2a A key moment

Vocabulary describing stories

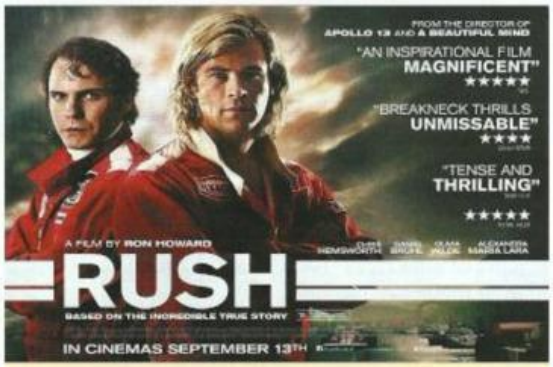
1 Match the words in list A with words in list B with a similar meaning.

A		B	
1	main character	a	time and place
2	plot	b	central idea
3	setting	c	context
4	background	d	hero
5	theme	e	turning point
6	key moment	f	story

2 Think of a film or TV drama that you have seen recently and answer the questions.

1 What was the setting for the film or TV drama and who were the main characters?
2 What was the basic plot and was there a particular key moment or turning point in the story?

3 Complete the description of the film *Rush*. Use words from Exercise 1.



The [1] _____ of *Rush*, which is based on real events, focuses on the rivalry between the two [2] _____, Formula 1 racing drivers James Hunt of Great Britain and Niki Lauda of Austria. Its [3] _____ are danger, drama and the mutual respect of competitors. The [4] _____ in the film comes with Lauda's accident in 1976 and his amazing fight to recover from it.

Reading

4 Read the account of the key moment in the film *Rush* and answer the questions.

1 Why did Lauda want the race at the Nürburgring to be stopped?
2 What was the cause of Lauda's accident?
3 What or who saved Niki Lauda's life?
4 What were the consequences of the accident for Niki Lauda and for the race?



A KEY MOMENT

▶ 9

It was July 1976 and Niki Lauda was leading the world Formula 1 championship. The next race was the German Grand Prix at the Nürburgring – an old fourteen-kilometre track that ran through the forest in the Eifel Mountains. The track was narrow and bumpy, and in poor condition, and many people, including Lauda, considered it unsafe – in places, cars actually took off into the air. A few days before the race, Lauda had tried to get the race stopped at a meeting of the drivers, but James Hunt had argued for it to go ahead and had won by one vote.

So on 1st August at 1.00 p.m. the cars set off, Hunt from first position and Lauda from second. It had been raining during the morning and parts of the track were still wet. But as the race progressed, the track began to dry and the drivers came into the pits to change their wet-weather tyres.

Lauda had lost time by driving more slowly in the difficult conditions, but now, on his new dry-weather tyres, he began to push harder. Halfway around the track he came out of a left-hand corner too fast and lost control of the car. It hit a bank on the far side of the road, bounced back and immediately burst into flames. There were few safety marshals at this part of the track, but fortunately, other drivers were following Lauda's car and three of them stopped and ran to help. They managed to pull him free, but by then he had been sitting trapped in the intense heat for over a minute. Eventually a helicopter arrived and transported Lauda to hospital. He had suffered extreme burns (his wife fainted when she saw his face) and was fighting for his life.

Meanwhile, the organizers restarted the race, which Hunt went on to win. Most amazingly of all, six weeks later, after serious plastic surgery, Lauda got back into his racing car at the Italian Grand Prix and finished fourth. As for the old Nürburgring, that was the last Formula 1 race held there.

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Grammar narrative past tenses

NARRATIVE PAST TENSES

Past simple
*He **came** out of a left-hand corner too fast and **lost** control of the car.*
*... an old fourteen-kilometre track that **ran** through the forest in the Eifel Mountains.*

Past continuous
*It was July 1976 and Niki Lauda **was leading** the world Formula 1 championship.*

Past perfect simple
*A few days before, Lauda **had tried** to get the race stopped.*

Past perfect continuous
*It **had been raining** during the morning and parts of the track were still wet.*

For further information and practice, see page 158.

5 Look at the grammar box. Match the tense used in each sentence with the descriptions (a–e). Then find other examples of each tense in the account on page 22.

a to describe the main events in sequence in the past, i.e. one after another
b to describe something that happened before the main event(s) or story
c to describe an activity in progress in the past, which is a background to the main story or to an event within it
d to describe an activity in progress before or up to the main event(s) in the past
e to describe a general state in the past

6 Work in pairs. Cover the account of the key moment on page 22. With your partner retell the story of what happened to Niki Lauda at the 1976 German Grand Prix.

7 Choose the correct options to complete the summary of the story of Niki Lauda and James Hunt.

Niki Lauda and James Hunt had a very different approach to life. They both [1] *were driving / drove* hard, but Hunt liked to play hard too. Often, while Lauda [2] *was preparing / had prepared* carefully the night before a race, studying facts and statistics, Hunt was out at a nightclub. Both men [3] *knew / had known* that danger was a part of the attraction of motor racing for fans, but Lauda [4] *was refusing / refused* to take unnecessary risks. That's why people were so amazed when he [5] *was returning / returned* to the track six weeks after he [6] *lay / had been lying* in hospital, fighting for his life.

8 Pronunciation /æ/, /ʌ/ and /ɒ/

a 10 Listen to the vowel sounds in these past simple verbs and past participles. Then listen again and repeat.

/æ/ crashed, ran, sat
/ʌ/ run, stuck, suffered
/ɒ/ got, lost, stopped

b 11 Work in pairs. What are the past simple and past participle forms of these verbs? Listen and check.

become begin drink forget go shine sing strike win

9 12 Complete the story of a dramatic moment using the correct past tense of the verbs. Read the story aloud to your partner. Then listen and check your answers, including the pronunciation.

Mr Charles Everson and his wife Linda [1] _____ (drive) home one Sunday when a cow [2] _____ (fall) from the sky and [3] _____ (land) on the bonnet of their van. The cow, which [4] _____ (escape) from a local farm, [5] _____ (graze) too close to the edge of a cliff next to the road, when it slipped and [6] _____ (plunge) seventy metres to the road below. The Eversons were not hurt, but they were taken to hospital because they [7] _____ (suffer) from shock. The cow was not so lucky and [8] _____ (have) to be put to sleep.

Speaking my life

10 Work in pairs. Read this story about a key moment in two people's lives. Discuss how you think the story continues and ends. Write at least five more sentences using the correct past tenses.

In 2010, one billion TV viewers around the world watched as one by one, 33 Chilean copper miners emerged into the sunlight. For 69 days the miners had been trapped in a baking hot hole 450 metres below the surface, after part of the mine had collapsed, blocking their exit. Melanie Meyer was one of the people who was watching the news at her home in Germany. As the sixteenth miner, Daniel Herrera, came out, for Melanie, it was love at first sight. ...

*Melanie **had been watching** the news every day since the mine collapsed.*
*When she **saw** Daniel, she **decided** to ...*

11 13 Work with another pair. Take turns to tell your version of the story. Then listen and compare your stories to the version you hear.

12 Work in pairs. Describe a key moment in your life. Talk about the events before and after it.

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