

Chapter 2 A Ride to the Hospital



It's just before 6:00 A.M., and Negasi is driving around downtown. He looks to the left and sees a man flagging him down on the street corner. Negasi pulls over and stops the taxi. The man opens the back door, gets in the taxi, and says, "I need to go to the hospital on 23rd Street."

"Okay," says Negasi. Negasi thinks this will be almost a twenty-dollar fare, plus tip. After a few minutes, Negasi looks in his rearview mirror. The man is leaning forward in the backseat. "Ugh!" says the man. "My stomach!" Negasi is very concerned.

"I'm going as fast as I can!" says Negasi. Then the man looks in his wallet.

"Oh, no!" says the man. "I have only \$14 to spend for a taxi." Negasi feels bad for this man. After all, he needs to go to the hospital. Maybe he has appendicitis or something very serious. Negasi sighs.

"Don't worry about it," he says. "I can take you there for \$14."



Finally, Negasi pulls up in front of the hospital. Suddenly, the man sits up and asks, "Do you have change for a 20-dollar bill?"

"Do you have a 20-dollar bill?" asks Negasi with surprise. "Then why are you asking me for a discount?"

"You see," says the man, "I work at this hospital. And my stomach hurts because I'm hungry. I need \$6 for breakfast."

Answer the questions.

1. What is Negasi doing just before 6:00 A.M.?
2. Who does he see when he looks to the left?
3. What does the man say when he opens the back door and gets in the taxi?
4. What fare does Negasi think this will be?
5. What is the man doing when Negasi looks in his rearview mirror?
6. How does Negasi feel?
7. How much does the man have to spend for a taxi?
8. Why does Negasi feel bad for the man?
9. What does the man ask when Negasi pulls up in front of the hospital?
10. What does the man need \$6 for?

Complete the sentences.

need to go
is leaning

is driving
looks in

flagging down
gets in

says
thinks

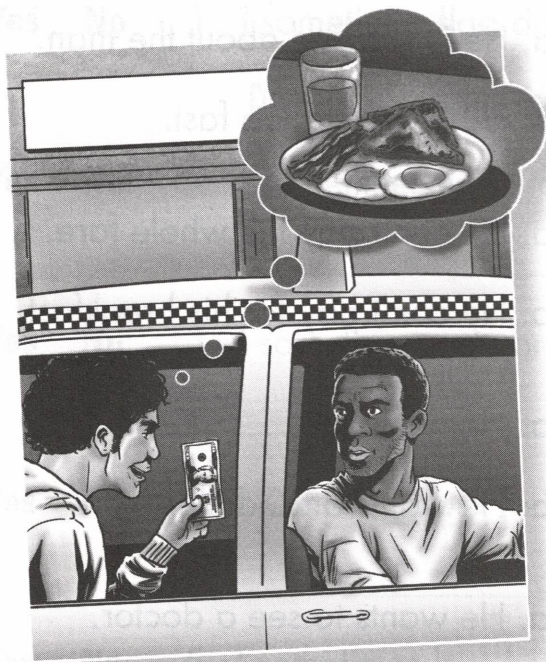
1. It's just before 6:00 A.M., and Negasi _____ around downtown.
2. He sees a man _____ him _____ on the street corner.
3. The man opens the back door and _____ the taxi.
4. Then he says, "I _____ to the hospital on 23rd Street."
5. Negasi _____ this will be almost a twenty-dollar fare, plus tip.
6. After a few minutes, Negasi _____ his rearview mirror.
7. The man _____ forward in the backseat.
8. "Ugh!" _____ the man. "My stomach!"

Matching: Definitions

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. discount | a. an illness of the appendix |
| ___ 2. change | b. the mirror that allows a driver to see behind |
| ___ 3. wallet | c. the center of a city |
| ___ 4. rearview mirror | d. the money you get back after you pay for something |
| ___ 5. appendicitis | e. a reduction in the usual price of something |
| ___ 6. downtown | f. a case that holds your money |

Talking on the Way to the Hospital

Practice the dialog with a partner.



A: Ugh! My stomach!

B: I'm going as fast as I can!

A: Oh, no! I have only \$14 to spend for a taxi.

B: Don't worry about it. I can take you there for \$14.

A: Do you have change for a 20-dollar bill?

B: Do you have a 20-dollar bill? Then why are you asking me for a discount?

A: You see, I work at this hospital. And my stomach hurts because I'm hungry. I need \$6 for breakfast.

Matching

Match the words and pictures. Write the words on the lines below.

pull over

get in

flag down



1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Listening

Listen. Check (✓) the correct sentence.

1. a. The man knows Negasi.
 b. The man needs a taxi.
2. a. He will earn more than \$20.
 b. He will earn less than \$20.
3. a. He looks straight ahead.
 b. He looks behind him.
4. a. He looks hungry.
 b. He looks uncomfortable.
5. a. He is worried about the man.
 b. He is driving too fast.
6. a. He can't pay the whole fare.
 b. He can't pay for his breakfast.
7. a. He wants \$6.
 b. He wants a 20-dollar bill.
8. a. He wants to see a doctor.
 b. He wants to eat.

Pronunciation and Writing

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

1. mirror _____
2. hungry _____
3. backseat _____
4. suddenly _____
5. leaning _____
6. breakfast _____
7. forward _____
8. serious _____
9. corner _____
10. stomach _____
11. rearview _____
12. hospital _____
13. discount _____
14. concerned _____
15. appendicitis _____

What about you?

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

Yes **No** 1. I sometimes flag down a taxi.

Do you sometimes flag down a taxi?

Yes **No** 2. I sometimes need to go to the hospital.

Yes **No** 3. I sometimes ask for a discount when I pay for something.

Yes **No** 4. I sometimes ask for change when I pay for something.

Yes **No** 5. I sometimes buy breakfast.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. How much is the taxi fare to a hospital in your community? What tip is appropriate to give the driver?
2. For what kinds of serious illnesses do people need to go to the hospital?
3. How can you help a person who isn't feeling well?