/fʊl/	Fool	/fu:l/
Pull	/pʊl/	Pool	/pu:l/

Click [here](#) to get more information on **minimal pairs**.

Watch [this video](#) on the pronunciation of **minimal pairs**.



Watch the first video to listen and practice the pronunciation of the short vowel sound /ʊ/.

Then, compare and contrast it with the pronunciation of the long vowel sound /u:/ which is shown in the second video.

## English Pronunciation – Short Vowel - /ʊ/ - 'foot', 'put' & 'go...



## Long Vowel Sound 02



### Do it yourself

Match the following phonetic transcriptions with either the sound /ʊ/ or /u:/ to their spelling. Write the corresponding letter in the space provided.

Butcher

a. /wʊd/

Sugar

b. /tu:/

Food

c. /'wʊmən/

Would

d. /wʊlf/

Could

e. /gu:s/



Two	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. /kʊd/
Woman	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. /'ʃʊgə(r)/
Soon	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. /bluː/
Wolf	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. /muːn/
Goose	<input type="checkbox"/>	j. /suːn/
Moon	<input type="checkbox"/>	k. /'bʊtʃə(r)/
Blue	<input type="checkbox"/>	l. /fuːd/

Butcher	k	a. /wʊd/
Sugar	g	b. /tuː/
Food	l	c. /'wʊmən/
Would	a	d. /wʊlf/
Could	f	e. /guːs/
Two	b	f. /kʊd/
Woman	c	g. /'ʃʊgə(r)/
Soon	j	h. /bluː/
Wolf	d	i. /muːn/
Goose	e	j. /suːn/
Moon	i	k. /'bʊtʃə(r)/
Blue	h	l. /fuːd/

## 4. How to complain

---



Imagen en marksdk de [flickr](#)  
Licencia [CC](#)

Imagine you are going to Malta on holidays, and the following situations take place.

Which of the following complaints are more serious for you?

1. Unbearably long delays at the airport.
2. Polluted beach.
3. Last minute change to the date of departure.
4. Unexpected additional fees.
5. Poor customer service at the hotel.
6. Cancellation of pre-booked excursions.
7. Inedible food.

Go to the forum and explain to your partners why you have chosen your first three more serious complaints.



There are a number of formulas used when complaining in English. It's important to remember that a direct complaint or criticism in English can sound rude or aggressive. It's better to mention a problem in an indirect manner.

- a. I'm sorry to have to say this but...
- b. I'm sorry to bother you, but...
- c. Maybe you forgot to...
- d. I think you might have forgotten to...
- e. Excuse me if I'm out of line, but...
- f. There may have been a misunderstanding about...
- g. Don't get me wrong, but I think we should...
- h. Excuse me, but there's a problem with...
- i. I'm afraid I have to make a complaint. ...
- j. I'm afraid there's a slight problem with...

Adapted from : [http://esl.about.com/od/grammarstructures/a/f\\_complaints.htm](http://esl.about.com/od/grammarstructures/a/f_complaints.htm)

### **How to accept, delay and reject a complaint**

- a. Oh dear, I'm sorry about that.
- b. I wish it never happened.
- c. I'm so sorry. I didn't realize.
- d. I just don't know what to say.
- e. I suggest you leave it with us and we'll see what we can do.
- f. I'm afraid we can't help you at the moment. Could you leave your contact phone number? We'll contact you soon
- g. Well, I'm afraid there isn't much we can do about it actually.



---

Now you're ready for the complaint quiz, click [here](#) and check if you understood how to complain:

---



---

Go to the forum and look for a partner to work in pairs. One of you has to complain about situations 1-3, the other one about situations 4-6:

1. You arrive in Malta for an important business meeting. You take a taxi from the airport to the hotel and the taxi driver charges you 50 euros. You think he's cheating you.
  2. You are in Malta on July 20th. You arrive at the hotel and when you go to your room you realize that the air conditioning doesn't work properly. Go to the reception to complain.
  3. Two days later at the same hotel. You have a very important meeting, but the hotel laundry has ruined your favourite shirt. Go again to complain to the receptionist.
  4. You are on a plane looking for your aisle seat. When you find it, you discover that it is already occupied. Talk to this person and complain because you don't want a window seat, but your aisle seat.
  5. After solving the problem with the seats, the person next to you falls asleep on your shoulder. Try to wake him/her up and complain about this situation.
  6. You want to complain to your travel agent because the airport shuttle was one hour late and you were about to miss your flight.
-

## Bite Size

---



---

You have learnt the correct order of adjectives.

---



---

You are able to discriminate the pronunciation of the following two vowels: /ʊ/ and /u:/.

---



---

You can say the type of traveller you are, the types of travel as well as the types of accommodation you like when travelling. Apart from that you can describe locations by means of adjectives used to describe places.

---



---

You are ready to complain as well as to accept, delay and reject a complaint.

---



---

Thanks to this unit you know a bit more about Malta, a country where English is spoken as an official language and the place where Paula and Carlos have decided to go to practise the language they have learnt.

This unit has allowed you to be familiar with cultural aspects related to Malta like its location, its geography and weather, the most interesting sites to visit, its history and

general curiosities of the country like the different official languages spoken in Malta through its history.

---

## Printable version

---

Descarga la versión imprimible de este tema:



---

Si quieres escuchar el contenido de este archivo, puedes instalar en tu ordenador el lector de pantalla libre y gratuito [NDVA](#).

---

# Aviso Legal

---

Las páginas externas no se muestran en la versión imprimible

## Aviso Legal

---

El presente texto (en adelante, el "**Aviso Legal**") regula el acceso y el uso de los contenidos desde los que se enlaza. La utilización de estos contenidos atribuye la condición de usuario del mismo (en adelante, el "**Usuario**") e implica la aceptación plena y sin reservas de todas y cada una de las disposiciones incluidas en este Aviso Legal publicado en el momento de acceso al sitio web. Tal y como se explica más adelante, la autoría de estos materiales corresponde a un trabajo de la **Comunidad Autónoma Andaluza, Consejería de Educación y Deporte (en adelante Consejería de Educación y Deporte)**.

Con el fin de mejorar las prestaciones de los contenidos ofrecidos. la