

Formula One world champion retires

Elementary

1 Warmer

Three of these statements are true and two are false. Find the true statements.

1. Motor racing is an Olympic sport.
2. Mercedes, Red Bull and Renault all have Formula One motor racing teams.
3. A race in the Formula One World Championship is called a Grand Prix.
4. There are no Formula One races in Asia.
5. Each team in the Formula One World Championship has two drivers.

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

teammate

junior

retire

champion

announce

1. If you _____ from a sport, you stop doing that sport, usually because you are too old. (para 1)
2. If you _____ something, you make an official statement in public. (para 1)
3. A _____ is someone who has won an important competition, especially in sport. (para 1)
4. _____ sporting competitions are for young people. (para 3)
5. A _____ is someone who is in the same sports team as you. (para 4)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. Where was Nico Rosberg born?
2. How old is he?
3. What nationality is his father?
4. When did he win his first race?
5. How many Grand Prix races were there in 2016?
6. How many races did Rosberg win in 2016?

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Nico Rosberg retires five days after becoming Formula One world champion 9 February 2017

- 1 The Formula One racing driver Nico Rosberg has decided to retire from motor racing at the age of just 31. He announced his retirement five days after becoming Formula One world champion.
- 2 Nico Rosberg was born in Wiesbaden, Germany in 1985, the son of a German mother and a Finnish father. His father, Keke Rosberg, was also a famous Formula One racing driver and won the world championship in 1982 for the Williams team.
- 3 Nico Rosberg learnt to drive when he was very young and began to compete in special races for children when he was six years old. He later drove in junior races and then did test drives for Williams in 2004. He joined the Williams Formula One team in 2006 but didn't win any races with that team. He joined the Mercedes team in 2010 and finally won his first race at the Chinese Grand Prix in 2012. Rosberg's win was the first for Mercedes since 1955.
- 4 Between 2013 and 2015, Rosberg won 13 Grand Prix races and was second in the drivers' championship in 2014 and 2015 behind the champion, his Mercedes teammate, the British driver Lewis Hamilton.
- 5 In 2016, there were 21 Grand Prix races. Rosberg won nine of those races, including the Russian, Belgian, German and Japanese races. Although Lewis Hamilton won 12 races, Rosberg won more points than him by finishing second or third more times. In the final race of 2016, the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Rosberg only had to finish second to become world champion. Hamilton won the race but Rosberg was second and became world champion for the first time.
- 6 Rosberg raced in a car with the same number as his father (number 6) and became the first German to win the world championship for a German team in a car with a German engine.

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Nico Rosberg started ... | a. ... win any races when he was driving for the Williams team. |
| 2. His father, Keke Rosberg, ... | b. ... won more races than Rosberg. |
| 3. Nico Rosberg didn't ... | c. ... driving when he was very young. |
| 4. He won his first race ... | d. ... to win the world championship for a German team in a German car. |
| 5. In 2016, Lewis Hamilton ... | e. ... at the Chinese Grand Prix in 2012. |
| 6. Rosberg is the first German ... | f. ... was also a famous racing driver. |

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5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. the at just 31 of age
2. old was he when years six
3. 2015 between and 2013
4. final the in race
5. the first time for
6. days champion world after becoming five

6 Verb + noun collocations

Match the verbs in the left-hand column with the nouns or noun phrases in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. win | a. your retirement |
| 2. announce | b. a team |
| 3. become | c. a race |
| 4. join | d. world champion |

7 Nationalities

Complete the table using the correct nationalities.

	Country	Nationality
1.	Finland	
2.	Russia	
3.	Germany	
4.	Japan	
5.	Belgium	
6.	China	

8 Discussion

- Do you like motor racing? Why? Why not?

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KEY

1 Warmer

True: 2, 3, 5

2 Key words

1. retire
2. announce
3. champion
4. junior
5. teammate

3 Find the information

1. Wiesbaden, Germany
2. 31
3. Finnish
4. 2012
5. 21
6. nine

4 Comprehension check

1. c
2. f
3. a
4. e
5. b
6. d

5 Chunks

1. at the age of just 31
2. when he was six years old
3. between 2013 and 2015
4. in the final race
5. for the first time
6. five days after becoming world champion

6 Verb + noun collocations

1. c
2. a
3. d
4. b

7 Nationalities

1. Finnish
2. Russian
3. German
4. Japanese
5. Belgian
6. Chinese