

# A Day in the Life Series — Lesson 2



**A Day in  
the Life  
of a Taxi  
Driver**

**Talking About Jobs in English  
for Reading and Speaking**

**manwrites.com**

# A Day in the Life of a Taxi Driver

## *A Day in the Life... Series – Lesson 2*

### About This Lesson

This lesson is part of the *A Day in the Life...* series from **ManWrites.com** — short, story-based ESL lessons about different jobs and daily routines.

Each lesson combines reading, vocabulary, and speaking practice to help English learners understand how people live and work around the world.

In this lesson, you'll meet **Mark**, a taxi driver in a busy city, and follow him through a full day on the road. You'll learn natural English for talking about transport, customers, work schedules, and daily routines — and practise reading, vocabulary, and speaking skills.

**Level:** B1–B2 (Intermediate to Upper Intermediate)

**Suitable for:** Classroom use or self-study

**Skills:** Reading comprehension · Vocabulary development · Speaking and discussion

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# 1. Introduction

Read the following introduction.

Mark is a taxi driver in a large, busy city. Every day he picks up all kinds of passengers — office workers, tourists, students, and sometimes people heading home after a night out.

His job is unpredictable, but that's what he likes about it. Some days are calm, others are full of surprises.

Whatever happens, Mark knows the city better than anyone else.

## Introductory Discussion Questions

Read the questions out loud in class, and answer them or give your thoughts on them.

1. Do you often take taxis? Why or why not?
2. What are taxis like in your city or country?
3. Do you think being a taxi driver is an easy or difficult job?
4. What skills does a good taxi driver need?

5. Would you like to drive a taxi for a living? Why or why not?

## 2. Morning

### Before You Read

This section describes the start of Mark's working day.

As you read, think about what a taxi driver needs to do to prepare for a day on the road.

Read the following section and answer all the reading comprehension questions that follow.

Mark starts work early.

His alarm rings at 5:30, and by six he's already in his car, checking the fuel and cleaning the dashboard.

He uses a phone app to find his first passenger — a woman going to the airport. The city streets are quiet, and the morning air feels cool.

After dropping her off, Mark grabs a quick coffee from a petrol station and joins the traffic back into the city centre. Soon his phone beeps again — another job request.

This time it's a businessman heading to an early meeting. They chat a little about the weather and traffic before the man starts checking his emails.

By nine o'clock, the city is fully awake. The roads are crowded, and horns echo between the buildings.

Mark takes a deep breath, switches on some of his favourite music, and reminds himself to stay calm.

### **Comprehension Questions – Morning**

1. What time does Mark start work?
2. Who is his first passenger?
3. What does he do after dropping her off?
4. Who is his next passenger?
5. How does he stay calm in heavy traffic?

## 3. Midday

### Before You Read

This section shows how Mark spends his lunchtime and afternoon.

Think about what kind of people taxi drivers meet during the day and how they interact with them.

Read the following section and answer all the reading comprehension questions that follow.

Around noon, Mark has already completed several short trips — taking people to offices, shops, and train stations.

By lunchtime, he parks near a small café where other drivers often meet. They chat, drink tea, and share quick stories about their passengers.

Some laugh about funny conversations, others complain about rude customers or bad tips.

After lunch, Mark checks his app again and accepts a job in a different part of the city.

It's a longer journey this time — a mother and her young son going to the hospital. The boy talks the whole way, asking questions about the car and pretending to drive. Mark smiles and answers patiently.

When they arrive, the mother thanks him and gives him a generous tip.

“You made his morning,” she says.

It's moments like this that remind Mark why he loves his job.

### **Comprehension Questions – Midday**

1. What does Mark do during his lunch break?
2. Who are his passengers after lunch?
3. Where are they going?
4. How does Mark respond to the boy during the journey?
5. What happens at the end of the trip?

## 4. Afternoon and Reflection

### Before You Read

In this final section, Mark finishes his day.

As you read, think about what makes his job satisfying even after long hours on the road.

