



TO CUT A SLANG STORY SHORT

The secret London lexicon used by black-cab drivers

All Nations

Cab shelter opposite Gloucester Road

American Workhouse

Park Lane Hotel

Butterfly

Cabbie who only works in summer

A Churchill

A meal. Churchill gave cabbies the right to refuse a fare while eating

Cock & Hen

Man-and-woman passengers

Copperbottom

Cabbie who drives for an excessive number of hours

The Dead Zoo

Natural History Museum

Den of Thieves/Fagin's Kitchen

Stock Exchange

The Dirty Dozen

The 12 streets that take you from Regent Street to the top end of Charing Cross Road without using Oxford Street

Down the Wasp

Walpole, Anderson, Sloane Avenue, Pelham

Gantville Cowboys

Drivers who live around Gants Hill, Newbury Park, Ilford and Claybury

The Gasworks

Houses of Parliament

The Iron Lung

A 'pissoir' in Regency Place, SW1

Kangaroo Valley

Earl's Court

The Kremlin

Cab shelter by Albert Bridge

Legal off

To be paid the exact legal fare

Magic Circle

Area half a mile around Piccadilly Circus: source of much work

Musher's Lotion

Rain

Over the Hump

Driving to the City via Angel rather than High Holborn

The RAFT

Rank above Victoria station for Gatwick passengers

The Rathole

Rank at Embankment station

The Resistance

Harley Street, because doctors opposed the formation of the NHS

The Scent Box

Rank at King's Cross

Single pin

One passenger

The Spit & Cough

The Athenaeum Club, Pall Mall

The Tripe Shop

Broadcasting House

Compiled by Stuart Pesock and the London Taxi Drivers Association

Shabby ranks Richard Cudlip's top five shortest fares

1 New Kings Road to Jim Thompson's, Kings Road (0.1 miles/£2.40)

'A small group of young ladies wouldn't believe me when I told them that Jim Thompson's was literally just round the corner. It was.'

2 Piccadilly Circus to New Zealand House, Haymarket (0.2 miles/£2.60)

'Desperate to get his visa before

heading to New Zealand to start working on the oil rigs, this chap saved at least a minute off his journey.'

3 St James's Street to New Bond Street by the Churchill & Roosevelt Statue (0.3 miles/£2.80).

'Think this man genuinely didn't realise how close he was to his destination. Probably drunk.'



4 Pall Mall to St James's Street (0.4 miles/£3.20)

'Just plain lazy, I think. Or late for their reservation at Just St James.'

5 Southwark Street to the Globe Pub, Borough Market (0.4 miles/£3.20)

'Again, just lazy, I think. Or really desperate for beer. Much more understandable.'

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EDITORS

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Patience Agbabi • Jeffrey Lewis • Luke Wright • Paul Farley • Luke Kennard
Rise 16 • Polar Bear • Charlie Dark • Milk Artistik • Joel Stickey
Disraeli • Kathryn Simmonds • Ross Sutherland • Tim Clare
Ventriloquist • Dockers MC • Elvis McGonagall

LITERARY ARENA

The School Of Life • Blake Morrison
Geoff Dyer • Julie Myerson • Tibor Fischer • David Peace
Afternoon Tea with Stuart Macoole plus special guests • Mark Billingham
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Luke Haines • Emma Kennedy • William Fiennes • Laura Dockrill
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2