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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 10/08/14

Taxi? Or perhaps an Uber Taxi?

Next time you need a taxi think hard. Will you order a taxi or an Uber taxi? To order an Uber taxi you'll need to download an Uber app. This allows people in many cities around the world to call an Uber taxi for a cheaper price than calling an ordinary taxi. Is this a good idea or not?

The Uber taxi has caused a backlash from thousands of traditional taxi drivers, to the point where thousands of cabbies in cities worldwide have taken to the streets and demonstrated. This has sometimes caused gridlock across cities.

The Uber webpage says 'Choice is a beautiful thing' – Get a car ride that matches your style and budget. They offer everyday cars for everyday use that they describe as better, faster, and cheaper than a taxi. Uber offers customers five choices of car: the uberX – this is a low cost uber; the uberTaxi, a taxi without the hassle; the UberBlack – the original – you can expect to be picked up in a high-end sedan within minutes; the UberSUV – room for everyone – it seats up to six people in style; lastly the UberLUX – Ultimate luxury.

How it works is simple – you phone and request an uber taxi, ride in it and pay via your mobile phone. Uber uses your phone's GPS to detect your location and connects you with the nearest available driver. You can get picked up anywhere, even if you don't know the address.

You can view the rates for your city in the app. You can even get a quote if you enter your pickup and drop off points for your trip. You don't need cash. Once you arrive at your destination, your fare is automatically charged to your credit card on file so there is no need to tip. You even get an e-mail receipt. You can even rate your experience and give feedback on the driver.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about taxis. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What is an app?
- 2) What is Uber?
- 3) Who have demonstrated and why?
- 4) Briefly how does Uber work?
- 5) What can you rate?

Student B questions

- 1) How many choices of car does Uber offer customers?
- 2) What does 'GPS' mean?
- 3) What does 'a taxi without the hassle' mean?
- 4) What does 'gridlock' mean?
- 5) What does the Uber app show you?

Category: Business / Taxi / Uber Taxis
Intermediate / Upper Intermediate

Taxi? Or perhaps an Uber taxi? - 10th August 2014

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with '**Uber taxis**'. *One-two minutes.* Using your words to compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs - Choose three advantages and three disadvantages of **Uber taxis**. Write them below. Talk about them.

- 1) _____ (1) _____
- 2) _____ (2) _____
- 3) _____ (3) _____

Add three advantages and three disadvantages of **traditional taxis**. What are your conclusions?

- 1) _____ (1) _____
- 2) _____ (2) _____
- 3) _____ (3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

WRITING / SPEAKING

On the board - In pairs - List the top three taxi companies in your town/city? Which are worst three taxi companies? Talk about them! *5 mins.*

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) In London, traditional taxi drivers must learn their trade. Now it is threatened by uber drivers; with no knowledge of London's roads, who use only Sat-Nav. Is this right?
- 3) Which taxi company do you use?
- 4) Have you ever used an Uber taxi?
- 5) Would you use an uber taxi?
- 6) Do the taxis in your country need more regulation?
- 7) Will uber be coming to a city near you soon?
- 8) Will uber taxis force traditional taxis to improve their service?
- 9) When did you last take a taxi? To where? How much was it?
- 10) Do you pay cash for your taxi fare?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. You are one of the following four guests or are the interviewer. You are in the *Business FM* radio studio. Today's interview is: *Taxi? Or perhaps an Uber taxi? 10 mins.*

- 1) A representative from Uber.
- 2) A traditional taxi driver.
- 3) Someone who uses taxis a lot.
- 4) A businessperson.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. Student A is a traditional taxi driver. Student B is an Uber taxi driver. Student A is not happy about Student B taking the trade! *5 mins.*

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes - As a class.

Rip-off taxi drivers! Your stories!

Or

Traditional taxis - are the taxis in your city old and falling apart with dodgy meters? Or are they new and smart with proper meters that issue receipts? Are the taxis in your city new like uber taxis? What colour are they?

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Do you think uber taxis are a wakeup call to the traditional taxi companies?
- 2) When were you last ripped off when taking a taxi?
- 3) Have you ever been ripped off by a taxi driver in a big city? Talk about it!
- 4) Why are there so many taxi companies in some cities?
- 5) Is it good to have a choice of different taxi companies?
- 6) Which is your favourite taxi company?
- 7) Which is your least favourite taxi company? Why?
- 8) Why do traditional taxi companies not offer what uber offers its customers?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Taxi? Or perhaps an Uber Taxi?

Next time you need a taxi think hard. Will you order a taxi or an Uber taxi? To order an Uber taxi you'll need to (1)___ an Uber app. This allows people in many cities around the world to call an Uber taxi for a cheaper price than calling an (2)___ taxi. Is this a good idea or not?

The Uber taxi has caused a (3)___ from thousands of traditional taxi drivers, to the point where thousands of (4)___ in cities worldwide have taken to the streets and demonstrated. This has sometimes caused (5)___ across cities. The Uber webpage says '(6)___ is a beautiful thing' - Get a car ride that matches your (7)___ and budget. They offer everyday cars for everyday use that they describe as better, faster, and (8)___ than a taxi.

backlash / gridlock / style / choice / cabbies / ordinary / cheaper / download

Uber offers customers five choices of car: the uberX - this is a low cost uber; the uberTaxi, a taxi without the (1)___; the UberBlack - the original - you can expect to be picked up in a high-end sedan within minutes; the UberSUV - room for everyone - it seats up to six people in style; lastly the UberLUX - Ultimate (2)___.

