

Taxi driver offers free rides for singing karaoke

8th January, 2021



Creative Commons 2.0
via Derek Gavey on flickr.com

A taxi driver in Taiwan is offering free rides in exchange for singing a karaoke song. Mr Tu Ching Liang, 57, is a big fan of driving, karaoke and of listening to people sing. Mr Tu has become famous for the disco lights in his taxi and his offer of free rides. It is

easy to spot his yellow taxi. It has a pink neon star on the dashboard and colourful flashing lights inside. People can select a "karaoke" option if they use a taxi-locating app in the capital city of Taiwan. Mr Tu will appear on your smartphone screen. When Mr Tu's taxi arrives, he will give you a microphone and an iPad on which you can go to YouTube and select the song you want to sing. He says people have more bravery to sing at night.

Mr Tu loves his job. He joked: "No one is as lucky as me, walking out the door every day rushing to go to work and not make any money." He added: "I've been driving a taxi for 27 years, giving money as rewards for singing karaoke for eight years, and filming videos for six years. I've filmed over 10,000 videos." He told a reporter from the UK's "Guardian" newspaper that if people do not sing, they do not get a discount of a free ride. Mr Tu uploads his videos on YouTube. Some have been viewed over two million times. He has become a celebrity, saying: "I was on TV shows from 10 different countries. I'm an international influencer." His dream is to have singer Ed Sheeran as a passenger.

Sources:
theguardian.com / indianexpress.com / timesnownews.com

Writing

Karaoke should be a bigger part of everyday life. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

taxi driver / karaoke / driving / famous / disco lights / capital city / smartphone / sing / lucky / money / rewards / newspaper / discount / celebrity / international / influencer

True / False

- a) A taxi driver loves singing but hates listening to people sing. T / F
- b) The article says the taxi driver is famous for going to discos. T / F
- c) The taxi driver has a pink taxi with a yellow neon star on top. T / F
- d) The taxi driver said people were braver to sing at night. T / F
- e) The driver said he was lucky to have his job and make no money. T / F
- f) The taxi driver says he has been giving free rides for 27 years. T / F
- g) The driver's YouTube videos have been viewed over 2,000,000 times. T / F
- h) The driver's dream is to have a singer as a passenger. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. offering | a. fortunate |
| 2. fan | b. see |
| 3. famous | c. bonuses |
| 4. spot | d. enthusiast |
| 5. bravery | e. wish |
| 6. lucky | f. courage |
| 7. rushing | g. providing |
| 8. rewards | h. price cut |
| 9. discount | i. well known |
| 10. dream | j. hurrying |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of karaoke?
- b) Would you be a good taxi driver?
- c) Why is karaoke so popular?
- d) Would you like to ride in Mr Tu's taxi?
- e) What song would you sing in a taxi?
- f) Why are people braver to sing at night?
- g) What is the best thing about taxis?
- h) How much do you like singing?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. offering free rides in | a. his yellow taxi |
| 2. Ching Liang, 57, is a big | b. to sing at night |
| 3. It is easy to spot | c. influencer |
| 4. People can select a "karaoke" | d. to go to work |
| 5. people have more bravery | e. not get a discount |
| 6. walking out the door every day rushing | f. exchange for singing |
| 7. giving money as | g. option |
| 8. if people do not sing, they do | h. two million times |
| 9. Some have been viewed over | i. fan of driving |
| 10. I'm an international | j. rewards |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of taxi drivers?
- Why do you think Mr Tu gives people free rides?
- Do you prefer taxis or trains?
- Would you like to be a celebrity?
- How important are social media influencers?
- Which singer would you like to meet?
- What questions would you like to ask Mr Tu?

Spelling

- offering free rides in gheaxcne for singing
- a pink neon star on the ahdrbdsoa
- a taxi-locating app in the claipat city
- Mr Tu will appear on your smartphone ernecs
- go to YouTube and csleet the song
- people have more rreyevb to sing at night
- rnhsGui to go to work
- giving money as dserrwa for singing
- they do not get a udntiosc
- He has become a eicerytbl
- I'm an international flnnceieur
- have singer Ed Sheeran as a esgensarp

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. f
6. a	7. j	8. c	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Role A – Rock 'n' Roll

You think rock 'n' roll is the best kind of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, pop or folk.

Role B – Classical

You think classical is the best kind of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): rock 'n' roll, pop or folk.

Role C – Pop

You think pop is the best kind of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, rock 'n' roll or folk.

Role D – Folk

You think folk is the best kind of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their music. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): classical, pop or rock 'n' roll.

Speaking – Music

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| • Folk | • Rock 'n' roll |
| • Country | • Rap |
| • Disco | • Classical |
| • Pop | • Heavy metal |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.