CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

Antonelli Seizes Pole at Circuit of the Americas Amid Title Run

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1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 Kimi Antonelli, the 20-year-old Italian, seized pole position at the Circuit of the Americas for the Formula One United States Grand Prix, reportedly edging Max Verstappen by 0.179 seconds. Isack Hadjar placed third in the second Red Bull. Antonelli holds a 102-point championship advantage with 150 points still in play, meaning the title could be clinched at this very race. George Russell endured a difficult qualifying session and will start from sixth. Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton qualified fourth and fifth respectively, extending Ferrari's inability to secure pole since Leclerc's achievement in Hungary in 2025. Hamilton's wait for a qualifying pole now spans 1,190 days, dating back to that same Hungarian race. Australia's Oscar Piastri and McLaren teammate Lando Norris qualified seventh and eighth respectively. Williams drivers Alex Albon and his teammate were eliminated in Q1, with Albon reportedly expressing frustration at the team's continuing poor season. Ferrari president John Elkann observed from the garage amid growing questions about team principal Fred Vasseur's future.

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2 Key words

seize /siːz/ *verb*

To take hold of something quickly and decisively, especially an opportunity or position of advantage.

The new manager seized control of the department within her first week on the job.

endure /ɪnˈdjʊə/ *verb*

To suffer or experience something difficult patiently over a period of time.

The small business endured a series of setbacks before finally turning profitable.

clinched /klɪntʃt/ *verb*

To secure or settle something, especially a victory or an agreement, decisively.

The candidate clinched the nomination after a series of strong debate performances.

spans /spænz/ *verb*

To extend over a particular period of time or distance.

Her career as a concert pianist spans several decades across three continents.

inability /ˌɪnəˈbɪlətɪ/ *noun*

The state of not being able to do something, often implying a persistent or notable failure.

The company's inability to innovate has led to a steady decline in market share.

3 Grammar focus

Hedging and distancing

reportedly / is thought to / appears to / is expected to + verb

Hedging language (reportedly, is thought to, appears to) lets a writer report information without vouching for it. It marks the difference between established fact and claim or expectation.

1. Williams drivers Alex Albon and his teammate were eliminated in Q1, with Albon reportedly expressing frustration at the team's continuing poor season.
2. Kimi Antonelli, the 20-year-old Italian, seized pole position at the Circuit of the Americas for the Formula One United States Grand Prix, reportedly edging Max Verstappen by 0.179 seconds.

What does the writer avoid stating as a certain fact?

4 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Reading Comprehension

3 points

Read the text carefully and choose the best answer for each question.

1 What does the word 'reportedly' suggest about the margin between Antonelli and Verstappen?

(a) The exact time gap is uncertain and may not be officially confirmed.
(b) The margin was so large that it needed to be reported by media.
(c) Verstappen has publicly disputed the timing figure.
(d) The figure was fabricated by commentators and has no basis.

2 What can be inferred about Ferrari's recent form from the reference to Leclerc's pole in Hungary in 2025?

(a) Ferrari has won every pole since that race.
(b) Ferrari has been unable to qualify on pole for an extended period since that single achievement.
(c) Leclerc's pole in Hungary was his first career pole position.
(d) The team has replaced all its drivers since that race.

3 Why is John Elkann's presence in the garage described as occurring 'amid growing questions' about Fred Vasseur's future?

(a) Elkann has been sent to replace Vasseur at the race.
(b) The team president's presence suggests heightened scrutiny of the team principal's position.
(c) Vasseur requested Elkann attend to defend his decisions publicly.
(d) Elkann is known to attend every race regardless of circumstances.

EXERCISE 2 Short Answer

Answer each question in a complete sentence using information from the text only.

1 Who qualified ahead of George Russell on the grid?

2 What does the text say about Alex Albon's attitude toward his team's situation?

3 Why is the upcoming race significant for the championship?

5 Vocabulary and grammar practice

EXERCISE 3 Gap-Fill: Participles and Hedges

3 points

Complete each gap with the correct form of the verb in parentheses, paying attention to the grammatical context.

