



PENGUIN READERS



## Dino's Day in London

Stephen Rabley



Tommy Grant is a taxi driver in London. He works for TOP TAXIS.

One day Tommy's boss, Sam, telephones him. It is very early in the morning.

"Tommy," says Sam. "Can you be at The Ritz hotel at 9.00 o'clock?"

"Yes," says Tommy, "but why?"





Sam and his wife are having breakfast with their children, Billy and Katy. "Gloria Brash is in London," says Sam.

"Gloria Brash!" says Tommy. "The film star! Where do you want me to drive her?"

"Not *her*," says Sam. "*Him*. Her 12 year-old son Dino wants to see London today. His mother's working."



"There's a letter for you at The Ritz. There's £50, too. That's for Dino."

"£50 for one day in London!" says Tommy. "That's a lot of money."

"I know," says Sam. "Be *very nice* to the boy, Tommy, and don't be late."

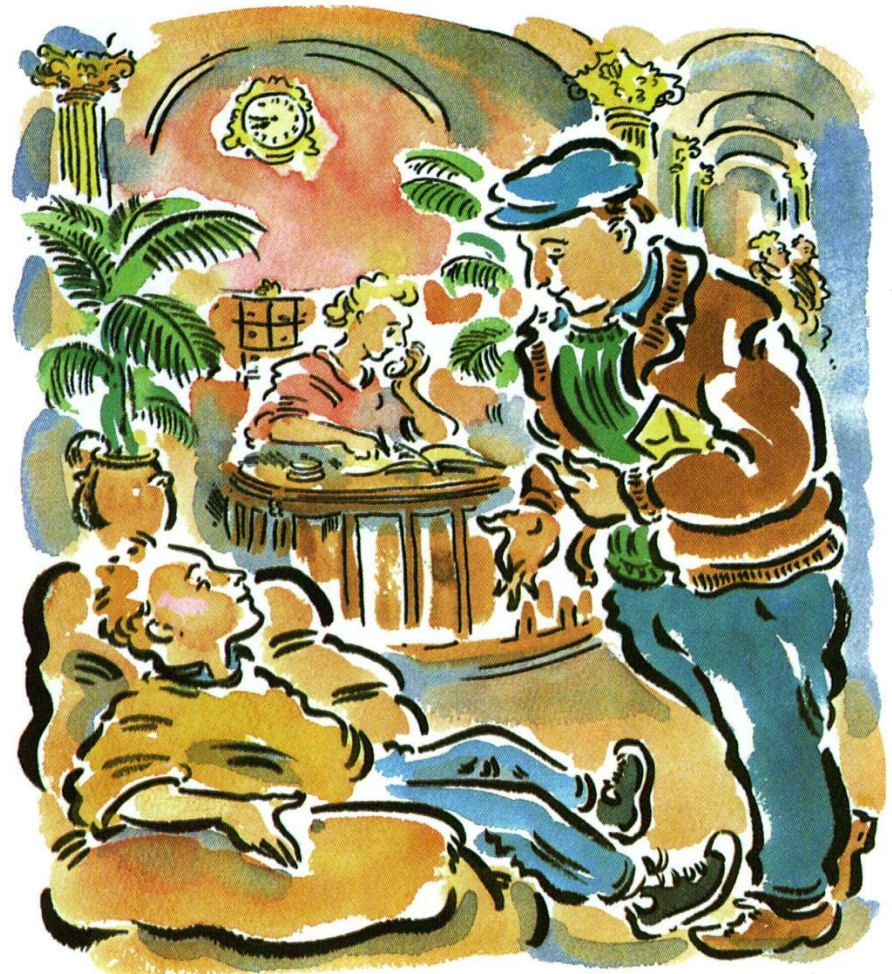
"You know me," says Tommy. "I'm always early."





It is 8.45. Tommy is at The Ritz fifteen minutes early. He goes to the desk.

"I'm from TOP TAXIS," he says. The woman behind the desk gives him the letter and the money. The letter says, 'It's Dino's first time in London. Please take him to *all* these places (1) Buckingham Palace (2) Harrods (3) the British Museum.'



"OK," thinks Tommy. "Now, is Dino here? I know I'm early, but . . ." He sees a boy in a chair.

"Hello," he says. "Are you Dino?"

"That's me," says the boy. "Are you the driver from TOP TAXIS?"

"Yes," answers Tommy. The boy stands up.

"OK," he says. "Let's go."



