

Read the text about The

Hours and mark the following statements True (T) or False (F).

1 The race is for off-road vehicles.

2 There's only one driver for each car.

3 The race use to be run on 'normal' roads.

4 Now the race doesn't use any public roads.

5 Bends were added to the Mulsanne Straight because it was too dangerous.

6 The cars that race in Le Mans have to be fast and very reliable.

Le Mans

The Le Mans 24 Hours is one of the world's most famous motor races. It is held each year in June near the city of Le Mans, in the west of France. The race is for sports cars, with several categories, ranging from slightly modified production cars, such as the Porsche 911, to specially built prototypes capable of speeds exceeding 300 km/h. Most cars are driven by a team of three drivers, who change over when the car comes into the pits for refuelling and new tyres. The race was first run in 1923, on public roads. Later, a dedicated circuit was built. Since then, the 24-hour race has used this circuit, plus a section of the French national road network, which is closed to traffic during the event. The most famous section of road used for the race is a long straight called the Mulsanne Straight, which forms the fastest part of the track. Today, two chicanes are located along Mulsanne, requiring the cars to slow down in order to limit top speeds for safety reasons. The chicanes were introduced in 1990. In previous years, the fastest cars had been reaching almost 400 km/h along the tree-lined public road. The key to Le Mans is reaching a compromise between speed and reliability. Designing and building a car capable of running at racing speed for 24 hours, non-stop (apart from short pit-stops), is a unique engineering challenge.

Match the words (1–9) and the definitions (a–h).

1	temp. gauge	a an electric motor used to turn over an internal combustion engine in order to start the engine
2	radiator	b a belt in a diesel engine which connects several pulleys in order to turn different engine devices in a synchronized manner – if this belt fails suddenly, fuel will be injected into the piston cylinders when the pistons are in the wrong positions, and the subsequent unsynchronized explosion can cause serious damage to the engine
3	electrical contact	c temperature gauge – a display which shows the temperature of the cooling water circulating in the engine
4	starter motor	d an automatic system which takes over in order to prevent a problem when a manual system is operated improperly, for example in antilock braking systems (ABS) on cars, if the driver brakes too hard, causing the wheels to lock, the ABS will automatically control the brakes through a software control system
5	Manufacture-ring defect	e situated in front of the radiator, this is activated to blow air over the radiator and keep the water cool
6	override	f moves water around the engine block to cool it
7	water pump	g at the front of the vehicle, this dissipates the heat from the water into the air. When the vehicle is moving, air flows over it providing the required cooling effect - but when the vehicle is stationary and the engine is still running, for example in a traffic jam, as there is no airflow, there is a danger that the water will become too hot and boil.
8	fan	h physical connection between two electrical conductors, for example the connection between the end of a wire and a component
9	distribution belt	i a problem or fault with a component due to a problem when it was manufactured – not a problem that has occurred due to