

Unit 9 Taking a Taxi



Today Naomi wants to take one of the world famous London cabs. Licensed cab drivers in London have an intimate knowledge of the geography of London streets. She hails a cruising taxi in the street. When a sign saying 'TAXI' is illuminated, it means the vehicle is available for hire.

Key Words

intimate

detailed

illuminated

lit up by lights

vehicle

a machine with an engine used for transporting people, such as a car, bus, or truck

available

able to be used

Listening for information (1)

- Listen to the dialogue between Naomi and a taxi driver and try to understand it without looking at the words in your book.
- Now you can look at the Key Words while the teacher explains them.

Naomi : Taxi! Taxi!

Taxi-driver: Where to, madam?

N: Covent Garden, please.

D: OK.

N: I have to go to the Royal Opera House. The performance starts at 7:30. Do you think I'll make it?

D: Yes, easily. It's only five past seven. Don't worry. I'm taking a route without much traffic.

N: Thank you . . .

D: Here you are. The Royal Opera House. And you have ten minutes to spare.

N: Oh, good. How much is it?

D: It's twenty-two pounds on the meter.

N: Here's twenty-five. Keep the change.

Key Words

taxi cab

madam (UK) ma'am (US), used to address a woman in a polite way

performance an act of presenting a play, concert, or other form of entertainment to a group of people

© Role-playing

Riding the London Underground



Listening for information (2)

- Listen to the dialogue between Naomi and a front-desk clerk and try to understand it without looking at the words in your book.
- Now you can look at the Key Words while the teacher explains them.

Naomi is at the front desk of the hotel. She wants to learn how to ride the London Underground, usually referred to as the Tube.

Naomi: Hello. Could you tell me how to ride the Tube in London?

Front Desk: Certainly. First, find a large, wall-mounted Tube map as soon as you get to the Tube station. Pick up a paper map from the holder next to the wall map, and put it in your pocket. Find the icon on the wall map indicating the station where you are currently and the one for the station where you intend to go.

N: Yes. And then?

FD: Purchase an off-peak one-day Travelcard for Zone 1 and 2. I recommend an off-peak Travelcard because it is very crowded at peak times, that is 8 to 9:30am and 5 -6:30pm. And it's better to get one for Zone 1 and 2 because all the major city-centre sights are located in Zone 1 or 2. Then, have your Travelcard ready as soon as you reach the ticket barrier and pass it through the slot at the entrance to the barrier, walk through and collect the card at the other side.

N: I see.

FD: And also try to have some small change on you in case you need to use the bathroom at a Tube station.

N: Thank you for your advice.

Key Words

barrier	<i>gate</i>
slot	<i>a long narrow hole in a surface</i>
change	<i>small coins</i>

Grammar Spot
Imperatives
An imperative sentence can be used to give directions

Vocab Review

Match the words with the meanings.

Front Desk
 That's about it
 fix
 work
 immediately
 fix
 scream
 absolutely
 lab
 reasonable
 in the vicinity
 destination
 sore
 symptom
 vomit

do what is supposed to do
repair
that's all
 → *=reception*
painful
be sick, bring up food from the stomach
condition of disease apparent to the patient
the place that someone is going to
nearby; not far away
repair
laboratory; special room
used to say that you completely agree
without delay
make a loud high noise with your voice; shriek
not too expensive