

RENTING A CAR

Useful words



Driver's licence



number plate /
registration plate
("license plate"
in US English)



parking bay



boot



bodywork



keys



ignition



car park



credit card

What you say

- I'd like to **rent** a car, please.
- How much is it per hour? How much is it per day? How much is it per kilometre?
- How much is the **insurance**?
- Do you need to see my **driver's licence**?
- Can I leave the car in another city?
- Is it petrol or diesel? Does it take petrol or diesel?
- There appears to be a **dent** in the bodywork.
- There's a **scratch** at the back.
- Where is the car?
- What's the car **registration number**?
- Where do I have to leave it when I've finished?
- What do I do with the keys?
- Is it manual ("stickshift" US) or automatic?
- Sorry, but I put diesel in the petrol **tank**.
- I'm sorry but I crashed the car.
- I'm sorry but I've **written**

the car off. I've totalled the car (US)

- The car is a **write off**. Can you give me another one?

What you hear

- It comes with a full tank of petrol.
- Please return it with a full tank.
- The keys are here.
- The car is parked in the car park, in **bay 24, parking space B23**.
- Just phone this number if you have any difficulties.
- The registration number is PY2 4TZ.
- Just fill out this form, please
- May I see your driving licence, please?
- I'll just take down your details.
- It's got **unlimited mileage**.
- I need to **swipe** your credit card.
- You will be liable for the **excess**, which is 200 pounds.

Types of car



Saloon (car)
("sedan" in US
English)



Estate (car)
("station wagon"
in US English)



Minivan /
people carrier



Coupé



Van



SUV (sports utility
vehicle) / 4x4



Convertible



Pick-up truck



Truck/lorry

Dialogue: Renting a car

- Sales:** Good morning.
How may I help you?
- Sally:** Good morning. I'd like to rent a car for the (1) _____.
- Sales:** OK. Any car in mind?
- Sally:** Just an ordinary four-(2) _____ car.
- Sales:** We've got a Peugeot 206 if you like.
- Sally:** Yes, that would be fine. How much is it (3) _____ day?
- Sales:** It's 80 pounds per day with unlimited (4) _____, and that includes insurance.
- Sally:** That sounds all right.
- Sales:** And the (5) _____ is 200 pounds.
- Sally:** What does that mean?
- Sales:** Well, if you have an (6) _____, you have to pay the first 200 pounds.
- Sally:** OK. I'm not really planning on having an accident.
- Sales:** Very wise. So, just fill in this (7) _____, please. And I need to see your driving licence, and I'll have to swipe your credit card.
- Sally:** OK. Here you are.
- Sales:** Very good. Here are the keys. The car is in bay 62, in parking (8) _____ 91. It's a blue Peugeot 206 station wagon.
- Sally:** Great.
- Sales:** Drive safely.
- Sally:** Thanks. Bye.
- Sales:** Bye.

GLOSSARY

- to rent/hire** *vb*
to pay money to use something for a limited period of time
- insurance** *n*
if you pay for "insurance", you receive money/compensation if you have an accident
- a driver's licence** *n*
a formal document that shows you have permission to drive
- a dent** *n*
a hole in the surface
- a scratch** *n*
a small cut on the surface of something
- a registration number** *n*
the numbers and letters at the back and front of a car that identify a car
- a tank** *n*
the object in a car in which you put petrol/gas/diesel
- to write a car off** *exp*
to destroy a car completely
- to total a car** *exp* *US*
to destroy a car completely
- a write-off** *n*
if a car is a "write-off", it is completely destroyed
- a bay** *n*
an enclosed area in a building that is used for a specific purpose
- a parking space** *n*
an area in a car park where you can park a car
- unlimited mileage** *n*
if the car has "unlimited mileage", you can travel as far as you like without being charged for it
- to swipe** *vb*
if they "swipe" your card, they put your card into a little machine in order to register it
- the excess** *n*
a limited amount of money you must pay for repairs if you have an accident

ON THE BUS

Vocabulary



Bus



bus driver



double-decker (bus)



seat



bus lane



timetable



coins



notes



hand-rail



bus station



bus stop



empty seat



ticket machine



bus ticket machine



What you say

- Which is the bus for London?
- Where is the bus stop?
- What time is the next bus to Birmingham?
- What's the best way to get to Halifax by bus?
- What time does the last bus for Liverpool leave?
- Where can I get the number 34 bus?
- Where do I get off for the Science museum?
- How long does it **take**?
- Where do I have to **get off**?
- How long do I have to wait?
- Do you know when the next bus is coming?
- Have we passed Oxford Street?
- Do you have a bus **timetable**?
- Which bus do I need?
- Do I have to change buses?
- Where do I have to get off?
- Where does the bus leave from?
- Can you tell me where to get off?
- Do I have to get off here?
- Could you tell me when we get to Hyde Park, please?

