

www.newsflashenglish.com

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... – 15th 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?

Norway's Prime Minister goes undercover... – 15th August 2013

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.

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

www.newsflashenglish.com

Copyright D.J. Robinson 2013 (V1)

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... – *15th August 2013*