

Sports Cars

INTRODUCTION: Discussion

- 🔊 Do you have a dream car that you would do anything to own? Describe it
- 🔊 If you had a sports car, where would you want to drive it? Why?
- 🔊 What are the pros and cons of owning a sports car?
- 🔊 If you could afford to buy any car you wanted, how would you make your choice? Put the criteria below into the following categories according to how important you think they are to you:
1. Essential 2. Preferable 3. Not interested

Colour

Make/model – Lamborghini or Fiat?

Looks good – impress your friends

Feels good – comfortable and easy to drive

Low emissions – minimum impact on the environment

Fuel consumption – how much does it cost to run?

Performance – acceleration, brakes, handling – is it easy to drive?

Capacity - Big enough for all your friends and/or family

Speed – The fastest possible?

Durability – How many years will it last? Is it possible to repair easily?

Reliability – avoid technical problems & repairs

Safety

Gadgets & Accessories -things that aren't necessary for the car, but add to the appeal

VIDEO: World's 10 Greatest Sports Cars (2014) <https://youtu.be/3RIH1cfFXDA>

- 🔊 Watch the video. For each car, write down at least one fact and include the date of the model if provided:
 - Ferrari 250 GTO
 - Jaguar E-type
 - Shelby Cobra
 - Mercedes Benz SL
 - Chevrolet Corvette
 - Mazda MX5 Miata
 - Dodge Viper
 - Lamborghini Miura
 - Acura NSX
 - Porsche 911
- 🔊 Which of these 10 cars appeals to you most? Where possible, use the criteria from the previous task to explain your choice

READING: Formula One

Before reading the article on the following page discuss these questions:

- 🔊 Is Formula One dangerous compared to other sports?
- 🔊 Who are the different people involved in creating a successful F1 team?
- 🔊 What does it take to be a champion F1 driver?

What is Formula One?

Formula One (F1) is a series of races held at different venues around the world, for the fastest open-wheel, open-cabin, single-seated, four-wheeled autos in the world. The word 'Formula', included in the name, refers to a set of rules that the constructors of the car, its mechanics and the drivers have to strictly follow while they are members of F1.

When motor racing first began, there were no limitations on the power or the size of the cars. The races could be dangerous with accidents frequently resulting in injury or even the death of the drivers. After World War II, the governing body of the sport, the FIA (Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile), introduced a set of rules that set limits on the size and the power of the cars. This made the sport safer and fairer, with more stress on the efficiency and design of the cars as well as the capability of the drivers.

Formula 1 Teams

Participants in Formula One are not individuals but teams. You may not realise it, but each Formula One team employs hundreds of technicians, engineers and support staff. If you include the designers and the assembly employees, that number could well exceed one thousand.

An F1 team comprises all the companies that design and produce the car. Therefore, if the chassis is designed by one company and the engine is supplied by another, they both become part of the same team. That is the reason you will hear names like Benetton-Ford or Williams-Renault.

Formula 1 Drivers

Formula One drivers are as fit as most athletes in any sport. They have very high stamina and extremely good reflexes. Driving a race is very demanding both physically and mentally. All F1 drivers lose weight at the end of a race. That is because a lot of energy is spent by the drivers in working the brake and throttle pedals and concentrating on the track. Much energy is also spent when countering the G-force on the bends and sharp corners.

G-force is the force an F1 driver experiences when he accelerates or the car is going around a bend or a corner on the track. F1 drivers will experience force 2G when accelerating and up to 6G on a sharp corner. It means that the drivers are pulled by a force equal to 6 times their weight.

Although a drivers' body is firmly strapped in his seat, their neck as well as their legs is free to move. Keeping legs and neck in position under these high g-forces takes a lot of strength and effort. That is why F1 drivers assign a high priority to strengthen their neck muscles for high endurance.

Comprehension Questions

- 🔊 Why was Formula One created?
- 🔊 What are the different professions mentioned which make up part of a Formula One team?
- 🔊 Identify 5 different nouns that refer to parts of a car.
- 🔊 What are the qualities mentioned in the text that are required to be a successful formula one driver?

What do you think?

- 🔊 How important is the driver compared to the rest of the team?
- 🔊 What is the appeal of Formula One racing? What might put others off the sport?
- 🔊 What do you understand by the following terms relating to Formula One:

pole position

aerodynamics

the pits

the chassis

the cockpit

a lap