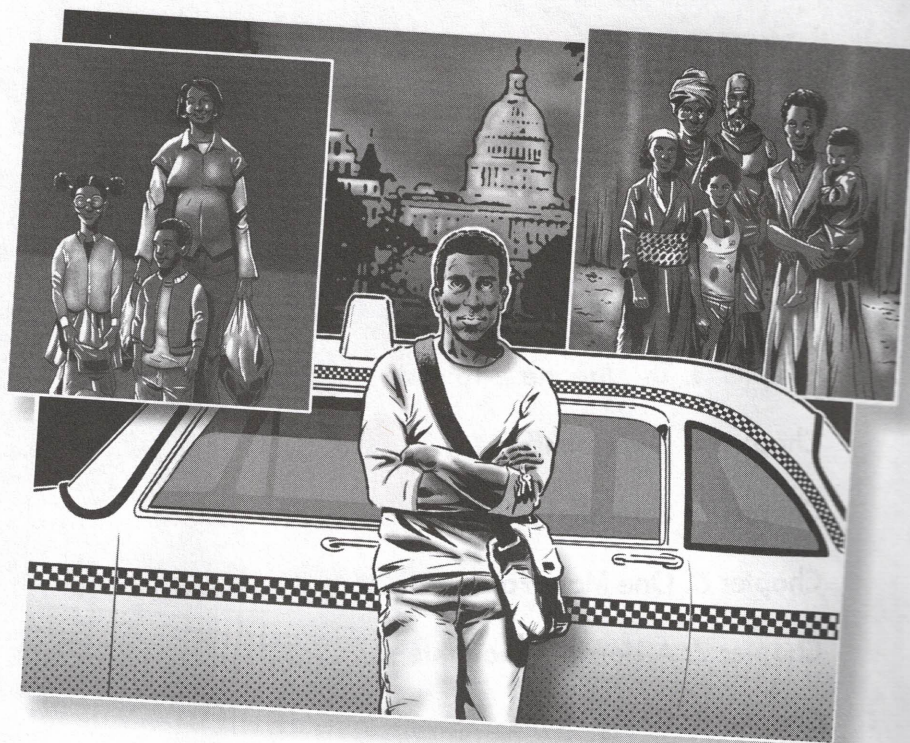


Chapter 1 Negasi



Negasi is from Ethiopia, but he has lived in the United States for twelve years. Negasi is a taxi driver in Washington, D.C. He picks up and drops off passengers for ten hours a day, seven days a week. His life isn't easy, but somehow Negasi manages to support his family on his fares and tips.

Negasi worries a lot about his financial responsibilities. Of course, he needs money for rent, food, and other household expenses. But there are also other things to pay for. Negasi and his wife, Ayana, are expecting another baby this summer. His five-year-old son, Dawit, needs a new winter coat. His eight-year-old daughter, Desta, broke her glasses and needs another pair. His relatives in Ethiopia need help, too. Negasi tries to send them money when he can, but most of the time he just can't.

Right now, it's 5:00 A.M. and Negasi is standing in the kitchen, staring into his coffee cup. Ayana walks into the kitchen. "Well," says Negasi, "we could really use an extra \$5,000 right now."



"Let's look on the bright side," says Ayana. "Maybe you'll get a very big tip today." Then Ayana picks up a nickel from the table. "Look!" she says, smiling. "Things are better already! Here is 5¢. Now we could really use an extra \$4,999.95."

Answer the questions.

1. Where is Negasi from? How long has he lived in the United States?
2. What is Negasi's occupation? Where does he work?
3. What does he do for ten hours a day, seven days a week?
4. What does Negasi manage to do on his fares and tips?
5. What does Negasi worry a lot about? What does he need money for?
6. What are Negasi and his wife, Ayana, expecting this summer?
7. How old are Dawit and Desta? What do they need?
8. What does Negasi try to send his relatives in Ethiopia when he can?
9. How much money does Negasi say that they could really use right now?
10. How much does Ayana pick up from the table?

