How to catch a minibus taxi

Minibus taxis are South Africa’s most convenient form of rapid inner-city transport, and are guaranteed to get you to your destination quicker than any other vehicle, including the highly powerful Traffic Deparment motorcycle approaching in the rear-view mirror. Following the repeal of Apartheid legislation, minibus taxis are open to all races, the majority of which take place at 140km/h between red robots on Commissioner Street, Johannesburg.

You will find minibus taxis at designated ranks across the country, and the easiest way to find a designated rank is to board the nearest minibus taxi. To do this, simply stand on the side of the road with your index finger in the air, the universally acknowledged signal for “minibus taxi about to brake without warning”.

Several minibus taxis will then brake without warning, and you may board after the customary brief exchange of obscenities between members of rival taxi associations and motorists with dented fenders. According to industry regulations, minibus taxis are obliged to brake without warning for any person standing on a roadside with one or more index fingers in the air, unless the person in question is a duly authorised traffic officer or policeman.

Once you have boarded the taxi of your choice, you should immediately take your seat on the first available lap, following which you may state your destination to the driver, who will usually be the person sitting in the forward section with two people in his lap. You do not need to hand the driver any money at this stage, unless you are attempting to persuade him to turn down the volume on the tape-deck by a quarter of a notch.

Then it’s time to sit back, relax, and enjoy the view of your destination whizzing by at 160 km/h in the opposite direction. You may indicate to the driver that you wish to alight, using the universally acknowledged signal of a fist in the air and a R50 note. It is customary to tip the driver between 10 and 15 per cent of all traffic fines accumulated on the journey, along with a couple of rand for the actual journey.

You may alight as soon as the minibus taxi has slowed down to a minimum speed of 55 km/h, following which you may cross the road and wait for the next minibus taxi to take you back to where you caught the first minibus taxi. Don’t worry, there’ll be one along in a hurry.

From: **It takes two to toyi-toyi** by *Gus Silber*

**Langenhoven High School**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**LISTENING TEST GRADE 12**

**2012**

* 1. Where will you most likely find minibus taxis?

1. The inner city

B. Between red robots

C. In Johannesburg

D. At designated taxi ranks

(1)

1.2 What is the main message of this passage?

A. How to catch a minibus taxi?

B. Taxis are dangerous.

C. It tries to make fun of minibus taxi transport.

(1)

1.3 What action do you have to take if you want to stop a minibus taxi?

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1.4 Which vehicle is mentioned that is almost as fast as a minibus taxi?

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1.5 What do you think will a minibus taxi do if a traffic officer tries to stop it?

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1.6 Mention one way in which a minibus taxi usually behaves on the road?

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1.7 The writer states: “minibus taxis are open to all races”. What does he mean with that statement in the context of the sentence?

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1.8 How do you know that minibus taxis are used to getting fines?

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1.9 If a motorist is driving behind a minibus taxi, what action should the motorist anticipate?

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1.10 Give two reasons from the passage why you think minibus taxis may be the cause of many accidents.

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1.11 Do you think that the writer was dropped of at the destination he wanted to go to when he used the taxi? Give a reason for your answer.

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1.13 What is the journey in a minibus taxi compared with?

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1.14 What do you think is the main problem that the writer wants to address?

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1.15 What is the first thing that happens after you put your finger up to stop a taxi?

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1.16 Would you want to take a ride in a taxi after hearing this article? Give a reason for your answer.

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1.17 Write down one example from the passage where you think the writer is exaggerating the situation.

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1.18 Why is it not acceptible that the driver of the taxi has two people on his lap while he is driving?

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