What you hear

- You must have the **exact change**.
- You have to press the button to stop the bus.
- This ticket hasn't been **stamped**.
- You're on the wrong bus. You need to take the number 3.
- This seat is for the **elderly** only.
- Would you like a **single** or a **return**?
- It's the third **stop** after this one.
- You aren't allowed to bring bikes on the bus.
- Where are you getting off?

GLOSSARY

- to get off *phr vb*
to leave a bus or train
- to take *vb*
to last a period of time
- a timetable *n*
a list of the times when something happens
- exact change *n*
money that corresponds exactly to the price
- to stamp *vb*
if a ticket is "stamped", it is marked to show that it has been checked
- the elderly *n*
old people
- a single *n*
a ticket that permits you to travel to a place (but not to return)
- a return *n*
a ticket that permits you to travel to a place and to return to your original destination
- a stop *n*
a place where a bus stops and allows passengers on or off

Dialogue: On the bus



Sam has just got on the bus.

Sam: Is this the right bus for Trafalgar Square.

Bus driver: Yes.

Sam: A (1) _____, please. (Sam gives the driver a ten-pound note.)

Bus driver: You need to give the exact (2) _____.

Sam: Oh, sorry. Here you are. (Sam hands over the right change.)

Bus driver: Don't forget your (3) _____.

Sam: Does this bus (4) _____ at Oxford Street?

Bus driver: No, you need the 34 for that.

Sam: Where can I get the 34?

Bus driver: It's the bus stop over the (5) _____. That one just over there. (He points at the bus stop.)

Sam: Do I have to change buses?

Bus driver: No, it's (6) _____. But this one's going to Trafalgar Square, and you can walk to Oxford Street from there. It isn't far.

Sam: Oh, OK. I'll stay on this one then. Could you tell me where to get (7) _____, please?

Bus driver: Yes, all right.

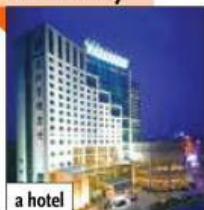
Sam: OK. Thanks.

Bus driver: Hey, you've forgotten your ticket.

Sam: Oh, right.

