



Shell

AYRTON SENNA

Some say he is a genius, others call him arrogant. What is certainly true is that Ayrton Da Silva Senna is the fastest man in motor racing. He won the World Championship in 1988 and 1990 and he has won more than twenty Grand Prix altogether.

Ayrton Senna was born on 21st March 1960, in Brazil. At 5ft 9in (1m 76cm) Ayrton is a little taller than most other racing drivers. He is good-looking, with short, wavy, dark hair and dark brown eyes.

Senna does not like to talk about his private life. His marriage in the early 1980s lasted a year. 'To be married to a Formula One driver,' he says, 'is an impossible lifestyle for a wife. But I will get married again.'

He has an older sister and a younger brother. His parents live in a large house in the north of São Paulo but Senna himself lives in Monaco, in Europe.

As far as hobbies go, he likes flying model planes. He also enjoys jet-skiing on water and flying with his father over the cattle country which his family owns in Brazil.

What motivates him to win?
'Driving doesn't seem like a job. I started driving when I was four. I love feeling the power of the engine and the wind in my face. When I drive, I experience new sensations and I always want more. That is my motivation.'

Ayrton Senna was tragically killed in a high speed crash at the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola in Italy on May 1st 1994 at the age of 34. ■



Ayrton Senna is Brazilian, isn't he?

Yes, I think so.

-26-

Checking facts

Before you read

Is motor racing popular in your country? Do you like it? Why?/Why not? Who is the top racing driver in your country?

1 READING

Read about Ayrton Senna and complete his fact file.

Date and place of birth:	...
Brothers and sisters:	...
Status:	single? <input type="checkbox"/>
	married? <input type="checkbox"/>
	divorced? <input type="checkbox"/>
Height:	...
Appearance:	...
Hobbies:	...
Parents' home:	...
Senna's present home:	...
Age when first started driving:	...
Major victories:	...

GRAMMAR FOCUS: Question tags

Question tags are used to check facts. With a positive sentence, you use a negative tag. With a negative sentence, you use a positive tag. The tag uses the auxiliary verb, e.g. *is, are, was, were, have, can, do, does, did*.

- Your name is Ayrton, **isn't it?**
- You weren't there, **were you?**
- You live in Brazil, **don't you?**
- You **didn't** arrive on Saturday, **did you?**
- You've been to Rio, **haven't you?**

What's the difference in meaning?

- 1 Do you live in Brazil?
- 2 You live in Brazil, don't you?