



[http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi\\_driver.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi_driver.html)

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# THE LISTENING / READING SCRIPT

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi\\_driver.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi_driver.html)

*Taxi Driver* is a 1976 American psychological thriller film directed by Martin Scorsese and written by Paul Schrader. The film is set in New York City, soon after the Vietnam War. The film stars Robert De Niro and features Jodie Foster and Harvey Keitel. It was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and won the Palme d'Or at the 1976 Cannes Film Festival. The American Film Institute ranked *Taxi Driver* as the 52nd greatest American film on their AFI's 100 Years...100 Movies list. In 1994, it was preserved in the National Film Registry. It was also a great financial success. Filmed on a budget of \$1.3 million, *Taxi Driver* earned over \$28 million in the United States alone.

The film was controversial at the time. Some critics expressed concern over 13-year-old Jodie Foster's presence during the shoot-out at the end. However, rather than being upset or traumatized, Foster said, she was fascinated and entertained by the behind-the-scenes preparation that went into the scene. She had psychological testing to ensure that she would not be emotionally scarred by her role. Movie critic Roger Ebert instantly praised the movie as one of the greatest films he'd ever seen, claiming: "Taxi Driver" is a hell, from the opening shot of a cab emerging from...clouds of steam to the climactic killing scene." The film was chosen by "Time" magazine as one of the 100 best films of all time.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxi\\_Driver](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxi_Driver)





# TRAILER AND POSTER

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi\\_driver.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi_driver.html)

## POSTER

**1. SIX WORDS:** Look at the poster and write down six words (more if you like) that you think of as you look at it. Share the words with your partner(s). Why did you choose them?

You can find posters for this movie at [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com) or [www.imbd.com](http://www.imbd.com) - just type the name of the movie in the search field.

**2. STORY:** Talk about what you think the story of the movie is – the start, beginning, end, etc. Change partners and share stories.

**3. CREDITS:** Look at the credits on the poster (the actors, director, producer...) and talk about them with your partner(s).

**4. MUST-SEE:** Talk with your partner(s) about whether the poster and movie title are good and make you want to see the movie.

**5. STARRING YOU:** Imagine you are one of the stars of the movie. Talk about your role with your movie star partner(s).

## TRAILER

**1. RETELL:** Watch the trailer and retell what you saw to your partner(s).

You can watch a trailer at <http://www.youtube.com>

**2. CHUNKS:** Watch 10-to-15 second chunks of the trailer and retell what you saw to your partner(s).

**3. QUIZ:** Watch the trailer and write down some quiz questions for your partner(s). Watch a second time to find the answers to the questions.

**4. VOCABULARY:** Make a note of words in the trailer that you see or hear. Talk about them with your partner(s).

**5. GOOD / BAD:** Watch the trailer and write down why you think the film might be good or bad. Share your ideas with your partner(s).





# MATCHING

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi\\_driver.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi_driver.html)

## SYNONYM MATCH

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. set           | a. grossed      |
| 2. nominated     | b. ordered      |
| 3. ranked        | c. make certain |
| 4. preserved     | d. located      |
| 5. earned        | e. hot          |
| 6. controversial | f. distressed   |
| 7. concern       | g. recommended  |
| 8. upset         | h. ending       |
| 9. ensure        | i. conserved    |
| 10. climactic    | j. worry        |

## PHRASE MATCH

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. psychological              | a. budget of \$1.3 million |
| 2. The film is set            | b. killing scene           |
| 3. It was also a great        | c. over \$28 million       |
| 4. Filmed on a                | d. scarred                 |
| 5. earned                     | e. in New York City        |
| 6. The film was controversial | f. out at the end          |
| 7. during the shoot-          | g. thriller                |
| 8. being upset                | h. at the time             |
| 9. emotionally                | i. financial success       |
| 10. the climactic             | j. or traumatized          |





# LISTENING / READING GAP FILL

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi\\_driver.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi_driver.html)

*Taxi Driver* is a 1976 American (1) \_\_\_\_\_ directed by Martin Scorsese and written by Paul Schrader. The film is set in New York City, soon after the Vietnam War. The film stars Robert De Niro and features Jodie Foster and Harvey Keitel. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and won the Palme d'Or at the 1976 Cannes Film Festival. The (3) \_\_\_\_\_ *Taxi Driver* as the 52nd greatest American film on their (4) \_\_\_\_\_. In 1994, it was (5) \_\_\_\_\_. It was also a great financial success. Filmed (6) \_\_\_\_\_, *Taxi Driver* earned over \$28 million in the United States alone.