Complete the sentences.

relatives

coat

money

responsibilities

things

expenses

baby

glasses

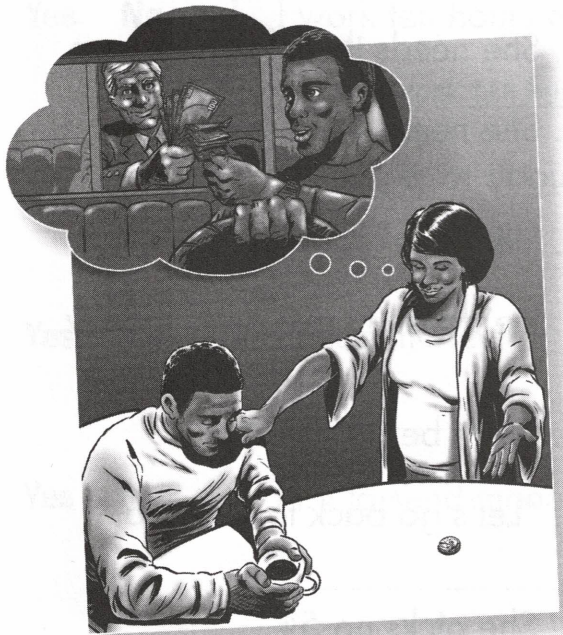
1. Negasi worries a lot about his financial _____.
2. Of course, he needs money for rent, food, and other household _____.
3. But there are also other _____ to pay for.
4. Negasi and his wife, Ayana, are expecting another _____ this summer.
5. His five-year-old son, Dawit, needs a new winter _____.
6. Desta broke her _____ and needs another pair.
7. His _____ in Ethiopia need help, too.
8. Negasi tries to send them _____ when he can.

Matching: Definitions

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| _____ 1. rent | a. the extra money you give for a service |
| _____ 2. fares | b. the money a tenant pays to the owner |
| _____ 3. Ethiopia | c. a coin worth five cents |
| _____ 4. nickel | d. the prices you pay to travel |
| _____ 5. tips | e. the people who ride in a vehicle, but don't drive |
| _____ 6. passengers | f. a country in northeast Africa |

Talking in the Kitchen

Practice the dialog with a partner.



A: We could really use an extra \$5,000 right now.

B: Let's look on the bright side.

A: How?

B: Maybe you'll get a very big tip today.

A: It won't be *that* big, I know.

B: Look! Things are better already! Here is 5¢. Now we could really use an extra \$4,999.95.

Checklist

Negasi worries a lot about his financial responsibilities. Check (✓) the financial responsibilities that you have. Write other things you need money for on the lines below.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> rent | <input type="checkbox"/> relatives | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> food | <input type="checkbox"/> glasses | <input type="checkbox"/> health insurance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a baby or children | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> cable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> medical bills | <input type="checkbox"/> clothes | <input type="checkbox"/> telephone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gas and electric | <input type="checkbox"/> credit card | <input type="checkbox"/> cell phone |

Listening

Listen. Check (✓) the correct sentence.

1. a. He lives in Ethiopia now.
 b. He lives in the United States now.
2. a. Negasi is a taxi driver.
 b. His life is easy.
3. a. Negasi can provide for his family.
 b. Negasi's relatives help him.
4. a. The baby is four months old.
 b. The baby will be born soon.
5. a. She needs them to stay warm.
 b. She needs them to see.
6. a. He has a lot of extra money.
 b. He doesn't have extra money.
7. a. "Let's be positive."
 b. "Let's go back to Ethiopia."
8. a. She picks up 5¢.
 b. She picks up \$5,000.

Pronunciation and Writing

Say the words from the story. Write the number of syllables in each word. Underline the stressed syllable.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. passengers _____ | 6. manages _____ | 11. expenses _____ |
| 2. relatives _____ | 7. already _____ | 12. household _____ |
| 3. driver _____ | 8. financial _____ | 13. glasses _____ |
| 4. responsibilities _____ | 9. daughter _____ | 14. expecting _____ |
| 5. summer _____ | 10. Ethiopia _____ | 15. staring _____ |

What about you?

Circle **Yes** or **No**. Then write questions and ask your partner.

Yes **No** 1. I work ten hours a day, seven days a week.

Do you work ten hours a day, seven days a week?

Yes **No** 2. I worry a lot about my financial responsibilities.

Yes **No** 3. I need money for rent, food, and other household expenses.

Yes **No** 4. I try to send money to my relatives in another country.

Yes **No** 5. I always look on the bright side.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. Where are you from? How long have you lived in the United States?
2. Do you have a job? If so, what do you do and how often do you work?
3. In what kinds of jobs do workers receive tips?