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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 15/08/13

## Norway's Prime Minister goes undercover as a taxi driver

Recently, Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg worked secretly as a taxi driver in central Oslo for an afternoon in a bid to woo voters in his country's upcoming general election. Dressed in a taxi driver uniform and sunglasses the Norwegian Prime Minister drove around the streets of the Norwegian capital for several hours.

Mr Stoltenberg said he wanted to hear what Norwegian's really felt about their politicians and what they wanted for their country. He added, "If there is one place where people say what they really mean about most things, it is in a taxi. Right from the gut".

The Prime Minister only revealed who he was when his passengers realised who he was. At first they were shocked, bemused and curious before their discussions inevitably turned to politics.

Some passengers berated him for his bad driving skills behind the wheel. The Norwegian Prime Minister is more used to being chauffeured about than driving. It is eight years since he last drove!

Stoltenberg said, "I think the nation and Norwegian taxi passengers are best served if I am Prime Minister and not a taxi driver!"

While some passengers were picked up after hailing the Prime Minister's cab others were told they would be picked up. None of the passengers were charged for the fare. The Norwegian daily newspaper VG filmed the stunt back in June. Only recently did it become international news.

A video of the stunt has been released by the newspaper. It is also on the PM's Facebook page. The forthcoming general election is in September.

### SPEAKING

Think of three things you know about taxi drivers. 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) Name the Prime Minister.
- 2) What is the capital of Norway?
- 3) Where is Norway?
- 4) What is a 'gut'?
- 5) What does 'hail' mean?

#### Student B questions

- 1) Name the newspaper.
- 2) What did the PM say?
- 3) How long is it since the PM last drove?
- 4) At first, who was what?
- 5) What is forthcoming?

Watch the video of the Norwegian PM:-

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUQgkayTkYw>

**Category: Norway / Prime Minister / Taxis**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

## Norway's Prime Minister goes undercover... – 15<sup>th</sup> August 2013

### WRITING / SPEAKING

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

### WRITING / SPEAKING

*In pairs* – Think of three things you might see in the inside of a taxi. Add three things you'll see on its outside. Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three negative and three positive points about your local taxis.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

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

### SPEAKING – QUICK DEBATE

Student A prefers one taxi company. Student B prefers another. Talk about why. *2 mins.*

### SPEAKING – A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A TAXI DRIVER

*In pairs*-You are taxi drivers. Discuss what you have done in the last 24 hours.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) When did you last get a taxi?
- 3) Do you phone for a taxi or hail a taxi?
- 4) What are the local taxi companies like in your town/city?
- 5) Which is the best taxi company in your town/city?
- 6) Have you ever been ripped off in a taxi?
- 7) Which city has the worst taxi drivers?
- 8) Would your Prime Minister spend an afternoon as a taxi driver?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson in English for you to understand?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

### SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Radio Norway International* studio. Today's interview is about: *Norway's PM goes undercover as a taxi driver.*

- 1) The Norwegian Prime Minister.
- 2) A Norwegian taxi driver.
- 3) A passenger who was in the PM's taxi.
- 4) A journalist.

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

### SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

*In pairs.* One of you is a passenger in a taxi in your town/city. Start a conversation with the taxi driver. *5 mins.*

### SPEAKING

On the board – 10 things about your local taxi companies. Talk about them.

### SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class.

*Discuss the following...*

Norway's Prime Minister goes undercover as a taxi driver

Would your country's leader do the same?

*The teacher* can moderate the session.

### DISCUSSION

#### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Has your Prime Minister gone undercover in a similar such stunt?
- 3) What do you think of your Prime Minister?
- 4) How would you react if you recognised your taxi driver was someone famous?
- 5) Do you know any famous taxi drivers?
- 6) Have you seen the video of the Norwegian Prime Minister as a taxi driver? (see page 1-link)
- 7) Would you like to be a taxi driver?
- 8) Have you been in a black London taxi or a yellow New York taxi?
- 9) Has this been an interesting lesson?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**Norway's Prime Minister goes undercover as a taxi driver**

Recently, Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg worked secretly as a taxi driver in central Oslo for an afternoon in a (1)\_\_\_ to (2)\_\_\_ voters in his country's upcoming general election. Dressed in a taxi driver uniform and (3)\_\_\_ the Norwegian Prime Minister drove around the (4)\_\_\_ of the Norwegian capital for several hours.

Mr Stoltenberg said he wanted to hear what Norwegian's really felt about their politicians and what they wanted for their country. He added, "If there is one place where people say what they really mean about most things, it is in a (5)\_\_\_ . Right from the (6)\_\_\_".

The Prime Minister only revealed who he was when his (7)\_\_\_ realised who he was. At first they were shocked, bemused and curious before their discussions inevitably turned to (8)\_\_\_.

***politics / taxi / streets / woo / sunglasses / passengers / bid / gut***

Some passengers (1)\_\_\_ him for his bad driving skills behind the wheel. The Norwegian Prime Minister is more used to being (2)\_\_\_ about than driving. It is eight years since he last drove!

