

<b>Listening exercise 'Taxi driver'</b>
Module 2
Exercise 2.9

→ *This is a listening exercise, so listen carefully to the story!*

**Imagine you're a taxi driver.**

You set out for Regent Street with an empty taxi. There, you pick up 3 passengers who want to go to King's Cross station. After arriving at the station, 2 passengers get out and 1 passenger gets in. The taxi then drives to 14 Gower Street where another 2 passengers get in. From here, it continues on to Heathrow Airport and drops off 2 people.

It is now 12 o'clock. You suddenly remember that you have to buy a present for somebody. You pull up at a petrol station on Great West Road to buy a bunch of roses. You also buy 25 litres of petrol. You then drive to Fleet Street to drop off 1 passenger and pick up 2 passengers. These passengers are all going to the Ideal Homes Exhibition in Earl's Court. Arriving at Earl's Court, all the passengers get out of the taxi.

**And now the question:**

How old is the taxi driver?

**Answer:**

Your own age!

(Imagine *you are* a taxi driver).

→ **Because you mention many facts and details, the participants think they're going to be important.**

They try to remember it all and that's what they focus upon.

→ **Added to that, everybody tries to calculate how many passengers are in the taxi.**

Especially if you pause briefly every time you mention how many passengers got in and out of the taxi, people start calculating the numbers automatically.

→ **When asked the question "How old is the taxi driver?" the group often looks completely bewildered.**

How old?! How are we supposed to know that?!

→ **There are usually a few participants who know the answer straight away.**

And it just adds to the confusion when they start giving me their answers and I confirm them (even though they all give me different numbers – that is, their ages).

**During the follow-up discussion, you can ask questions such as:**

- How were you listening?
- What did you focus on? And why was that?
- Which information in this story was important? And why?
- How come you heard/didn't hear that?
- How does this work in daily life?