IN THE CITY

Vocabulary



a hotel



the underground



a skyscraper



a restaurant



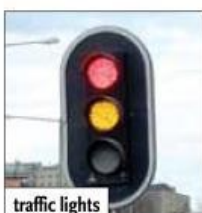
a museum



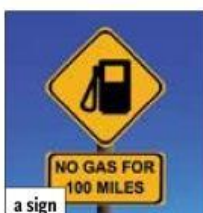
a pub



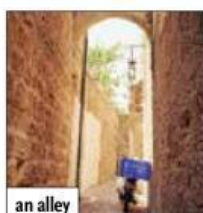
a traffic jam



traffic lights



a sign



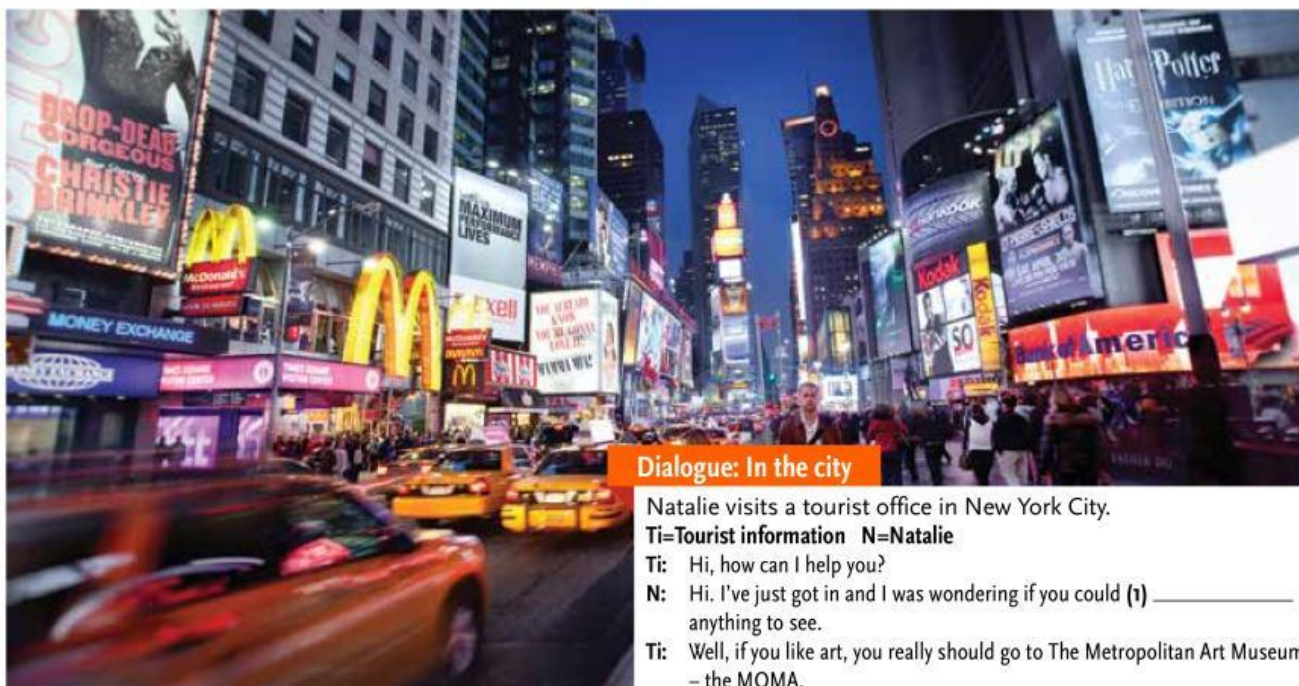
an alley



a building



a theatre



Dialogue: In the city

Natalie visits a tourist office in New York City.

Ti=Tourist information N=Natalie

Ti: Hi, how can I help you?

N: Hi. I've just got in and I was wondering if you could (1) _____ anything to see.

Ti: Well, if you like art, you really should go to The Metropolitan Art Museum – the MOMA.

N: OK. I've heard of that.

Ti: And then there's the Empire State Building. You can go to the top of that and get a great (2) _____ of the city.

N: What about eating out?

Ti: Well, you really should try some of New York City's (3) _____. There's one I really like that serves gourmet hamburgers on 5th Avenue.

N: That sounds good. What about a Broadway show? I've heard so much about Broadway and I'd love to see a (4) _____ there.

Ti: Well, the musical Wicked is playing. Also, Chicago and Fiddler on the Roof are quite popular.

N: What about (5) _____? I'm really into alternative music.

Ti: Oh... well, New York City has some great (6) _____. You'd probably like CBGB. It's a punk/alternative bar on Bleeker Street. Blondie and The Talking Heads both performed there before getting really famous.

N: OK, well, thanks for your (7) _____. Very useful.

Ti: You're welcome. Have fun! And stay safe!

What you say

- Where can I find a bus timetable, please?
- Can you recommend any good hotels?
- How do I get to the city centre?
- Is there public parking near the museum?
- Have you got a map of the subway?
- Where's the best place to go shopping for clothes?
- What are the main tourist attractions?

What you hear

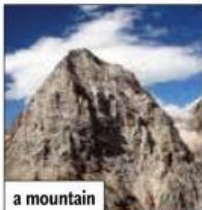
- There's a new art exhibition this Sunday.
- There's a street festival all next week.
- There's a new Thai restaurant that's just opened.
- The best way to get to the centre from here is to take bus 64.
- Most of the museums are in the centre of the town.

IN THE COUNTRY

Vocabulary



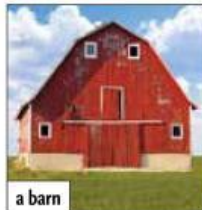
a flower



a mountain



a field



a barn



a bridge



a fence



hills



a horse



grass



a garden



a chicken



fishing



Useful expressions

- What's the best way to get to the country?
- Is there a bus from here?
- How long does it take?
- Is there any place to eat there?
- Should we take some food?
- There's a castle.
- The view from the top of the hill is breathtaking.
- The scenery around here is magnificent.
- You can visit the castle.
- Are there any good walks?
- It gets a bit touristy in August, but it's great for most of the year.
- What's a typical souvenir from here?
- Is there a guided tour?
- Do we have to tip the guide?
- How do we get to that restaurant?