Read the following section and answer all the reading comprehension questions that follow.

By late afternoon, the traffic grows heavier.

The sun shines on the tall buildings, and the city feels restless.

Mark drives carefully through narrow streets, trying to stay patient as cyclists and buses cut in front of him.

Around five o'clock, he picks up a group of tourists who want to visit the river and see the skyline.

They ask for photos, and Mark helps them find the best viewpoint.

When they leave, one of them says, "Thanks, you're the best guide we've had all day!"

As evening arrives, Mark feels tired but satisfied.

He parks his taxi near the park, watches the sunset, and finishes the last sip of his tea.

Another long day on the road is over.

He smiles and thinks, “It’s not just about driving people — it’s about hearing stories every day.”

### **Comprehension Questions – Afternoon and Reflection**

1. What is the traffic like in the afternoon?
2. Who are Mark’s last passengers of the day?
3. Where do they want to go?
4. How does Mark help them?
5. How does he feel at the end of the day?

## 5. Key Vocabulary

### Before You Begin

Here are some useful words and phrases from the story. Read through them before or after the story to help you understand the text and learn new vocabulary.

<b>Word/ Phrase</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Example Sentence</b>
shift	a period of time someone works during the day or night	Mark's morning shift starts at six o'clock.
dashboard	the front panel in a car showing controls and displays	He cleaned the dashboard before picking up passengers.
fuel	petrol or diesel used to power a vehicle	He checked the fuel before starting his shift.
traffic jam	when many cars are stuck and can't move easily	The city centre was full of traffic jams during rush hour.
passenger	a person who is travelling in a car, bus, or train	The passenger thanked him for the safe journey.
fare	the money a passenger pays for a trip	The fare was higher because of heavy traffic.

<b>Word/ Phrase</b>	<b>Meaning</b>	<b>Example Sentence</b>
tip	extra money given to thank someone for good service	She gave him a big tip after the ride.
route	the way or direction taken to get somewhere	He chose a faster route to the airport.
meter	a device that measures distance and fare in a taxi	The taxi meter showed the total fare at the end.
polite	showing good manners and respect	Mark is always polite to his passengers.

## **6. Vocabulary Practice – A Day in the Life of a Taxi Driver**

There now follows three vocabulary exercises. Try to do all of these as best you can.

You can find all the right answers at the end of the lesson plan.

### **Before You Begin**

Practise using the key words from the story.

Do the following activities on your own or with a partner.

# Activity 1 – Match the Words and Meanings

Match each of the words below with its correct meaning.

1.shift

2.fuel

3.fare

4.tip

5.polite

a) extra money given for good service

b) work period during the day or night

c) respectful and well-mannered

d) petrol or diesel for a car

e) the amount a passenger pays for a trip

## Activity 2 – Complete the Sentences

Fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase.

1. Mark always checks the \_\_\_\_\_ before starting his car.
2. His \_\_\_\_\_ starts very early in the morning.
3. The passenger gave him a generous \_\_\_\_\_ after the trip.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ was higher because of the traffic jam.
5. He is always \_\_\_\_\_ to his customers.

## Activity 3 – Your Turn

Choose **three new words** from the list and write your own sentences.

Example:

- *Mark started his shift before sunrise.*
- *The fare was fair and the driver was friendly.*

# 7. Useful Expressions

## Before You Begin

These expressions are often used when people talk about transport and daily work routines.

Study them carefully and try to use them in your own sentences and conversations.

1. pick up passengers
2. drop someone off
3. get stuck in traffic
4. take a shortcut
5. give someone a ride
6. run out of fuel
7. ask for directions
8. make a good living

# Activity 1 – Complete the Sentences

Use the expressions above to complete each sentence.  
Change the form if necessary.

1. Mark used an app to \_\_\_\_\_ near the station.
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ a man at the airport just after sunrise.
3. It's frustrating when you \_\_\_\_\_ during rush hour.
4. To save time, Mark sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ through side streets.
5. Many taxi drivers work long hours to \_\_\_\_\_.

