

Chapter 6 One More Fare



Negasi looks at his watch. It's after 4:00 P.M. He has already been driving for over ten hours. Negasi pulls over on Wisconsin Avenue and parks. He locks his doors for a moment and counts his fares and tips. Then he thinks about the bills, the new baby, Dawit's winter coat, and Desta's new glasses. Negasi sighs. "I'm really tired," he thinks. "But maybe I'll pick up one more fare."

At that moment, a man runs up to Negasi's taxi. He tries to open the back door, but it's locked. Negasi quickly puts his money away. Then he unlocks the back door and lets the man inside. "Where to?" asks Negasi.

"Out of here," says the man, breathing hard. Negasi starts the car and drives straight ahead. This passenger is very nervous. Maybe he is running from someone.

After a few more blocks, Negasi asks, "Where do you want to go?" But the man never answers him. He just gives out orders.



"Turn left here!" says the man. "Turn right there!" Now Negasi feels nervous, too. He knows that driving a taxi is sometimes a dangerous job. Maybe this man wants to take his money. Negasi stops at a red light.

"Maybe you need to get out," says Negasi.

The man opens his jacket and shows a gun to Negasi. "Maybe I don't," says the man. "Keep driving."

Answer the questions.

1. How long has Negasi already been driving?
2. Where does he pull over and park?
3. What does he do for a moment?
4. What does he think about?
5. What does Negasi think maybe he'll pick up?
6. Who runs up to Negasi's taxi at that moment?
7. What does the man try to open?
8. What does Negasi quickly put away? What does he unlock?
9. Where does Negasi drive? How is this passenger?
10. How does Negasi feel? What does he know about driving a taxi?

Complete the sentences.

puts away
parks

runs up to
starts

unlocks
counts

thinks about
tries to open

1. Negasi pulls over on Wisconsin Avenue and _____.
2. He locks his doors for a moment and _____ his fares and tips.
3. Then he _____ the bills, the new baby, and other things.
4. At that moment, a man _____ Negasi's taxi.
5. He _____ the back door, but it's locked.
6. Negasi quickly _____ his money _____.
7. Then he _____ the back door and lets the man inside.
8. Negasi _____ the car and drives straight ahead.

Matching: Definitions

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|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. bills | a. a small clock that you wear |
| _____ 2. orders | b. a weapon that fires bullets |
| _____ 3. watch | c. the areas with buildings between two streets |
| _____ 4. blocks | d. a traffic signal that means "stop" |
| _____ 5. red light | e. directions to do something; commands |
| _____ 6. gun | f. lists that show how much you need to pay |

Talking to a Nervous Passenger

Practice the dialog with a partner.



A: Where to?

B: Out of here.

A: Where do you want to go?

B: Turn left here! Turn right there!

A: Maybe you need to get out.

B: Maybe I don't. Keep driving.

Check the good ideas.

You are a taxi driver. A nervous passenger shows you a gun. Check (✓) the things that are good to do. Write other ideas on the lines below.

stop the taxi and run

talk to the man calmly

drive to the police station

crash the car into a tree

argue with the man

give the man your fares and tips

do what the man tells you to do

ask the man to please get out

push the man out of the taxi

call the police on your cell phone

Listening

Listen. Check (✓) the correct sentence.

1. a. He's really tired.
 b. He's really nervous.
2. a. He wants another passenger.
 b. He doesn't want a passenger.
3. a. He needs more money.
 b. He needs to go home.
4. a. He hides his money.
 b. He gives the man his money.
5. a. This passenger is very sick.
 b. This passenger is very nervous.
6. a. He breathes hard.
 b. He gives out orders.
7. a. It can pay very well.
 b. It can be unsafe.
8. a. This man can hurt Negasi.
 b. This man needs Negasi's help.

Pronunciation and Writing

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

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|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. avenue _____ | 6. nervous _____ | 11. jacket _____ |
| 2. inside _____ | 7. dangerous _____ | 12. breathing _____ |
| 3. orders _____ | 8. quickly _____ | 13. Wisconsin _____ |
| 4. maybe _____ | 9. winter _____ | 14. running _____ |
| 5. someone _____ | 10. baby _____ | 15. unlocks _____ |

What about you?

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

Yes No 1. I sometimes work over ten hours.

Do you sometimes work over ten hours?

Yes No 2. I sometimes count my money.

Yes No 3. I sometimes think about my bills.

Yes No 4. I sometimes feel nervous at work.

Yes No 5. I always stop at a red light.

Topics for Discussion or Writing

1. What kinds of bills do you pay every month?
2. What jobs are sometimes dangerous? Why are they dangerous?
3. Do people ever give out orders to you? If so, what do they say?