The film was (7) \_\_\_\_\_. Some critics expressed concern over 13-year-old Jodie Foster's presence during the shoot-out at the end. However, rather than (8) \_\_\_\_\_, Foster said, she was fascinated and entertained (9) \_\_\_\_\_ preparation that went into the scene. She had psychological testing to ensure that she would not be (10) \_\_\_\_\_ role. Movie critic Roger Ebert (11) \_\_\_\_\_ one of the greatest films he'd ever seen, claiming: "*Taxi Driver*" is a hell, from the opening shot of a cab (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to the climactic killing scene." The film was chosen by "Time" magazine as one of the 100 best films of all time.





# CORRECT THE SPELLING

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi\\_driver.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi_driver.html)

## Paragraph 1

1. galccpolysohi thriller
2. ... uerseaft Jodie Foster
3. admtoeinn for four Academy Awards
4. eesdrpvre in the National Film Registry
5. It was also a great anfaiinlc success
6. Filmed on a dubteg of \$1.3 million

## Paragraph 2

7. The film was iatnvecolrosr at the time
8. Some critics psdesxeer concern
9. being upset or mueiatarztd
10. behind-the-scenes renptiopraa
11. yoaelonmitl scarred by her role
12. a cab imgngree from clouds of steam





# PUNCTUATE & PUT CAPITALS IN THE TEXT

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi\\_driver.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi_driver.html)

*taxi driver* is a 1976 american psychological thriller film directed by martin scorsese and written by paul schrader the film is set in new york city soon after the vietnam war the film stars robert de niro and features jodie foster and harvey keitel it was nominated for four academy awards including best picture and won the palme d'or at the 1976 cannes film festival the american film institute ranked taxi driver as the 52nd greatest american film on their afi's 100 years...100 movies list in 1994 it was preserved in the national film registry it was also a great financial success filmed on a budget of \$13 million *taxi driver* earned over \$28 million in the united states alone

the film was controversial at the time some critics expressed concern over 13-year-old jodie foster's presence during the shoot-out at the end however rather than being upset or traumatized foster said she was fascinated and entertained by the behind-the-scenes preparation that went into the scene she had psychological testing to ensure that she would not be emotionally scarred by her role movie critic roger ebert instantly praised the movie as one of the greatest films he'd ever seen claiming "taxi driver" is a hell from the opening shot of a cab emerging from...clouds of steam to the climactic killing scene" the film was chosen by "time" magazine as one of the 100 best films of all time





# INSERT THE VOWELS (a,e,i,o,u)

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi\\_driver.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi_driver.html)

T\_x\_ Dr\_v\_r \_s \_ 1976 \_m\_r\_c\_n psych\_l\_g\_c\_l thr\_ll\_r  
 f\_lm d\_r\_ct\_d by M\_rt\_n Sc\_rs\_s \_ \_nd wr\_tt\_n by P\_\_l  
 Schr\_d\_r. Th\_ f\_lm \_s\_s\_t \_n N\_w Y\_rk C\_ty, s\_\_n \_ft\_r  
 th\_ V\_\_tn\_m W\_r. Th\_ f\_lm st\_rs R\_b\_rt D\_ N\_r\_ \_nd  
 f\_\_t\_r\_s J\_d\_\_ F\_st\_r \_nd H\_rv\_y K\_\_t\_l. \_t w\_s  
 n\_m\_n\_t\_d f\_r f\_\_r \_c\_d my \_w\_rds, \_ncl\_d\_ng B\_st  
 P\_ct\_r\_, \_nd w\_n th\_ P\_lm\_ d'r \_t th\_ 1976 C\_nn\_s  
 F\_lm F\_st\_v\_l. Th\_ \_m\_r\_c\_n F\_lm \_nst\_t\_t\_ r\_nk\_d  
 T\_x\_ Dr\_v\_r \_s th\_ 52nd gr\_\_t\_st \_m\_r\_c\_n f\_lm \_n  
 th\_\_r \_F\_'s 100 Y\_\_rs...100 M\_v\_\_s l\_st. \_n 1994, \_t  
 w\_s pr\_s\_rv\_d \_n th\_ N\_t\_\_n\_l F\_lm R\_g\_stry. \_t w\_s  
 \_ls\_ \_ gr\_\_t f\_n\_nc\_\_l s\_cc\_ss. F\_lm\_d \_n \_b\_dg\_t \_f  
 \$1.3 m\_ll\_\_n, T\_x\_ Dr\_v\_r \_\_rn\_d \_v\_r \$28 m\_ll\_\_n \_n  
 th\_ \_n\_t\_d St\_t\_s \_l\_n\_.