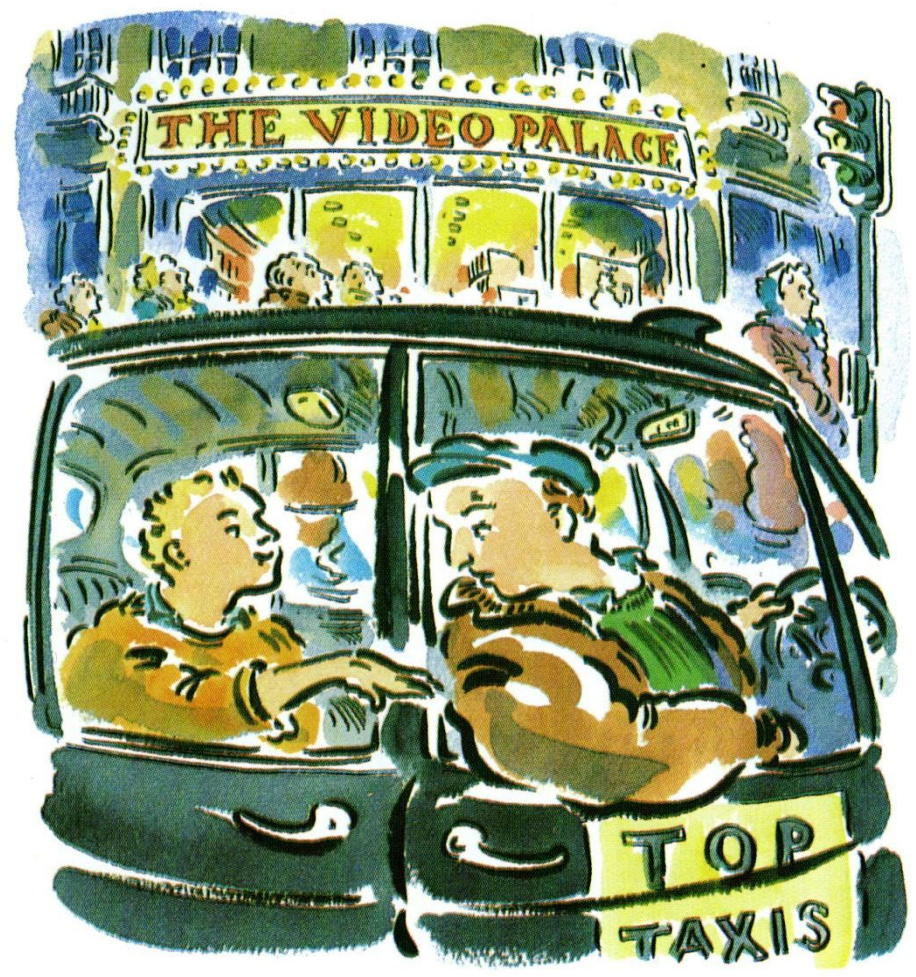


First, Tommy drives to Buckingham Palace – the home of the Queen. He stops the taxi.

“What are you doing?” asks Dino. “I don’t want to see this old place.”

Tommy looks at him. “But I . . .” Then he remembers Sam’s words: ‘Be *very nice* to the boy.’

“OK, Dino,” he says. “Where *do* you want to go?”



Five minutes later Tommy stops the taxi again. “Is this the place?” he asks. “That’s right,” answers Dino. “Can I have £20, please.”

“But I don’t think your mother . . .”

“I want £20. *Now!*”

Tommy gives Dino the money. Then he sits in the car and waits. Three hours later, Dino comes back.





“Now, are you hungry?” asks Tommy.

“Yes, I am,” answers Dino. “*Very* hungry.”

Tommy drives to Harrods. “There’s a very good restaurant in this shop,” he says.

“I don’t want to eat here!” says Dino. “I want to have lunch *there*.”

“Where?” asks Tommy. He looks across the road.



Dino goes into the Big Burger Bar with another £20.

He eats a mountain of food and drinks four milkshakes. Tommy eats his lunch in the taxi.

“£20 for lunch!” he thinks. “I can buy a week’s food with £20.” He looks out of the window and eats another sandwich.

An hour later Dino comes out of the restaurant.





“Be *very nice* to the boy,” thinks Tommy. “Do you want to go to the British Museum now?” he asks.

“OK,” answers Dino.

Tommy looks at him. “Yes?!” Tommy is very happy. He drives to the British Museum and gives Dino £10.

“Thanks,” says Dino. “Wait here.” Then he goes into a cinema across the road from the museum.



At 4.15 Dino comes out of the cinema. Tommy is sitting in the cab. He is very angry.

“Where – do – you – want – to – go – now?” he asks.

“Oh, back to The Ritz, I think,” says Dino. “I’m tired and I want to have a bath before dinner.”

“Good,” thinks Tommy.

Tommy starts the car again.





At 4.30 Tommy stops in front of the hotel. "Here we are," he says. He opens the door for Dino. Then he sees a beautiful woman in a very expensive coat. She is walking out of The Ritz and she is looking at him. "I know that woman," thinks Tommy. Then he remembers. "Of course, it's Gloria Brash!"



