

Reading

1 Look at the pictures. What do you think the article is about?

2 Discuss these questions with a partner.

- Have you ever helped with a birth? How was it?
- Were you born in hospital, at home, or somewhere else?
- Have you heard of any births that happened in an unusual place?

3 Read the text and answer the questions.

- 1 Was this Clive's first experience of a birth?

2 Who gave instructions to Clive?

3 Who is Mohammed Clive?

4 How is the baby now?

4 Work in pairs. Cover the article. Can you remember the midwife's instructions? Look at the words below to help you remember.

blanket

medical help

mother's chest

head

nose and mouth

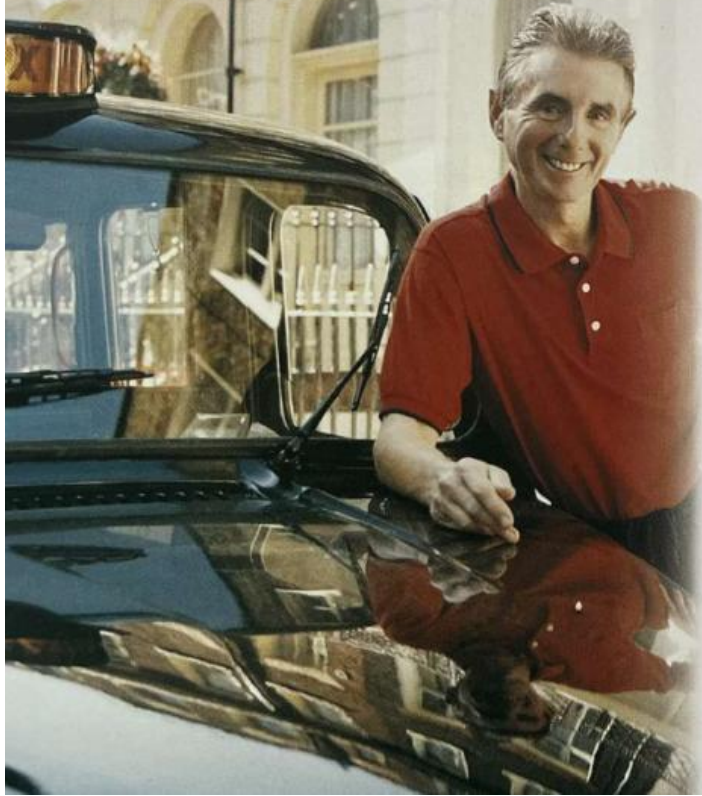
umbilical cord

back

towel

 **LIVEWORKSHEETS**

A surprise passenger



British taxi driver, Clive Lawrence, became a midwife for an hour when a passenger gave birth to a baby in the back of his taxi.

Asha Gemechu's baby was due in a month, but when her contractions started she called for a taxi to take her to hospital. Mr Lawrence answered the call.

The expectant mum was in the taxi for ten minutes when she realized that things were happening too fast. The baby was not going to wait. Its head appeared, and Mr Lawrence stopped the taxi to help with the birth.

Mr Lawrence said, 'I was there when my kids were born, so this was not completely new for me. I spoke to a nurse on the taxi radio and she gave me instructions - I only did what she told me. There's nothing special about that. One minute I had one passenger, then I had two, but there's no extra charge!'

A midwife at the hospital said, 'Giving birth on the way to hospital doesn't happen often, but if you're there when it does, just support the baby's head and guide it out - don't pull. Then clean the baby's nose and mouth, but don't cut the umbilical cord - just lay the baby on the mother's chest, cord and all. Dry the baby with a clean towel or cloth, gently rub its back, then cover mum and baby with a dry blanket to keep them both warm, and wait for medical help to arrive.'

'Clive was wonderful,' the mother said later, 'he did everything right.' Asha is naming the baby Mohammed Clive. Mother and baby are both doing well.