Th\_ f\_lm w\_s c\_ntr\_v\_rs\_\_l \_t th\_ t\_m\_. S\_m\_ cr\_t\_cs  
 \_xpr\_ss\_d c\_nc\_rn \_v\_r 13-y\_\_r-ld J\_d\_\_ F\_st\_r's  
 pr\_s\_nc\_ d\_r\_ng th\_ sh\_\_t-\_\_t \_t th\_ \_nd. H\_w\_v\_r,  
 r\_th\_r th\_n b\_\_ng \_ps\_t \_r tr\_\_m\_t\_z\_d, F\_st\_r s\_\_d,  
 sh\_ w\_s f\_sc\_n\_t\_d \_nd \_nt\_rt\_\_n\_d by th\_ b\_h\_nd-  
 th\_-sc\_n\_s pr\_p\_r\_t\_\_n th\_t w\_nt \_nt\_ th\_ sc\_n\_. Sh\_  
 h\_d psych\_l\_g\_c\_l t\_st\_ng t\_\_ns\_r\_ th\_t sh\_ w\_\_ld  
 n\_t b\_ \_m\_t\_\_n\_lly sc\_rr\_d by h\_r\_r\_l\_. M\_v\_\_ cr\_t\_c  
 R\_g\_r \_b\_rt \_nst\_ntly pr\_\_s\_d th\_ m\_v\_\_ \_s \_n\_ \_f th\_  
 gr\_\_t\_st f\_lms h\_'d \_v\_r s\_\_n, cl\_\_m\_ng: "T\_x\_  
 Dr\_v\_r" \_s \_ h\_ll, fr\_m th\_ \_p\_n\_ng sh\_t \_f \_c\_b  
 \_m\_rg\_ng fr\_m...cl\_\_ds \_f st\_\_m\_t\_ th\_ cl\_m\_ct\_c  
 k\_ll\_ng sc\_n\_." Th\_ f\_lm w\_s ch\_s\_n by "T\_m\_"  
 m\_g\_z\_n\_ \_s \_n\_ \_f th\_ 100 b\_st f\_lms \_f \_ll t\_m\_.





## MARK THE SPACES

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi\\_driver.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi_driver.html)

*Taxi Driver* is a 1976 American psychological thriller film directed by Martin Scorsese and written by Paul Schrader. The film is set in New York City, soon after the Vietnam War. The film stars Robert De Niro and features Jodie Foster and Harvey Keitel. It was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Picture, and won the Palme d'Or at the 1976 Cannes Film Festival. The American Film Institute ranked *Taxi Driver* as the 52nd greatest American film on their AFI's 100 Years... 100 Movies list. In 1994, it was preserved in the National Film Registry. It was also a great financial success. Filmed on a budget of \$1.3 million, *Taxi Driver* earned over \$28 million in the United States alone. The film was controversial at the time. Some critics expressed concern over 13-year-old Jodie Foster's presence during the shoot-out at the end. However, rather than being upset or traumatized, Foster said, she was fascinated and entertained by the behind-the-scenes preparation that went into the scene. She had psychological testing to ensure that she would not be emotionally scarred by her role. Movie critic Roger Ebert instantly praised the movie as one of the greatest films she'd ever seen, claiming: "*Taxi Driver*" is a hell, from the opening shot of a cab emerging from... clouds of steam to the climactic killing scene." The film was chosen by "Time" magazine as one of the 100 best films of all time.





## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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## **DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

**STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_





# TAXI DRIVER SURVEY

From: [http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi\\_driver.html](http://www.LessonsOnMovies.com/taxi_driver.html)

Write five GOOD questions about Taxi Driver in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.





## **HOMEWORK**

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET INFO:** Search the Internet and find more information about "Taxi Driver". Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE:** Write a magazine article about "Taxi Driver". What are (did) critics and moviegoers saying (say) about it? How good were the actors' performances? What was good and bad about the movie? Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**4. "TAXI DRIVER" POSTER:** Make a poster about "Taxi Driver". Make sure you put tag lines, audience and critics' reviews, why people should see it, etc. Show it to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your posters.

**5. MY PREQUEL / SEQUEL:** Make your own prequel or sequel for "Taxi Driver". Make sure there is a good mix of things to do. Find some good online activities. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback.

**6. CHARACTER STORY:** Choose one of the characters from the movie. Imagine you are that character. Write your story about what you did in the movie. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback.

**7. ONLINE SHARING:** Use your blog, wiki, Facebook page, Twitter stream, or any other social media tool to get opinions on "Taxi Driver". Share your findings with the class.





# ANSWERS

## SYNONYM MATCH

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. set           | a. located      |
| 2. nominated     | b. recommended  |
| 3. ranked        | c. ordered      |
| 4. preserved     | d. conserved    |
| 5. earned        | e. grossed      |
| 6. controversial | f. hot          |
| 7. concern       | g. worry        |
| 8. upset         | h. distressed   |
| 9. ensure        | i. make certain |
| 10. climactic    | j. ending       |

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

Please check for yourself by looking at the movie review on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)

## CREATIVE COMMONS

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