How it works is simple - you phone and request an Uber taxi, ride in it and pay via your mobile phone. Uber uses your phone's (3)___ to detect your (4)___ and connects you with the nearest (5)___ driver. You can get picked up anywhere, even if you don't know the address.

You can view the rates for your city in the app. You can even get a (6)___ if you enter your pickup and drop off points for your trip. You don't need cash. Once you arrive at your (7)___, your fare is automatically charged to your credit card on file so there is no need to tip. You even get an e-mail receipt. You can even rate your experience and give (8)___ on the driver.

feedback / quote / destination / hassle / available / location / GPS / luxury

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Taxi? Or perhaps an Uber Taxi?

Next time (1)___ need a taxi think hard. Will you order a taxi or an Uber taxi? To order an Uber taxi you'll need to download an Uber app. This allows people in many cities around the world to call an Uber taxi for a cheaper price than calling an ordinary taxi. Is this a good idea or not?

The Uber taxi has caused a backlash from thousands of traditional taxi drivers, to the point (2)___ thousands of cabbies in cities worldwide have taken to the streets and demonstrated. (3)___ has sometimes caused gridlock across cities. The Uber webpage says 'Choice is a beautiful thing' - Get a car ride (4)___ matches (5)___ style and budget. (6)___ offer everyday cars for everyday use (7)___ they describe as better, faster, and cheaper (8)___ a taxi.

than / that / this / where / your / they / that / you

Uber offers customers five choices (1)___ car: the uberX - this is a low cost uber; the uberTaxi, a taxi without the hassle; the UberBlack - the original - you can expect to be picked up (2)___ a high-end sedan within minutes; the UberSUV - room for everyone - it seats up to six people in style; lastly the UberLUX - Ultimate luxury.

(3)___ it works is simple - you phone and request an Uber taxi, ride in it and pay via your mobile phone. Uber uses your phone's GPS to detect your location (4)___ connects you with (5)___ nearest available driver. You can get picked up anywhere, even if you don't know the address.

You can view the rates for your city in the app. You can even get a quote if you enter your pickup and drop off points (6)___ your trip. You don't need cash. Once you arrive at your destination, your fare is automatically charged to your credit card on file so there is no need to tip. You even get (7)___ e-mail receipt. You can even rate your experience and give feedback (8)___ the driver.

how / the / for / and / in / an / on / of /

GAP FILL: LISTENING

Taxi? Or perhaps an Uber Taxi?

Next time you need _____. Will you order a taxi or an Uber taxi? To order an Uber taxi you'll need to download an Uber app. This allows people in many cities around the world to call an Uber taxi for a cheaper price than calling an ordinary taxi. _____ or not?

The Uber taxi has _____ from thousands of traditional taxi drivers, to the point where _____ in cities worldwide have taken to the streets and demonstrated. This has sometimes caused gridlock across cities.

The Uber webpage says 'Choice is a beautiful thing' - Get a car ride that matches your style and budget. They offer everyday cars for everyday use that they describe as better, faster, and _____.

Uber offers customers five choices of car: the uberX - this is a low cost uber; the uberTaxi, a taxi without the hassle; the UberBlack - the original - you can expect to be picked up in a high-end sedan within minutes; the UberSUV - _____ - it seats up to six people in style; lastly the UberLUX - Ultimate luxury. _____ - you phone and request an uber taxi, ride in it and pay via your mobile phone. Uber uses your phone's GPS to detect your location and connects you with the nearest available driver. You can get _____, even if you don't know the address. You can view the rates for your city in the app. You can even get a quote if you enter your pickup and drop off points for your trip. You don't need cash. Once you arrive at your destination, your fare is _____ to your credit card on file so there is no need to tip. You even get an e-mail receipt. You can even rate your experience and give _____.

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs, as a class - write down **10 things you might see in a taxi**. Talk about them! 5 mins.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) I prefer _____
- 2) Uber taxis _____
- 3) My local taxi _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Taxi? Or perhaps an Uber taxi?** Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) download
- 2) ordinary
- 3) backlash
- 4) cabbies
- 5) gridlock
- 6) choice
- 7) style
- 8) cheaper

ANSWERS

- 1) hassle
- 2) luxury
- 3) GPS
- 4) Location
- 5) Available
- 6) Quote
- 7) Destination
- 8) feedback

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) feedback
- 2) download
- 3) cheaper
- 4) ordinary
- 5) backlash
- 6) traditional
- 7) cabbies
- 8) gridlock
- 9) beautiful
- 10) style

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

- Pass = 12**
- Good = 15**
- Very good = 18**
- Excellent = 20**

- 11) budget
- 12) customers
- 13) choice
- 14) hassle
- 15) sedan
- 16) luxury
- 17) detect
- 18) location
- 19) quote
- 20) automatically

Taxi? Or perhaps an Uber taxi? - *10th August 2014*