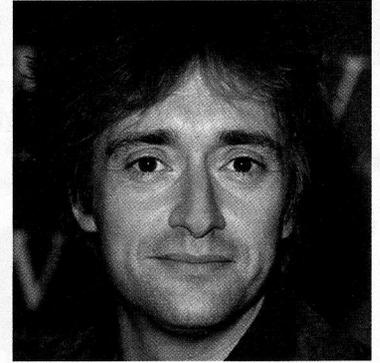


Richard Hammond – a Lucky Man!

If you're British and you're a big fan of cars, then you're sure to know Richard Hammond! Richard is a TV presenter on the popular programme "Top Gear" – a programme all about cars. Fast cars.

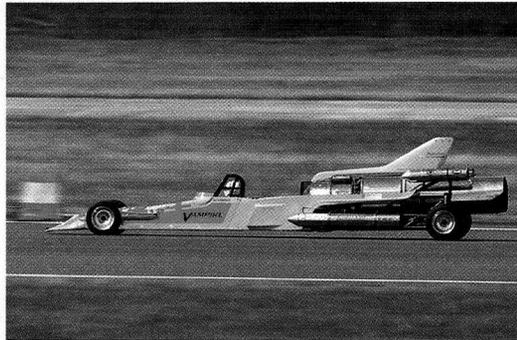
Richard is lucky – it's his dream job. He's absolutely mad about cars: classic old cars, new cars and, especially, fast cars. He has lots of them, including a Porsche 911, a Dodge Charger, two Land Rovers, a Morgan V6 Roadster, a Ford Mustang GT 390 and a 1963 Opel Kadett – and motor bikes too, for example a Ducati 1098, a Suzuki GSX-R1000 and a Harley Davidson!



Richard Hammond was born on 19th December 1969 in Solihull, a big town in the industrial West Midlands region of England, and two of his grandparents worked in the automobile industry there.

Cars are Richard's hobby and his work, but he has other interests too. He is mad about animals and has four dogs, two cats, three horses, a rabbit and lots of chickens at his home in the country where he lives with his wife and two daughters. Richard is also keen on music, and he plays the bass guitar.

Hammond has been presenting "Top Gear" with Jeremy Clarkson and James May since 2002. At 1.70 m, he is smaller than his co-presenters (Jeremy Clarkson is 1.96 m!), so his nickname is "Hamster". The TV programme is fun, and the presenters always joke with each other. They love making the programmes because they get the chance to drive fantastic, expensive sports cars.



But on 20th September 2006, Richard's career nearly came to a tragic end. Richard had a terrible accident: the car that he was driving, a Vampire Drag car, crashed at the speed of 464 km/h. Richard woke up in hospital. He had very bad head injuries. Even now, Richard says that he still has problems: he forgets lots of things and he has psychological problems. But doctors told him that he nearly died in the crash. One thing he knows: he's very, very lucky!

16

sixteen

4 Read the text quickly. What kind of text is it? Tick the right answer.

- A an article about programmes that are on TV this week
- B a sports report from a newspaper
- C an article about somebody on TV
- D an article about a new film at the cinema

Tip:

Don't worry if you don't understand every word of a text – you can still enjoy reading it.

► S. 29

5 TRAINING Dictionary definitions

Sometimes a dictionary gives two meanings.

Find these words in the text. Tick the right meaning in this context.

- | | | | |
|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| 1 presenter (line 2) | = | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderator | <input type="checkbox"/> Überbringer |
| 2 mad (line 4) | = | <input type="checkbox"/> verrückt | <input type="checkbox"/> mad about wild auf / scharf auf |
| 3 rabbit (line 12) | = | <input type="checkbox"/> Kaninchen | <input type="checkbox"/> rabbit on süßen |
| 4 chicken (line 12) | = | <input type="checkbox"/> Huhn | <input type="checkbox"/> Angsthase |
| 5 crash (line 20) | = | <input type="checkbox"/> krachen | <input type="checkbox"/> einen Unfall haben |

► S. 29