

Maltese Language:

Pronunciation & Useful Phrases



The Maltese alphabet consists of 30 letters. NOTE: The examples given in this guide follow the pronunciation in British English, which might be different than American English.

Vowels					
A/a... like	E/e... like	I/i... like	O/o... like	U/u... like	Ie/ie... like
'a' in " <u>a</u> fter"	'e' in " <u>e</u> nter"	'e' in " <u>e</u> vil"	'o' in " <u>o</u> ften"	'u' in "em <u>u</u> "	'ea' in "me <u>ean</u> "

Consonants					
B/b... like	Č/č... like	D/d... like	F/f... like	G/g... like	Ĝ/ĝ... like
'b' in " <u>b</u> all"	'ch' in " <u>ch</u> urch"	'd' in " <u>d</u> oor"	'f' in " <u>f</u> ork"	'g' in " <u>g</u> one"	'j' in " <u>j</u> ump"

H/h... like	J/j... like	K/k... like	L/l... like	M/m... like	N/n... like
'h' in " <u>h</u> old"	'y' in " <u>y</u> ellow"	'c' in " <u>c</u> ake"	'l' in " <u>l</u> ove"	'm' in " <u>m</u> ake"	'n' in " <u>n</u> ice"

P/p... like	R/r... like	S/s... like	T/t... like	V/v... like	W/w... like
'p' in " <u>p</u> ig"	'r' in " <u>r</u> ail"	's' in " <u>s</u> aw"	't' in " <u>t</u> ail"	'v' in " <u>v</u> ictory"	'w' in " <u>w</u> eight"

X/x... like	Z/z... like	Ż/ż... like	Għ/ġħ	H/h	Q/q
'sh' in " <u>sh</u> ore"	'ts' in " <u>dots</u> "	'z' in " <u>zero</u> "	Mostly silent, except at the end of a word / immediately before 'h', in which case, it sounds like 'ħ'	Mostly silent, except at the end of a word, in which case, it sounds like 'ħ'	Glottal stop, no direct equivalent. Similar to the Cockney English pronunciation of "tt" in " <u>bottle</u> "



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GENERAL

English	Maltese	Pronunciation
Hello	Hellow	HEL-low
How are you?	Kif inti?	Kiyf int-EE?
Good day	Il-ġurnata t-tajba	Illi JUR-na-ta it THAI-ba
Goodbye	Saħħa	SAH-ha
Yes	Iva	Eve-a
No	Le	Le
Please	Jekk jogħġbok	Yek YOH-jbok
Thank you	Grazzi	GRUTS-ee
Excuse me	Skużani	SCOO-za-nee
I don't understand	Ma nifhimx	Maa nee-fimx
Do you speak English?	Titkellem bl-Ingliz?	Tit-kel-lem blin-gleez
Where?	Fejn?	Feyn
How much is...?	Kemm j/tiswa...?	Cam y/tee-swa...?
Cheap	Irħiġi	Ir-hee-s
Expensive	Ogħli	O-lee
More	Iktar	ICK-tar
Less	Inqas	IN-aas
(I am a) vegetarian	(Jien) veġetarjan/a	(Yee-n) vej-etar-yan/ah



NUMBERS

English	Maltese	Pronunciation
One	Wieħed	WEE-had
Two	Tnejn	Tneyn
Three	Tlieta	TLEE-ta
Four	Erbgħa	ER-ba
Five	Ħamsa	HAAM-sa
Six	Sitta	SIT-ta
Seven	Sebġħa	SE-ba
Eight	Tmienja	Tmeen-ya
Nine	Disgħa	DEE-sa
Ten	Għaxra	AA-shra

AGRICULTURE

Steppe	Steppa	Step-pa
Garigue	Xaghri	Shaa-ree
Maquis	Makkja	Muck-ya
Woodland	Masğar	Mass-jar
Farm	Razzett	Ruts-tset
Dog	Kelb	Celb
Sheep	Nagħhaġ	NAA-j
Cow/cattle	Baqra/Baqar	Ba-eh-rah / Bah-ar



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NATURE

English	Maltese	Pronunciation
Forest	Foresta	For-eh-stah
Flower/Flowers	Fjura/Fjuri	Fyu-rah/Fyu-ree
Bird	Għasfur	AAs-foor
Eagle	Ajkla	Ay-clah
Bear	Ors	Oars
Wolf	Lupu	Loo-poo
Butterfly	Farfett	Far-fat
Bat	Farfett il-lejl	Far-fat ill ley
Frog	Żring	z-reen-j
Spider	Brimba	Brim-bah
Crab	Granċ	Graan-ch
Shrew	Ġurdien	Jur-din