



Racing Rivals

Andrew Platt reports on the Schumacher brothers



Michael Schumacher is a Formula One motor racing legend. He's a World Champion and he has the record for the most wins in Grand Prix racing.

Of course he has many rivals – Coulthard, Hakkinen and Villeneuve are three – but a special rival is his brother Ralf, who is seven years younger than Michael. Ralf already has several titles, including his first fantastic win at the 2001 Canadian Grand Prix when he was first and brother Michael was second.

The Schumacher brothers both drive fast and both hate losing. Otherwise, how similar are they? Well, they certainly look similar except that Michael always wears a red baseball cap and Ralf wears a yellow one.

But their personalities are quite different. Michael is calm and quiet. He likes taking the dog for a walk or doing training. In the evenings he usually relaxes quietly at home with his wife. He says that he is quite vain. I love buying new clothes, especially jackets, says Michael. I've got about fifty. I sometimes wear them only once.

Ralf on the other hand, is a bit wild. He doesn't like going to the gym and enjoys going out in the evenings. He is quite emotional. Ralf does things first and thinks later. He is sometimes quite difficult and we don't always get on well, says Michael. However, the brothers aren't enemies on the racing circuit. Michael is happy that Ralf is there. I like it when he wins, and anyway, I can't always come first.

The brothers' manager, Willi Weber, thinks that in the future Ralf is going to be as successful as Michael. But for the moment Ralf is trying to be patient. I'm working hard and learning from my mistakes.

And what do other Formula One drivers think? The Finnish driver, Mika Hakkinen, said with a slight smile, I'm happy there are only two Schumacher brothers!

1 Read

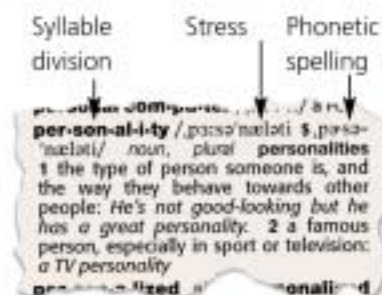
Tick the correct box or boxes.

Who:	Michael	Ralf
1 is a world champion?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 was the 2001 Canadian Grand Prix champion?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 drives very fast?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 hates losing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 likes doing training?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 likes spending evenings quietly at home?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 is emotional?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2 Learn to learn

Dictionary skills: how to pronounce words

As well as the meaning of a word, a dictionary entry also shows the syllables, the main stress and the phonetic spelling.



Use the dictionary entry to find how to pronounce the words *legend*, *different*, *circuit* and *patient*.

3 Write

Complete these sentences for the Schumachers' website.

Michael

- I like fresh air. In the morning I usually ... or ...
- Ralf and I wear different colours. I wear ...
- Ralf and I don't always get on well but ...

Ralf

- In my spare time I like ... but I don't like ...
- I'm the same as Michael, because I hate ...
- I'm different from Michael because I'm ... and I ...

4 Listen

Listen to an interview with Nina who plays football in a club team, and answer the questions.

- How old are the people in the team?
- How often do they train in a) winter? b) summer?
- How many hours do they train each time?
- When do they play matches?
- How successful is the season for the team?

5 Speak

- You are training to be a sports champion. Use the questions in Exercise 4 to make notes about your sport.
- Take turns to be a TV sports reporter. Interview each other with questions like those in Exercise 4.