

During the Second World War, Winston Churchill was the British Prime Minister. One day he had to go to the British Broadcasting Corporation (the BBC) to make an important speech to the nation.

An hour before the time of this speech, he stopped a taxi in the street and asked the driver to take him to the BBC; but the taxi-driver, who did not recognize him, said he could not take him anywhere just then, because he wanted to go back to his home at the other end of London to hear Churchill make a speech on the radio.

Churchill was so pleased when he heard this answer that he gave the man a pound, which was worth quite a lot in those days.

'All right, get in,' said the driver happily, opening the door of the taxi. 'I'll take you, and to hell with Churchill and his speech!'