

GETTING BACK ON THE TRACK

Read the article about young motor racing driver Billy Monger. Five sentences have been removed. Which sentence (A – F) fits each gap (1 – 5)? There is one extra sentence which you don't need to use.

Motor racing tests the ultimate limits of a driver's safety. Its high speed, the adrenaline-inducing excitement, and real possibility of death certainly aren't for the faint-hearted.

¹ _____ One of those people is young F4 motor racing driver, Billy Monger. Billy is a survivor whose incredible inner strength and positive attitude is truly inspirational.

In April 2017, just weeks before his eighteenth birthday, Billy was competing in an F4 race. The camera that was attached to his helmet, showed his view of the track. He overtook a car at high speed but suddenly there was another car standing still in the middle of the track in front of him. The resulting crash was horrific. ² _____ He was flown to hospital by helicopter with his sister at his side.

When Billy woke up, he discovered that he had suffered serious, life-changing injuries – everything had changed. This terrible news would have completely destroyed most people. However, the hospital staff who looked after Billy praised him for his incredibly positive attitude and good humour. Even ordinary everyday tasks were challenging as he had to re-learn how to do many things, and adapt to life in a wheelchair. ³ _____ He remained positive, telling those around him that all he wanted was to get back in a car and race again.

Billy's best friend, Jamie, was also a racing driver. He invited Billy to his team's headquarters. They had a racing simulator that the team practised on but it was operated by foot pedal. ⁴ _____ A few weeks later, Billy was using the simulator and outperforming most of the other drivers. His hero, F1 racing champion Lewis Hamilton, had heard about the accident and visited him to offer support. Billy told him that though it was fun to use the simulator, what he really wanted was to be back on the racing track.

The next step was to develop a car he could race in. While engineers were working on its design, Billy trained hard, building his strength and getting used to a new pair of prosthetic (replacement) legs which would help him walk independently. He began visiting the race track again and received incredible support from the racing community.

Finally, Billy's car was finished. His family were tense and emotional when he got behind the wheel but he was completely focussed. He started it up and roared off into the distance. He had done it. But there was one major problem. ⁵ _____ Billy wrote to ask for permission to race again, and was invited to a meeting to discuss his situation. Before the meeting, Billy was nervous – unless they changed the rules he couldn't race again. But he needn't have worried; they were so moved by his determination that they agreed to change the rules. Billy would be allowed to race again.

So, less than a year after the accident that should technically have ended his career, Billy was at the starting line again, waiting for the race to start. The cars roared off and everyone held their breath. It was a tough race but Billy was as focussed and committed as ever, coming in over the finish line in third position. His smile said it all – Billy Monger was back!

- A.** Due to safety concerns, the official racing association rules did not allow disabled drivers to race in competitions.
- B.** His father had been a racing driver and had introduced Billy to the sport at a young age.
- C.** Those who do it, do it despite the risks.
- D.** But while many people would have given up and become depressed and angry, Billy just became even more determined.
- E.** As soon as the medics got to Billy, they realized he was seriously hurt.
- F.** Of course, Billy couldn't do this, so the design team changed the controls so that they could be operated by hand.