

# The Nasty Taxi-driver



***WORKBOOK***

by  
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## The Nasty Taxi Driver

### Grammar Joining sentences

*If we want to improve our style of writing, there are a number of things we can do. One of these is to join short sentences together to make longer sentences. This is a good idea but the longer sentence must have correct grammar and punctuation. Below are some ways you can join sentences to improve the style of writing:*

#### 1. Because / As / Since

*These words show **Cause** or **Reason**.*

##### **Example:**

*It rained non-stop for 2 days. The town was flooded.*

*Question: Why was the town flooded?*

*Answer: **Because** it rained non-stop for 2 days.*

*The town was flooded **because it rained non-stop for 2 days**.*

*N.B. **As** and **since** mean the same as **because**.*

#### Exercise 1

*Join the following pairs of sentences using **because**, **as**, or **since**:*

1. You can't have any pudding.  
You haven't eaten your vegetables.

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2. The driver was arrested by the police.  
He went through a red light.

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3. The sea was very rough.  
The captain refused to sail.

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4. This building is very dangerous.  
All the fire exits are locked.

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5. It's started raining.  
We'll have to cancel the barbecue.

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2. **So / Therefore / As a result**  
*These words show **Result**.*

**Therefore** and **As a result** are more *formal*.

**Example:**

***It rained non-stop for 2 days.  
The town was flooded.***

*It rained non-stop for 2 days **so** the town was flooded.*

or

*It rained non-stop for 2 days. **Therefore**, the town was flooded.*

or

*It rained non-stop for 2 days. **As a result**, the town was flooded.*

**Exercise 2**

Refer back to the sentences in **Exercise 1**.

Join the pairs of sentences using **So / Therefore / As a result**:

### Exercise 3

*Now join these sentences in the same way:*

1. He didn't work very hard.  
He got a bad mark in the exam.

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2. He couldn't swim.  
His mother wouldn't let him go to the river.

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3. The flowers died.  
It didn't rain for more than two weeks.

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4. I'll finish this work tomorrow.  
My eyes need a rest.

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5. The man had to go to the hospital.  
A snake bit the man.

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### 3. But / However / Although

These words show **Contrast**.

**However** and **Although** are more *formal*.

**Example:**

**Somchai is a very good football player.  
He wasn't selected for the match.**

Somchai is a very good player **but** he wasn't selected for the match.

**or**

Somchai is a very good player. **However**, he wasn't selected for the match.

**or**

**Although** Somchai is a very good player, he wasn't selected for the match.

#### Exercise 4

Join the sentences in different ways, using **but**, **however**, and **although**:

1. Travelling by bus is very cheap.  
Most people prefer to go by car.

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2. Azman's spoken English is excellent.  
His writing needs to be improved.

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3. The sun was shining.  
It was very cold.

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4. Nuclear energy is cheaper to produce.  
There are serious risks in producing it.

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5. People know it's dangerous to swim in this river.  
A lot of people swim here every weekend.

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### Exercise 5

*Match the sentence beginnings with the correct endings:*

#### Beginnings

1. Although it has been raining hard,

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2. Junk food is not good for you;

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3. Cockroaches are a real pest

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4. My children are overweight

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5. A friend of mine refuses to find a job

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6. Nobody took him seriously

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7. Because the monsoon is heavier than normal this year

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8. The pitch was flooded

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### **Endings**

- a. but many people keep them as pets.
- b. so the game was cancelled.
- c. although he has a wife and six children to feed.
- d. because he was always fooling around.
- e. the ground is still hard.
- f. so they'll have to go on a diet.
- g. however, young people love the taste.
- h. there is a lot of flooding.

## Vocabulary

### Exercise 1 Find the words in the story

1. Which word means 'bad', especially when you're describing a bad person?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Which word means that you drive through some water and make other people wet? It's also the sound which it makes.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If it's a hot day and you have to walk, your clothes get wet. Which two words describe this?