1 Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton qualified fourth and fifth respectively, _____ (extend) Ferrari's inability to secure pole since Leclerc's achievement in Hungary.

2 Williams drivers Alex Albon and his teammate were _____ (eliminate) in Q1, with Albon reportedly expressing frustration.

3 Kimi Antonelli, _____ (edge) by Verstappen in the first two sessions before seizing pole in the final one, the Italian has shown he can handle pressure.

EXERCISE 4 Vocabulary Matching

5 points

Match each term with its correct definition.

1 seize _____

2 edge (sb by) _____

3 endure _____

4 clinched _____

5 inability _____

A To secure or settle something, especially a victory or an agreement, decisively.

B The state of not being able to do something, often implying a persistent failure.

C To defeat or outperform someone by a very small margin.

D To take hold of something quickly and decisively, especially an opportunity or position of advantage.

E To suffer or experience something difficult patiently over a period of time.

6 Discussion

Talk with a partner, then share one idea.

EXERCISE 5 Speaking

1 The text uses the hedge 'reportedly' when describing the margin between the top two qualifiers. What does this suggest about how journalists present information they cannot fully verify, and how might this affect a reader's trust in the figure?

2 The article links Ferrari president John Elkann's presence in the garage to 'growing questions' about the team principal's future. In what ways can the attendance of a high-ranking figure at a sporting event carry symbolic weight beyond the race itself?

3 Antonelli's title could be clinched at this race given his championship advantage. How does the possibility of an early title decider change the pressure and expectations surrounding a driver's qualifying performance?

Answer key

For the teacher

Keep this page for yourself and copy only the pages before it. Short-answer and writing tasks list one possible answer.

Exercise 1 Reading Comprehension

1. A. The exact time gap is uncertain and may not be officially confirmed. The adverb 'reportedly' is a hedging device that signals the information comes from an unverified or secondary source, implying the precise figure may not be officially confirmed.
2. B. Ferrari has been unable to qualify on pole for an extended period since that single achievement. The text states that qualifying fourth and fifth 'extend' Ferrari's inability to secure pole since that achievement, implying a persistent failure to reach the front of the grid.
3. B. The team president's presence suggests heightened scrutiny of the team principal's position. The phrasing 'amid growing questions' implies an atmosphere of uncertainty and concern; the president observing from the garage signals that the team principal's role is under increased scrutiny.

Exercise 2 Short Answer

1. Max Verstappen, Isack Hadjar, Charles Leclerc, and Lewis Hamilton all qualified ahead of George Russell, who will start from sixth. The text states Russell will start from sixth, meaning the five drivers listed ahead of him occupied the first five grid slots.
2. Alex Albon reportedly expressed frustration at the team's continuing poor season. The text directly attributes this reaction to Albon using the word 'reportedly'.
3. The race is significant because Antonelli holds a championship advantage with points still in play, meaning the title could be clinched at this very race. The text explicitly states that the title could be clinched at this race given Antonelli's points lead and remaining points available.

Exercise 3 Gap-Fill: Participles and Hedges

1. extending A present participle clause after the main clause adds concurrent or consequential information about the qualifying result.
2. eliminated The passive voice is used because the drivers did not perform the action of elimination themselves; they were removed from qualifying by the format.
3. edged A past participle phrase at the start of a sentence functions as a reduced relative or participial clause describing a prior event.

Exercise 4 Vocabulary Matching

1. D. To take hold of something quickly and decisively, especially an opportunity or position of advantage.
2. C. To defeat or outperform someone by a very small margin.
3. E. To suffer or experience something difficult patiently over a period of time.
4. A. To secure or settle something, especially a victory or an agreement, decisively.
5. B. The state of not being able to do something, often implying a persistent failure.