"Are you the man from TOP TAXIS?" asks Gloria. "Yes," says Tommy. "Come with me," says the film star. She walks back into the hotel. There, Tommy sees a boy sitting in a chair. He looks very sad. "This is Dino," she says. "But, but . . ." Tommy can't speak. "I am *very* angry," says Gloria.





Tommy looks at the boy, at the film star, and at the young boy again.

“But this *can't* be Dino!” he says.

“Young man, I know my son!” answers Gloria. “Now, where is my £50?”

Tommy's face goes white. He looks out of the window. His taxi is there, but ‘Dino’ is not.



It is 5.00 o'clock in the afternoon. Tommy's boss, Sam, is at home. He and his wife are having a cup of tea. The door opens and their son, Billy, walks in.

“Hello, Billy,” says Sam. “Good day at school?”

Billy looks very happy.

“Yes, thanks,” he says. “*Very good.*”



## ACTIVITIES

### Before you read

- 1 Read the Word List at the back of the book. What are the words in your language? Find them in a dictionary.
- 2 What do you know about London? Are the sentences right or wrong?
  - a London is in America.
  - b The taxis in London are yellow
  - c The Ritz is an expensive hotel in London.
  - d Harrods is a famous big shop in London.
- 3 Look at the pictures in the book. Talk to a friend about the story. What do you think?
  - a Where does the taxi driver go first?
  - b Where does the driver take the boy from the Ritz?
  - c Is the boy's mother happy after that?

### While you read

- 4 Read pages 1–7. Finish the sentences.
  - a Sam is Tommy's .....
  - b Billy is Sam's .....
  - c Gloria Brash is a ..... star.
  - d Gloria's son, Dino, is ..... years old.
  - e Tommy arrives early at the .....
  - f At the hotel, he gets a letter and £ .....
  - g Tommy sees a ..... in a chair.
  - h Tommy waits for ..... hours at the video shop.

- 5 Read pages 8–15. Underline the right words in *italics*.

- a Dino has a big lunch in *Harrods*/ a *burger bar*.
- b Tommy gives him £10/ £20 for lunch.
- c Tommy eats lunch in the *taxi*/ *bar*.
- d Dino goes into a *museum*/ *cinema*.
- e Tommy waits for a *short*/ *long* time.
- f Gloria Brash is very *happy*/ *angry*.
- g The boy in the taxi is *Dino*/ *not Dino*.
- h Sam's son, Billy, comes home from *school*/ *a day in London*.

### After you read

- 6 Answer the questions.
  - a Who is the boy in the taxi?
  - b How does he know about Dino and the £50?
- 7 Work with a friend.

*Student A:* You are at school. It is lunch time, and Billy is not at school. Telephone Billy and ask some questions.

*Student B:* You are Billy. You are in the Big Burger Bar. Your friend telephones you from school. Answer your friend's questions and say 'Come with me this afternoon.'
- 8 A week later, Tommy sees Billy with his father Sam. Suddenly Tommy understands! Tommy and Sam are very angry with Billy, and Billy says 'Sorry'. Write the story.
- 9 What do you know about London? What can you do there? Write about it.

## WORD LIST *with example sentences*

- boss** (n) The man works slowly, and his *boss* is angry.
- breakfast** (n) I get up at 7 o'clock and have *breakfast* in the kitchen.
- burger** (n) I don't eat *burgers*. They aren't good for me.
- cab** (n) '*Cab*' and 'taxi' are the same.
- desk** (n) At the hotel, go to the *desk* and ask for a room.
- hour** (n) There are 24 *hours* in a day.
- lunch** (n) I usually have *lunch* at 1 o'clock.
- mountain** (n) Everest is a famous *mountain* in the Himalayas.
- museum** (n) There are many interesting old things in the *museum*.
- nice** (adj) She's a *nice* person. I like her.
- Palace** (n) Buckingham *Palace* is the Queen's home in London.
- Queen** (n) *Queen* Elizabeth is the *Queen* of Britain.
- restaurant** (n) We don't often eat in *restaurants*. We usually eat at home.
- sad** (adj) She isn't happy. She's *sad*.
- sandwich** (n) I usually buy a *sandwich* at the station and eat it on the train.
- star** (n) Tom Cruise, Harrison Ford and Julia Roberts are film *stars*.
- tea** (n) I drink coffee in the morning and *tea* in the afternoon.
- video** (n) I like that film. I've got it on *video*.
- wife** (n) This is Mr Jones and his *wife* Mrs Jones.
- word** (n) 'Thank you.' – two important *words*.

Answers for the Activities in this book are available from the Penguin Readers website. A free Activity Worksheet is also available from the website. Activity Worksheets are part of the Penguin Teacher Support Programme, which also includes Progress Tests and Graded Reader Guidelines. For more information, please visit: [www.penguinreaders.com](http://www.penguinreaders.com).