



BMW: The Ultimate Driving Machine

Listening Questions 1:

1. What anniversary is BMW celebrating in 2016?
2. When did BMW start designing cars?
3. What were the top 5 most reputable companies in 2015?
4. How many motorcycles and maxi-scooters did BMW sell in 2015?

Listening Questions 2:

1. What famous fashion company is mentioned and what is BMW's connection to it?
2. When did a BMW powered car win a Formula One drivers' championship and who was the driver?
3. In what year did BMW sell their Formula One team back to Peter Sauber?
4. How many F1 races have BMW engines won?

Transcript 1:

In English, BMW stands for Bavarian Motor Works. BMW can trace its history back to 1916 which means this year the company is celebrating its 100th anniversary. BMW also owns the MINI and Rolls Royce brands.

BMW started as a manufacturer of aircraft engines and actually produced a motorcycle before a car. Their first motorcycle came out in 1923. BMW became a car manufacturer in 1928 when it bought a German company that had been building cars. In 1932 they started designing their own cars.

In 1972 the Rosslyn plant in South Africa became the first production location outside of Germany and in 1989 BMW built a production facility for automobiles in the United States.

As reported in Forbes, BMW was ranked the world's most reputable company in 2015 followed by Google, Daimler, Rolex and Lego rounding out the top 5.

A total of 2,247,485 BMW, MINI and Rolls Royce vehicles were sold in 2015 compared to 136,963 motorcycles and maxi-scooters.



Transcript 2:

BMW has been involved in Formula One in a number of roles. The company supplied engines to the Brabham team from 1982 to 1987, allowing Nelson Piquet to win the 1983 drivers' championship. They also supplied their engine on a customer basis to several other teams during this period including Benetton and eventually pulled out of F1 at the end of the 1988 season.

BMW engines next returned to F1 in 2000 with the Williams team. Williams BMW won several races but no championships as the first half of the 2000s was completely dominated by Ferrari. By 2005, the relationship between BMW and Williams had deteriorated and the two companies decided to part ways. In 2006 BMW bought the rival Sauber team and established their own team.

BMW Sauber lasted from 2006 to 2009. The team scored two podium finishes in their first year and finished third in the constructors' championship in 2007 but were eventually elevated to second place when McLaren was penalized. In 2008 they won one race, the Canadian Grand Prix, and finished third in the team championship. In 2009, BMW decided to withdraw from F1 and sold the team back to Peter Sauber, the team's original owner. Team Sauber used Ferrari engines in 2010.

In total BMW powered teams won one drivers' championship and twenty races.