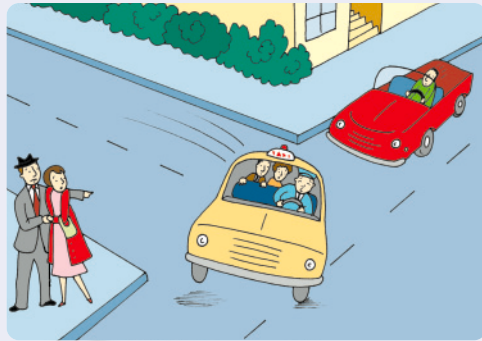


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Freddy was a taxi driver, but he never had any passengers. He couldn't understand why nobody wanted to get in his taxi. Freddy never had any passengers because he was a reckless driver. People thought they might have an accident if they were in Freddy's taxi.



He often didn't look where he was going. Sometimes he didn't see other cars or trucks. At other times he didn't stop for red lights, and once he almost ran over the local policeman. People were frightened when they saw his taxi on the road.

"I'm not going in that taxi," said the school teacher. "He's too reckless! Last week he almost hit the tree near the school. I saw it!"

"Yes," said the teacher's wife. "I saw it, too. He wants us to pay him to ride in his taxi, but I think he should pay us!"

One day he saw some strangers near the railway station. He stopped and they got in his taxi. They said they wanted to go to a house on Alman Road. Freddy was very happy and started to drive. At first he drove very carefully, but he soon forgot and drove faster and faster. The passengers became afraid.

"Slow down," they said. "You're driving too fast!"

Freddy almost hit a car! Then he almost hit a truck! He forgot to stop for a red light. People ran out of the way. They pointed at the passengers. They had never seen passengers in Freddy's taxi before.

Freddy drove his taxi around some corners. He drove very fast and the taxi almost tipped over, but it just went up on two wheels and then fell back down. The passengers were very frightened.

"Stop! Stop!" they shouted. "We want to get out!"

"Why?" asked Freddy. "We are not at Alman Road yet."

"You are a reckless driver," they said. "You almost hit a car and a truck and you drove through a red light. We are terrified every time you go around a corner."

"Oh," said Freddy. "Is that the problem? You don't have to be frightened. Whenever the situation looks dangerous, just close your eyes. That's what I do!"

Vocabulary Review

Match each word with its meaning.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| 1. situation | a. not careful |
| 2. reckless | b. condition |
| 3. terrified | c. very frightened |

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

- Why didn't people want to ride in Freddy's taxi?
 - Everybody had cars.
 - Freddy charged too much.
 - He did not drive well.
 - The taxi was very old.
- Why did people point at the passengers in the taxi?
 - The passengers were famous.
 - They were glad to see them in the taxi.
 - They were laughing at them.
 - They were worried about them.
- Why is Freddy a bad driver?
 - He can't see well.
 - He closes his eyes.
 - He is too old.
 - He likes danger.
- What happens if something "tips over"?
 - It falls on its side.
 - It receives some money.
 - It rolls very fast.
 - It stops.

Summary

Fill in each blank with the correct word.

close because dangerous passengers terrified

Freddy drove a taxi but no one ever got in it, because everyone knew that he was a _____ driver. One day he did have some _____ and they were soon _____ by his driving. They asked him to slow down _____ they were frightened, but he told them not to worry. He told them to _____ their eyes. That's what he did.