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (both words begin with 's')

4. What do we call a 'hole in a tyre'?

\_\_\_\_\_

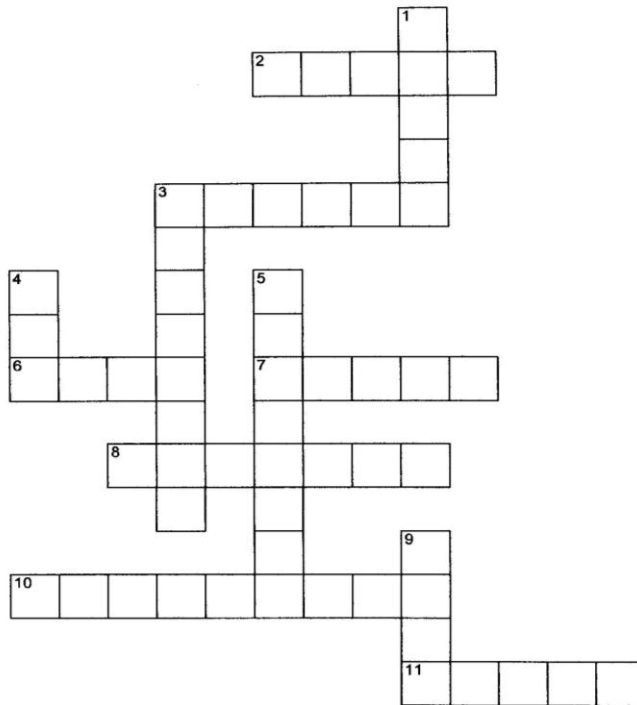
5. Which four words together show that the children were happy something bad happened to the taxi-driver, too?

\_\_\_\_\_ !



## Exercise 2

### Crossword



#### ACROSS

2. Water which comes out of your body when you are hot
3. When you throw water over someone
6. A car has 4 of these; they're made of rubber
7. Bad, not a nice person
8. The things you wear
10. 1000 metres
11. Not clean

#### DOWN

1. If you think it's funny, you \_\_\_\_\_
3. Not expected, quickly
4. Not dry
5. A hole in a tyre
9. Repair, fix, make it better when it's broken

## Comprehension

1. Where were Koy and Ong going?

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2. What did the taxi-driver do?

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3. How do we know the taxi-driver was a nasty person?

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4. What did the children look like after the taxi had splashed them?

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5. How far did they have to walk home?

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6. Who was the first to see the taxi-driver in front?

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7. What was the taxi-driver doing?

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8. How did the children feel about that?

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## Writing

### Exercise 1 Gap-fill

Complete the passage with the correct form of the verb (in brackets):

Suddenly Ong 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (**see**) something in front.  
 '2. \_\_\_\_\_ (**look**) at that!' he said to Koy, and he pointed in front.  
 Koy 3. \_\_\_\_\_ (**cannot**) believe her eyes.  
 What do you think they could 4. \_\_\_\_\_ (**see**)?  
 Yes, the nasty taxi-driver 5. \_\_\_\_\_ (**mend**) a puncture in his tyre.  
 He 6. \_\_\_\_\_ (**be**) hot and sticky, and very angry but Ong and Koy  
 7. \_\_\_\_\_ (**be**) happy.  
 'That 8. \_\_\_\_\_ (**serve**) him right!' they 9. \_\_\_\_\_ (**think**)  
 and they 10. \_\_\_\_\_ (**laugh**) all the way home.

### Exercise 2 Sequencing

The sentences are not in the correct order. Write numbers after each sentence to show the correct sequence. The first one is done for you:

- The two children had to walk one kilometer to get home. \_\_\_\_\_
- School finished for the day. \_\_\_\_\_ **1** \_\_\_\_\_
- A nasty taxi driver splashed water on the children. \_\_\_\_\_
- The taxi driver got really angry. \_\_\_\_\_
- The children were really angry. \_\_\_\_\_
- Ong and Koy had a good laugh about that. \_\_\_\_\_
- The taxi had a puncture. \_\_\_\_\_

## Discussion

There's a saying in English: ***'The one who laughs last, laughs the longest.'***

*Do you think that's a good saying for this story?*

*What do you think the following sayings mean?*

- *Make hay while the sun shines.*
- *Too many cooks spoil the broth.*
- *Don't count your chickens before they hatch.*
- *Don't put all your eggs in one basket.*
- *Don't cry over spilt milk.*

*Do you know any other sayings like this, in your own language or in English?*