Dialogue: In the country

Thomas calls a bed and breakfast. **R=Receptionist T=Thomas**

R: Country Oaks Bed and Breakfast, how may I help you?

T: Hi, I'm thinking of coming for a (1) _____ in the next few weeks. What's the best way to get there from the (2) _____?

R: Take bus 35 from Appelton Street. Then, get off at the Cherry Turnpike, (3) _____ number 16. The house is the third one on the right, with a blue and pink sign.

T: Is there any sightseeing nearby?

R: Well, there's a town with a medieval (4) _____ about 20 minutes away. There are guided tours that leave in the morning and then again in the (5) _____.

T: Mmmm, that sounds interesting.

R: Yes, it's really charming. It's a great place to take the (6) _____.

T: What about (7) _____? Are there many nearby?

R: There are a few. There's a nice little place in the village that sells traditional (8) _____.

T: OK. That sounds great. Do you have two rooms with twin beds for the (9) _____ of Saturday the 12th?

R: Erm... Let me check... Yes, we have two rooms (10) _____.

T: Great!

R: What's your name, please?

T: Thomas Sanders.

R: All right, Mr Sanders. We'll see you in two weeks.

T: Bye.

RENTING A SHARED FLAT

Vocabulary



A flat / an apartment



A launderette



A tenant



A landlord / A landlady



A refrigerator



A table



An oven



A bed



A bathroom



Dishes



A wardrobe



A sofa



Dialogue: Renting a shared flat

Petra has come to look around at a room in a shared flat. In this dialogue, she's speaking to the landlord about possibly renting it.

Petra: Hi, I've come round to see the flat.

Landlord: Oh, you're Petra, right? Come in. This is the living room.

Petra: Looks nice. So, is the flat furnished?

Landlord: Yes, this is all my (1) _____ here.

Petra: Great. Is the kitchen fully-equipped?

Landlord: There's a fridge and an (2) _____, but I'm afraid there's no washing machine. But there's a launderette really close by. If you decide to move here, the other (3) _____ can show you where it is. There are three girls who live here: one from Germany and two from China. They're all very nice.

Petra: OK. Are they students or do they work?

Landlord: Two of them are students, but one of the Chinese girls works as a (4) _____.

Petra: Oh, that's pretty cool.

Landlord: Yes, she's very lovely. Now, this is one of the (5) _____ rooms, but this one is the biggest.

Petra: Very nice. It looks quite light. Does it get a lot of sun?

Landlord: Well, when it isn't raining, you should get a bit of (6) _____ in the afternoon.

Petra: OK, and what kind of deposit do you need?

Landlord: Well, I'll need one month's rent as a (7) _____ . Plus, you'll need to pay one month's rent in advance.

Petra: And how much is the monthly rent?

Landlord: It's £600 per calendar month.

Petra: So, you need a deposit, one month's (8) _____ in advance, plus the first month's rent? That's £1,800 then, right?

Landlord: Yes, that's right.

Petra: OK, well, I'm definitely interested.

Landlord: We can sign the (9) _____ now if you want.

Petra: OK, great.

Useful expressions

What you say (to a landlord or landlady)

- I'm looking for a room in a shared flat.
- What time can I come round to see it?
- How many tenants live there?
- Are the tenants working professionals or students?
- Will I be sharing a room?
- Is it safe?
- When is the rent due?

What you hear (from the landlord or landlady)

- There are two common rooms.
- The rent is £600 per calendar month.
- Are you a student or do you work?
- The average electricity bill is £20 a month.
- You can split the deposit if you live in a double room.
- There are three bathrooms.
- When can you sign a contract?

More words

- **Rent** – the money you pay to live in the house/apartment.
- **Deposit** – money you pay the landlord/landlady before you move in. It is returned to you when you leave.
- **Furnished** – with furniture: a bed, a sofa, etc.
- **Fully-equipped** – a kitchen that is "fully-equipped" has a washing machine, dishwasher, etc.