Stoltenberg said, "I think the (3)\_\_\_ and Norwegian taxi passengers are best served if I am Prime Minister and not a taxi driver!"

While some passengers were picked up after (4)\_\_\_ the Prime Minister's (5)\_\_\_ others were told they would be picked up. (6)\_\_\_ of the passengers were charged for the fare. The Norwegian daily newspaper VG filmed the (7)\_\_\_ back in June. Only recently did it become international news.

A video of the stunt has been released by the newspaper. It is also on the PM's Facebook page. The (8)\_\_\_ general election is in September.

***forthcoming / cab / chauffeured / berated / stunt / nation / hailing / none***

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**Norway's Prime Minister goes undercover as a taxi driver**

Recently, Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg worked secretly (1)\_\_\_ a taxi driver in central Oslo for an afternoon in a bid to woo voters in (2)\_\_\_ country's upcoming general election. Dressed in a taxi driver uniform and sunglasses the Norwegian Prime Minister drove around the streets (3)\_\_\_ the Norwegian capital for several hours.

Mr Stoltenberg said (4)\_\_\_ wanted to hear what Norwegian's really felt about their politicians (5)\_\_\_ what they wanted (6)\_\_\_ their country. He added, "If there is one place where people say what they really mean about most things, it is in a taxi. Right from the gut".

The Prime Minister only revealed who he was when his passengers realised (7)\_\_\_ he was. (8)\_\_\_ first they were shocked, bemused and curious before their discussions inevitably turned to politics.

***who / for / his / and / of / as / at / he***

(1)\_\_\_ passengers berated him for his bad driving skills behind the wheel. The Norwegian Prime Minister is (2)\_\_\_ used to being chauffeured about (3)\_\_\_ driving. It is eight years (4)\_\_\_ he last drove!

Stoltenberg said, "I think the nation and Norwegian taxi passengers are best served if I am Prime Minister and not a taxi driver!"

(5)\_\_\_ some passengers were picked up (6)\_\_\_ hailing the Prime Minister's cab others were told they would be picked up. None of the passengers were charged for the fare. The Norwegian daily newspaper VG filmed the stunt back in June. (7)\_\_\_ recently did it become international news.

A video of the stunt has been released by the newspaper. It is (8)\_\_\_ on the PM's Facebook page. The forthcoming general election is in September.

***also / only / more / while / since / some / than / after***

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### Norway's Prime Minister goes undercover as a taxi driver

Recently, Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg worked secretly \_\_\_\_\_ central Oslo for an afternoon in a bid to woo voters in his country's upcoming general election. Dressed in a \_\_\_\_\_ and sunglasses the Norwegian Prime Minister drove around the streets of the Norwegian capital for several hours.

Mr Stoltenberg said he wanted to hear what Norwegian's \_\_\_\_\_ their politicians and what they wanted for their country. He added, "If there is one place where people say what they really mean about most things, it is in a taxi. \_\_\_\_\_".

The Prime Minister only revealed who he was when his passengers realised who he was. At first they were shocked, \_\_\_\_\_ before their discussions inevitably turned to politics.

Some \_\_\_\_\_ him for his bad driving skills behind the wheel. The Norwegian Prime Minister is more used to being chauffeured about than driving. It is eight years since he last drove!

Stoltenberg said, "\_\_\_\_\_ and Norwegian taxi passengers are best served if I am Prime Minister and not a taxi driver!"

\_\_\_\_\_ were picked up after hailing the Prime Minister's cab others were told they would be picked up. None of the passengers were charged for the fare. The Norwegian \_\_\_\_\_ filmed the stunt back in June. Only recently did it become international news.

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## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

#### 1) Five things I like and five things I don't like about some taxis!

*In pairs/groups - Discuss together. 2 mins.*

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

1) My local taxi \_\_\_\_\_

2) The taxi \_\_\_\_\_

3) The taxi driver \_\_\_\_\_

**3) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **My Prime Minister/President went undercover as a...** Your email can be read out in class.

### GAP FILL READING

- 1) bid
- 2) woo
- 3) sunglasses
- 4) streets
- 5) taxi
- 6) gut
- 7) passengers
- 8) politics

### ANSWERS

- 1) berated
- 2) chauffeured
- 3) nation
- 4) hailing
- 5) cab
- 6) none
- 7) stunt
- 8) forthcoming

### SPELLING

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

- 1) uniform
- 2) sunglasses
- 3) politicians
- 4) several
- 5) upcoming
- 6) woo
- 7) secretly
- 8) bid
- 9) really
- 10) gut

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) passengers
- 12) bemused
- 13) curious
- 14) discussions
- 15) politics
- 16) berated
- 17) wheel
- 18) Norwegian
- 19) fare
- 20) forthcoming

Norway's Prime Minister goes undercover... – *15<sup>th</sup> August 2013*