

16-year-old joins F1 team as race driver

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CREATIVE COMMONS
VIA CHRIS M. RICHARDS ON FLICKR

In most countries around the world, 16-year-olds have to wait for another two years to be able to drive a car. Not so for 16-year-old Max Verstappen. He has just been

signed up to drive for a Formula 1 racing team. He will become the youngest ever F1 driver when he races for the Toro Rosso team next year. He will be 17 when he takes part in his first Grand Prix, alongside drivers like Fernando Alonso, Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel. The current record for the youngest F1 driver is 19 years and 125 days. Verstappen will make his debut at the Australian Grand Prix. He told reporters: "Ever since I was seven years old, Formula 1 has been my career goal, so this opportunity is truly a dream come true."

The Toro Rosso team boss Franz Tost was very enthusiastic about Max signing for his team. He said: "We are happy to welcome Max into the Toro Rosso family...We consider Max to be one of the most skilled young drivers of the new generation and we believe he has the necessary maturity and mental strength to take on this challenge successfully." He added: "It will now be up to us to provide Max with a competitive car, which will enable him to have the best possible start to his Formula 1 career." Max is the son of the former-F1 driver Jos Verstappen. He said he owed a lot of his success to his father, saying: "First of all a big thanks to my father, who has always been by my side, day and night, year after year."

Sources: *AutoSport.com* / *SportingLife.com* / *SkySports.com*

Writing

Formula 1 is too dangerous for a 16-year-old. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

countries / two years / racing / drivers / record / career goal / dream come true / enthusiastic / welcome / skilled / generation / maturity / challenge / success / thanks

True / False

- The legal driving age in most world countries is 16. T / F
- Max will be 17 when he makes his Formula 1 debut. T / F
- The previous record for the youngest driver was 18 years and 25 days. T / F
- Max wanted to enter Formula 1 when he was seven years old. T / F
- The boss of the racing team said Max is the most skilled young driver. T / F
- The boss believes Max has the mental strength to race successfully. T / F
- Max's father was a successful motorbike racer. T / F
- Max said he owed a lot of his success to his father. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. countries | a. head |
| 2. another | b. next to |
| 3. alongside | c. profession |
| 4. debut | d. chance |
| 5. opportunity | e. equip |
| 6. boss | f. nations |
| 7. consider | g. ex- |
| 8. provide | h. introduction |
| 9. career | i. believe |
| 10. former | j. a further |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think of a 16-year-old F1 driver?
- What is the best age for someone to start driving in a city?
- Do you think other F1 drivers will worry about Max?
- What do you think of Formula 1?
- How do you think Max will do in his first race?
- What do you think it's like to race in F1 races?
- What was your "career goal" when you were seven years old?
- Which of your dreams would you like to come true?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. In most countries | a. seven years old |
| 2. He will be 17 when he takes | b. year after year |
| 3. The current | c. come true |
| 4. Ever since I was | d. welcome Max |
| 5. this opportunity is truly a dream | e. possible start |
| 6. We are happy to | f. record |
| 7. he has the necessary maturity | g. around the world |
| 8. enable him to have the best | h. to his father |
| 9. he owed a lot of his success | i. part |
| 10. day and night, | j. and mental strength |

Discussion – Student B

- Why do you think the team signed someone so young?
- Who is your favourite F1 driver, and why?
- What are you skilled at?
- What do you think you could have been really, really good at?
- Who do you owe a lot to (and for what)?
- Who has had the biggest effect on your life?
- What advice would you give Max Verstappen?
- What questions would you like to ask Max Verstappen?

Spelling

- eisgnd up to drive for a Formula 1 racing team
- the tsuoygne ever F1 driver
- olaesdign drivers like Fernando Alonso
- make his bteud
- Formula 1 has been my rcreea goal
- this ruyttoppion is truly a dream come true
- very itnitaushecs about Max signing
- We are happy to ecowmel Max
- the new oeingetnar
- the necessary uqttim and mental strength
- a pyticmeoiet car
- he owed a lot of his ssccsue to his father

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. j	3. b	4. h	5. d
6. a	7. i	8. e	9. c	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Formula 1

You think Formula 1 is the most exciting sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so exciting about their sport. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): the Olympic marathon, the Tour de France or horse racing.

Role B – Olympic marathon

You think the Olympic marathon is the most exciting sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so exciting about their sport. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): Formula 1, the Tour de France or horse racing.

Role C – Tour de France

You think the Tour de France is the most exciting sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so exciting about their sport. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): the Olympic marathon, Formula 1 or horse racing.

Role D – Horse racing

You think horse racing is the most exciting sport. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are not so exciting about their sport. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): the Olympic marathon, the Tour de France or Formula 1.

Speaking – Racing

Rank these with your partner. Put the most exciting at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| • Formula 1 | • 400 metres relay |
| • marathon | • Tour de France |
| • 100 metres | • motorbike racing |
| • horse racing | • 50-km walking race |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.