## Activity 2 – Match and Discuss

Match each situation with the expression that fits best. Then, discuss your answers with a partner or write short explanations.

Situation	Expression
The taxi driver stops at the customer's house.	
The car is waiting in a traffic jam for twenty minutes.	
The driver finds a faster way through small streets.	
A passenger asks to go to another place on the way.	
The driver is polite and earns enough money to live well.	

*(Possible answers: drop someone off / get stuck in traffic / take a shortcut / give someone a ride / make a good living)*

## 8. Discussion or Writing Prompts

### Before You Begin

Now it's your turn to share your ideas.

Discuss these questions with a partner or write short answers to practise expressing opinions in English.

- Have you ever had an interesting conversation with a taxi driver?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a taxi driver?
- Do you think it's safe to work as a taxi driver at night?
- How have mobile apps changed the way people use taxis?
- Should taxi fares be fixed or flexible?
- What would you do if you found something valuable left in your taxi?
- How is public transport different in your country compared to others?
- What kind of person would make the best taxi driver?

# Answer Keys

**These are the answer keys for all the exercises in this lesson.**

For the reading comprehension sections, the responses provided are **model answers**.

If your own answers are similar in meaning, they are probably correct — but check with your teacher if you're unsure.

## Comprehension Questions – Morning

1. Mark starts work at 5:30 in the morning.
2. His first passenger is a woman going to the airport.
3. After dropping her off, he buys a coffee from a petrol station.
4. His next passenger is a businessman going to an early meeting.
5. He stays calm by listening to soft music and taking deep breaths.

## **Comprehension Questions – Midday**

1. He eats lunch at a café with other drivers and talks about their passengers.
2. His passengers after lunch are a mother and her young son.
3. They are going to the hospital.
4. He answers the boy's questions patiently and smiles.
5. The mother thanks him and gives him a generous tip.

## **Comprehension Questions – Afternoon and Reflection**

1. The traffic is heavy and slow in the afternoon.
2. His last passengers are a group of tourists.
3. They want to visit the river and see the skyline.
4. Mark helps them find a good spot to take photos.
5. He feels tired but satisfied after a long, busy day.

## **Vocabulary Practice**

## Activity 1 – Match the Words and Meanings

- 1.shift → b
- 2.fuel → d
- 3.fare → e
- 4.tip → a
- 5.polite → c

## Activity 2 – Complete the Sentences

- 1.Mark always checks the *fuel* before starting his car.
- 2.His *shift* starts very early in the morning.
- 3.The passenger gave him a generous *tip* after the trip.
- 4.The *fare* was higher because of the traffic jam.
- 5.He is always *polite* to his customers.

## Activity 3 – Your Turn (sample answers)

- *Mark refilled his fuel tank before the next trip.*
- *He always greets passengers politely.*
- *The fare was fair because the driver took a shortcut.*

# Useful Expressions

## Activity 1 – Complete the Sentences

1. Mark used an app to *pick up passengers* near the station.
2. He *dropped off* a man at the airport just after sunrise.
3. It's frustrating when you *get stuck in traffic* during rush hour.
4. To save time, Mark sometimes *takes a shortcut* through side streets.
5. Many taxi drivers work long hours to *make a good living*.

## Activity 2 – Match and Discuss

Situation	Correct Expression
The taxi driver stops at the customer's house.	drop someone off
The car is waiting in a traffic jam for twenty minutes.	get stuck in traffic
The driver finds a faster way through small streets.	take a shortcut
A passenger asks to go to another place on	give someone a

<b>Situation</b>	<b>Correct Expression</b>
the way.	ride
The driver is polite and earns enough money to live well.	make a good living

## End Note For Teachers

These are the answer keys for all the exercises in this lesson. For the reading comprehension sections, the responses provided are **model answers**.

If your own answers are similar in meaning, they are probably correct — but check with your teacher if you're unsure.

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