

Australian Grand Prix success for Italian (Mon 7 Mar, 2005)

WARM-UPS

CHAT: Talk in pairs or groups about Michael Schumacher / Ferrari / F1 / driving fast / motor sports / Grands Prix / Indian sports stars / ...Change topic / partner frequently to energize the class.

F1 BRAINSTORM: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the Formula One. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

F1 LIFESTYLE: With a partner, write down 5 reasons why being a Formula One driver would mean having a good lifestyle. Change partners and compare your reasons. Change partners again and compare reasons again. Return to your original partner and decide on the five best reasons of those you wrote down / heard.

2-MINUTE F1 DEBATES: Students face each other in pairs and engage in the following (for-fun) 2-minute debates. Students A are assigned the first argument, students B the second. Rotate pairs to ensure a lively pace and noise level is kept:

- a. F1 is boring to watch on TV. vs. It's exciting from start to finish.
- b. F1 is environmentally unfriendly. vs. I don't think 20 cars will add to global warming.
- c. F1 isn't a sport. Drivers are not athletes. vs. It's a motor sport. Drivers need great mental skills and physical reactions.
- d. F1 is sexist – male drivers and cheerleaders in swimsuits. vs. Netball is female-dominated – is that sexist.
- e. F1 is bad for kids – it advertises cigarettes. vs. Governments desperately need the tax revenue from cigarettes.
- f. Only rich people can become F1 drivers. It's not fair. vs. Only rich people can become King or Queen.
- g. F1 is dangerous. Too many drivers are killed. vs. You can say that about any sport. Crossing the road is also dangerous.
- h. F1 brings millions of dollars to local communities. vs. They are all rich communities – race in Africa, not Monaco or Melbourne.

PRE-READING IDEAS

WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'formula' and 'one'.

TRUE FALSE: Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. Michael Schumacher won the season's F1 Grand Prix opener at Melbourne. T / F
- b. A Ferrari car won the season's F1 Grand Prix opener at Melbourne. T / F
- c. The race winner snatched victory by taking the lead in the final lap. T / F
- d. The race winner started the race in pole position. T / F
- e. F1 authorities have tried to make the sport more exciting because Michael Schumacher keeps winning. T / F
- f. Michael Schumacher won 18 out of 18 Grands Prix last year. T / F
- g. Schumacher failed to finish this Grand Prix after being shoved off the track. T / F
- h. India's first ever F1 driver finished in 15th position. T / F

SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| (a) opener | barrier |
| (b) cruised | supremacy |
| (c) pole | coasted |
| (d) push | finished |
| (e) limit | pushed |
| (f) repeatedly | starter |
| (g) dominance | feeling |
| (h) air | force |
| (i) shoved | top |
| (j) came | over and over |

PHRASE MATCH: Match the following phrases based on the article:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (a) Someone other | to the limit |
| (b) Formula One Grand Prix | predictability |
| (c) lead the race from | to the end |
| (d) taken pole | start to finish |
| (e) It was easy from the beginning | off the track |
| (f) never pushed | than Michael Schumacher |
| (g) turned many race | start |
| (h) an unwelcome air of | fans away |
| (i) shoved | opener |
| (j) the worst | position |

GAP FILL

Australian Grand Prix success for Italian

BNE: Someone _____ than Michael Schumacher won the season's Formula One Grand Prix opener at Melbourne, Australia. Italian Giancarlo Fisichella, driving a Renault, _____ to his second F1 victory in his 142-race career. The Italian lead the race from start to finish, having taken pole _____ after the practice laps. He said, "It was easy from the beginning to the end." Fisichella won the race by 5.5 seconds and said he never really had to _____ himself for the victory, "I was quite conservative, never pushed to the limit except at the end when Rubens [Barrichello] was catching me and I went a little quicker." Fisichella's win is good news for Formula One, which has _____ been trying to make the sport more exciting - the recent dominance of Michael Schumacher has turned many race fans _____. The German driver won 13 of last season's 18 Grands Prix. If he had won the Australian Grand Prix today, the season would have started with an unwelcome air of predictability. Schumacher failed to finish, after being _____ off the track. It is the worst start of any F1 season for him. Brazil's Rubens Barrichello finishes second, in a Ferrari, while Fisichella's Spanish teammate Fernando Alonso came third. India's first _____ F1 driver, Narain Karthikeyan, finished 15th driving for the team Jordan.

position away cruised shoved push ever repeatedly other

DISCUSSION:

- a. What was interesting in this article?
- b. Are you an F1 fan?
- c. Who is your favorite driver?
- d. Would you like to drive a Formula One car?
- e. Is F1 a real sport?
- f. Don't you think F1 is sexist – macho male drivers and young women in swimsuits?
- g. Why are there no female F1 drivers?
- h. Should tobacco advertising be banned in Formula One?
- i. What do you think of Michael Schumacher?
- j. Which is the best team?
- k. Would you allow your children to become F1 drivers?
- l. Would you like F1 to come to your city / town / village?
- m. Teacher / Student additional questions.

QUESTIONS BASED ON TEXT VOCABULARY

- a. Should *someone other than* George W. Bush be US president?
- b. Have you ever *cruised to victory* in a race?
- c. Have you ever lead a race *from start to finish*?
- d. When have you had to *push yourself to the limit*?
- e. What have you *repeatedly been trying to do* recently?
- f. Have you been *turned away* from anything or anyone because you lost interest in it / them?
- g. What do you do when you are *shoved off* a train or bus?
- h. What would be *the worst start of any day* for you?
- i. Can you remember your *first ever* English teacher?

HOMEWORK

1. **VOCAB EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.
2. **INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on Formula One. Share your findings with your class next lesson.
3. **RACE REPORT:** Write your own race report on yesterday's Australian Grand Prix.
4. **LETTER TO MICHAEL:** Write a letter to Michael Schumacher about his not finishing the Australian Grand Prix.

TEXT

Australian Grand Prix success for Italian

BNE: Someone **other** than Michael Schumacher won the season's Formula One Grand Prix opener at Melbourne, Australia. Italian Giancarlo Fisichella, driving a Renault, **cruised** to his second F1 victory in his 142-race career. The Italian lead the race from start to finish, having taken pole **position** after the practice laps. He said, "It was easy from the beginning to the end." Fisichella won the race by 5.5 seconds and said he never really had to **push** himself for the victory, "I was quite conservative, never pushed to the limit except at the end when Rubens [Barrichello] was catching me and I went a little quicker." Fisichella's win is good news for Formula One, which has **repeatedly** been trying to make the sport more exciting - the recent dominance of Michael Schumacher has turned many race fans **away**. The German driver won 13 of last season's 18 Grands Prix. If he had won the Australian Grand Prix today, the season would have started with an unwelcome air of predictability. Schumacher failed to finish, after being **shoved** off the track. It is the worst start of any F1 season for him. Brazil's Rubens Barrichello finishes second, in a Ferrari, while Fisichella's Spanish teammate Fernando Alonso came third. India's first **ever** F1 driver, Narain Karthikeyan, finished 15th driving for the team Jordan.