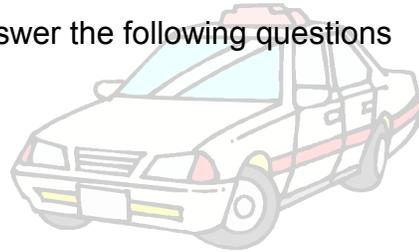


TAXI! - reading tasks

1 Think about the taxis in your country and answer the following questions with another student:

- What is 'taxi' in your language?
- What colour are the cars?
- Do the taxis have a meter?
- What is the minimum price for a ride?
- Are taxis cheap or expensive to use?
- Do taxi drivers in your country take advantage of tourists? If so, how?
- Do you think they are safe drivers, or not?
- Do you use taxis regularly, or not at all? Why?
- Is it difficult to find one? Always or only sometimes?



2 Read the stories about taxi rides around the world as quickly as possible.

Which stories mention the following things? Write the name of the country beside the topic. The first one has been done for you.

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | an animal | <i>Greece</i> |
| 2 | an unfriendly taxi driver | _____ |
| 3 | guns | _____ |
| 4 | a fight | _____ |
| 5 | cost of the ride | _____ |
| 6 | the airport | _____ |
| 7 | a hotel | _____ |
| 8 | a friendly taxi driver | _____ |
| 9 | a laptop | _____ |
| 10 | a cruise | _____ |

4a Read the stories again more slowly and answer these questions:

- Greece** Why were the parents tired?
Why did the driver want the rabbit?
- Colombia** Why was the boyfriend nervous about going to Colombia?
Where did the taxi driver think was more dangerous? Bogota or London?
- Vietnam** Why did the taxi driver not want to use the meter?
What did the man who got in the car do to the taxi driver?
- The USA** Did the sister know the name and address of the hotel?
Did she know how to get there?
- The UK** Why did the friend panic?
How many laptops are left in London taxis every year?
- Tunisia** Was it easy for the brother to find a taxi?
How did he get to the port on time?

4b Which story do you like best? Why?

5 Have you ever had a similar experience? What happened?

6 Without looking can you remember the phrases missing from these sentences?

- 1 They were just beginning to _____ in the back seat...
- 2 ...my mother was rather _____ when the driver turned round...
- 3 The taxi driver wanted to _____ his English
- 4 ... he _____ both arms _____ in the air with horror
- 5 Only later did she _____ that the taxi driver had been caught stealing

- 6 ...and they didn't want him to _____ it
- a Then she was asked how to get there but of course she _____.
- b ...when he started _____ at her for not knowing the way
- c ...he went _____ to their Lost and Found office
- d He was _____ to find the laptop waiting for him
- e ...when he suddenly realised he'd completely _____
- f and he caught the boat in the _____

6 Choose two verbs from 1- 6, and two expressions from a - f and make your own story about a taxi ride. Write about 100 words.



A large empty rectangular box for writing a story. In the top right corner of the box, there is a small illustration of a taxi car.

7 Now tell your story to another student. Start by saying 'Well, ...'