



Taxicab Monthly

by J. Ford

Picking Up Fares

The taxicab business requires some skills in picking up fares. This article gives some important tips to new drivers.

To start, there are several different ways to pick up fares. Drivers can **cruise** for passengers or wait at a **taxi stand**. Passengers may also **call** for a taxi ahead of time. Drivers may have to plan in advance or leave immediately to pick them up.

When cruising for passengers, it is important to know when to stop. Passengers have different ways to **hail** or **flag down** a driver. They may

whistle loudly, point, or just **wave**. Passengers may signal from the street or **sidewalk**, so keep an eye out for them.

Drivers also need to know how to use the **signs** on the roof of the cab. Passengers rely on these signs to know if a cab is available. If a sign is lit, the cab is available for hire. If the sign is off, it means the cab is **occupied** or the driver is **off-duty**.

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 Where are some common places people can get a cab?
- 2 What are some ways people use to hail a taxi?

Reading

2 Read the magazine article. Then, choose the correct answers.

- 1 What is the main idea of the article?
 - A how to make a reservation for a taxi
 - B how to pick up passengers around the city
 - C how to let people know a cab is available
 - D how to wait for passengers at taxi stands
- 2 Which of the following is NOT a way to find fares?
 - A waiting at a taxi stand
 - B cruising for passengers
 - C watching for signals on sidewalks
 - D calling passengers on the phone
- 3 What does it mean if the sign on top of a cab is lit?
 - A The cab driver is off duty.
 - B The cab is available to take a fare.
 - C The cab is occupied by passengers.
 - D The cab driver is going to a taxi stand.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words or phrases (1-8) with the definitions (A-H).

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1 ___ whistle | 5 ___ off-duty |
| 2 ___ flag | 6 ___ occupied |
| 3 ___ sign | 7 ___ call for |
| 4 ___ wave | 8 ___ sidewalk |

- A to call a cab company and request a cab
- B meaning a driver is no longer working at that time
- C to wave or signal a cab to stop
- D an object used for displaying information to people
- E a paved pathway used for walking on the side of the road
- F already having passengers
- G to make a high-pitched sound by blowing air through the lips
- H to move the hand back and forth in the air to signal or greet

4 Read the sentences and choose the correct words or phrases.

- 1 Alfred whistled loudly on the street to **hail/call** for the cab.
- 2 **Flagging/Cruising** for passengers can also be a great way to see the city.
- 3 Jan picks up passengers at the **sign/taxi stand** outside the hotel.

5 Listen and read the magazine article again. Why is paying attention to sidewalks important when working?

Listening

6 Listen to a conversation between two taxi drivers. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 The man wants to know how to get a good spot at the taxi stand.
- 2 The woman says that the taxi stand is an easy place to spot passengers.
- 3 The woman talks about common signals passengers use.

7 Listen again and complete the conversation.

Taxi Driver 1: 1 _____. Do you have a minute to talk?

Taxi Driver 2: Sure. You're the new driver. Your name's Mark, isn't it?

Taxi Driver 1: Yes, and I'd like to know more about 2 _____ in this area.

Taxi Driver 2: Are you concerned it might be different than where you came from?

Taxi Driver 1: Exactly. How do passengers usually 3 _____ here?

Taxi Driver 2: Well, some of them will be waiting at 4 _____ outside the airport or hotels.

Taxi Driver 1: But what about when I'm 5 _____ for passengers?

Taxi Driver 2: Then you'll need to watch for their signals, such as 6 _____.

Taxi Driver 1: Are there other common signals that passengers use?

Taxi Driver 2: Some might yell or whistle loudly to signal you from the sidewalk.

Speaking

8 With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

- Excuse me ..*
- How do passengers ...?*
- Are there other ...?*

Student A: You are a new taxi driver. Talk to Student B about:

- picking up fares
- how passengers get a cab
- common signals for hailing a cab

Student B: You are an experienced taxi driver. Talk to Student A about picking up fares in the area including where passengers might be standing.

Writing

9 Use the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the notes for the cab driver who is new to the area.

Notes on Picking Up Fares

Ways to pick up fares:

Common signals from passengers:

Where passengers might be standing:

