

Too tired!

KS3

At the racetrack, two cars were the best of friends. Red and Blue raced all day and chatted non-stop in between each race in the pit lane, often arguing about who was the fastest.

"I'll win the next race," exclaimed Red.

"Not a chance," Blue replied, revving his engine. "With my new tyres, I will definitely win."

Both cars knew that they had an important race the following day. They would be racing with all the other cars for the Superhighway Cup! It was a competition they all wanted to triumph in, as the winner got to look after the golden trophy for a whole year and display it proudly in their garage on the pit lane.

When they returned to their garages for the night, the chatting continued online until darkness fell.

"I'm going to get my engine checked then will rest for the night," said Red. "I want to be at my very best for tomorrow for the Superhighway Cup."

Blue laughed and replied, "You haven't got a chance! I'm going to win this year, just like I did last year. Everyone knows that I am the speediest car."

Red switched off the chat but Blue continued, inviting other cars to join him online. Blue and the others chatted long into the night, remembering previous races and counting how many times they had each won the cup.

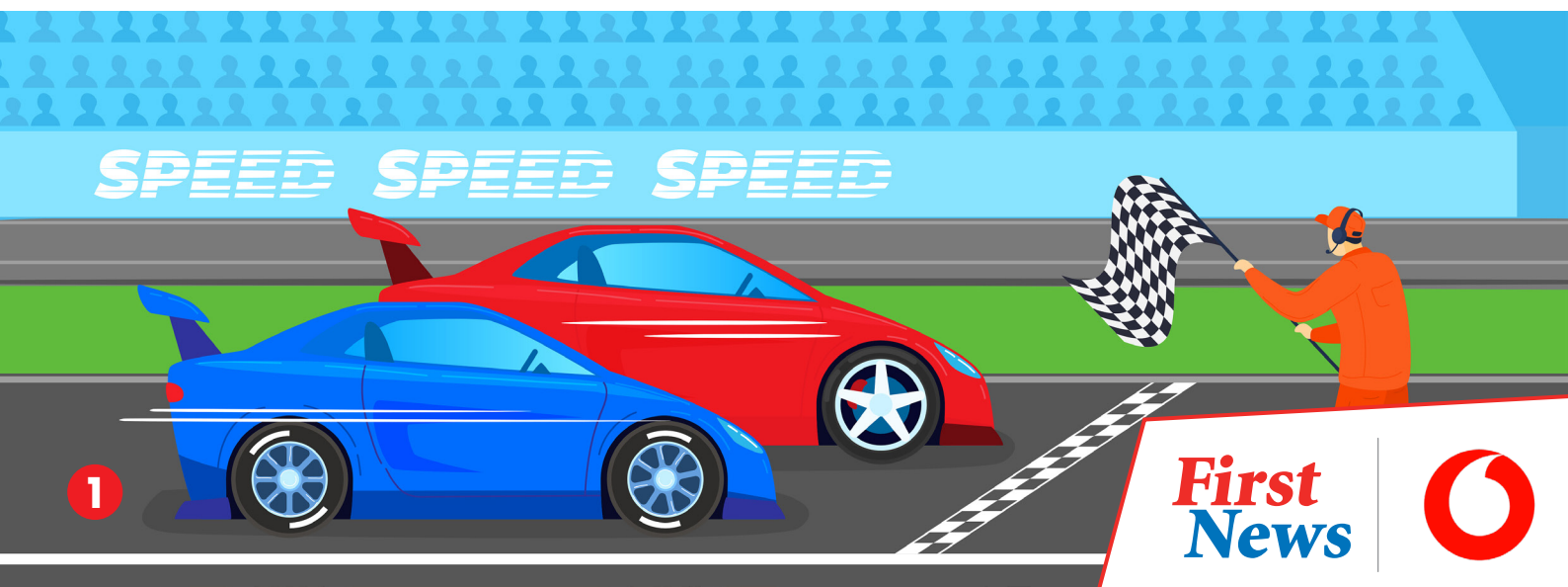
"I have definitely won it the most times!" Blue boasted. The other cars all agreed and continued to chat online until dawn.

With a yawn, Blue announced that it was time for him to sleep and that he would see them all at the race.

The alarms in the garages woke the cars at eight o'clock. It was race day! Red sprung out of the garage, refreshed from his early night. Blue moved sluggishly along the pit lane, clearly tired after staying up into the early hours of the morning.

"Morning Blue!" said Red as he pulled up beside him on the start line.

Blue yawned a reply.



"Oh dear," said Red. "What time did you get to bed? I hope you weren't up all night chatting online."

"I was having fun with my friends," Blue replied grumpily. "We don't all need to go to bed early you know!"

Red smiled at his friend and hoped that he would start to feel less sleepy soon. Red wanted to win but he didn't want his friend to be too far behind him.

As the race began, Red sprinted from the start line and took the lead. Blue, still sleepy, didn't respond as quickly and was at the back of the pack. They had completed three laps when Blue lost concentration and crashed into a barrier.

"Well, that's the end of my race!" he grumbled.

Red went on to win the Superhighway Cup, beating everyone else comfortably.

Both cars went into the pit lane, Red carrying the trophy he had just won.

"I'll win it back next year," Blue said.

"Only if you remember to go to sleep. Staying up chatting all night made you tired and lack concentration. That's why you crashed!" explained Red kindly.

"I know," replied Blue. "I'll listen to you next time and make sure I get an early night. I'll remember to switch off the online chat earlier from now on. I wouldn't come into our garage at midnight and start talking to you, so I shouldn't be chatting to people online at that time either."

Blue had learnt a valuable lesson. If you want to perform at your best, it is important to stop chatting online way before bedtime so that you have enough time to sleep, otherwise you can't concentrate and win races!