Serial Taxi

**Language level:** Intermediate (B1) – Upper Intermediate (B2)

**Learner type:** Teens and adults

**Time:** 60 minutes

**Activity:** Watching a short film, reading, speaking and writing

**Topic:** Murder mystery

**Language:** Future tenses for predictions and narrative tenses

**Materials:** Short film
Overview

This lesson plan is designed around Serial Taxi a short animation by Paolo Cogliati and the theme of murder mysteries. Students predict what is going to happen in a film, watch a short film and write a murder mystery.

Step 1

Pair students and ask them to talk about any murder mysteries they have read about or seen on TV or in films. When students are ready get feedback from the whole class.

Step 2

Tell students that they are going to watch a short film called Serial Taxi which is a murder mystery about a serial killer. In the same pairs ask them to discuss what they think they will see in the film.

Step 3

Cue the film at 00.04. Show the newspaper headline and ask students to read it. If they can’t read it on the screen, write it up the board or read it out.

TAXI KILLER STILL AT LARGE

As the futile attempts by the police to catch the notorious Taxi Killer, bodies pile up Stabbatonia,
making taxis the most dangerous place to be in our city. As authorities continue their investigations, very little has been uncovered, leading us to believe that the Taxi Killer is very much amongst us, lurking in the shadows waiting to strike. It has been eight months since the first killing, all related by miniscule details, with no clear motives and a random pattern making it almost impossible to trace.

Ask students how the article makes them feel and what they think is going to happen in the film.

Link: [https://vimeo.com/63106783](https://vimeo.com/63106783)

**Step 4**

Play the film until 01:22 and pause. Put students into small groups and ask them to discuss what they have seen so far and what they think is going to happen next. When they are ready get feedback from the whole class.

**Step 5**

Play the film until 01:47 and pause. Ask students if their predictions were correct.

**Step 6**

Play the film until 02:07 and pause. Ask students if they found the ending surprising.
Step 7
Tell students that you would like them to write the story the film tells using narrative tenses. Show them the whole film again.

Step 8
Go around the classroom helping students with vocabulary if necessary.

Step 9
When students are ready pair them and ask them to show their stories to their partner, and compare their stories.

Step 10
Get students to read out their stories

Homework
Ask students to write their own murder mysteries using narrative tenses.

I hope you enjoy the lesson.