

HOVER SPEED

1 *Hover Speed* is the latest computer game from Magic Lab Studios. It is a racing game for up to four players. But this is no ordinary racing game.

Hover Speed is set in the year 2100. A group called 'The Hover Company' has

built a robotic island. Each year the world's best drivers come to the island. Here they race Hover Speeders in the 'Hover Speed Championship'. These are racing cars that don't have wheels. They float above the ground on magnets. This means that they can drive very fast. They can also flip

upside down. It is so much fun to flip when turning the corner!

2 You can play *Hover Speed* in two ways. There is a single player mode where you race on twelve different tracks. Each track is a long maze that loops around interesting places. The best race track is the 'Crystal Volcano'. This track takes you through a large volcano that is filled with glowing blue and purple crystals. At the end you can win the Grand Trophy.

3 If you are having a party, you and three of your friends can race each other. There are hours of fun to be had here. The most fun thing is to bump your friends off the track. Don't worry. No one dies in this game. Speeders just reappear on the track. But it will make your friends very cranky!

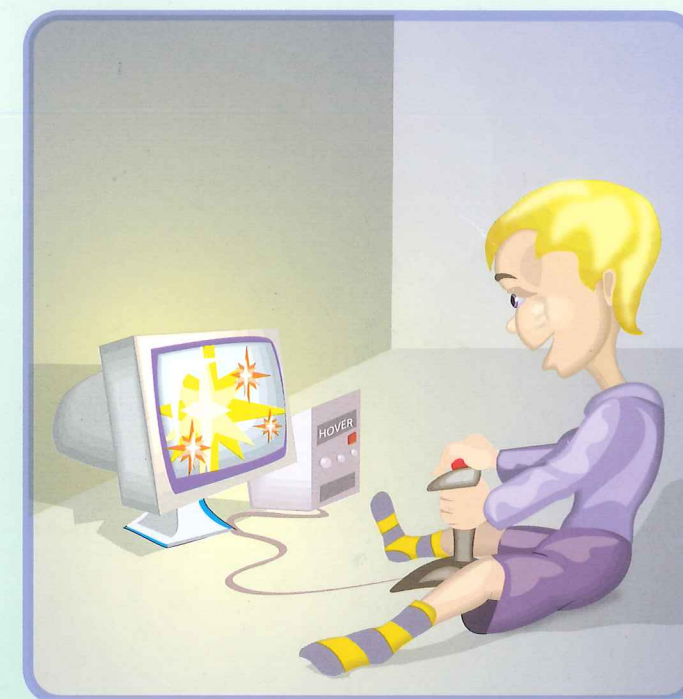
4 The graphics are very good in this game. Lots of money has been spent to make the robotic island look real. Even the weather changes! It is quite scary racing in a thunderstorm. You can even see the drivers of the other Speeders. This is funny, because you can see the drivers get scared when you bump into them. Be careful though - they can bump you off the track too!

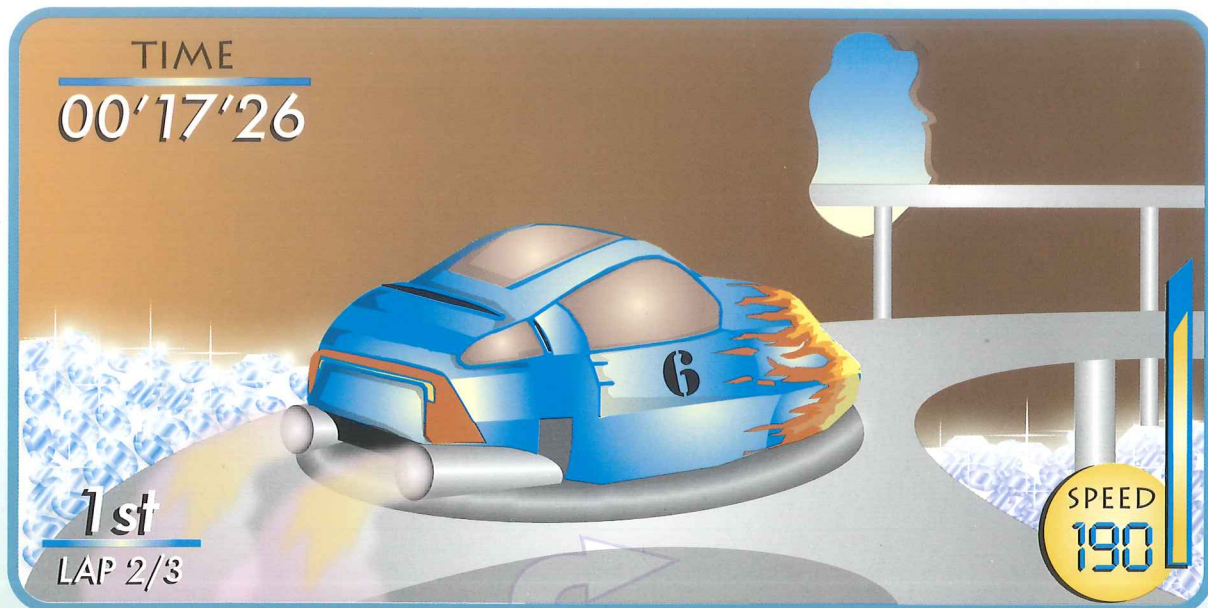
5 Each race track has its own music. It is all electronic. This is meant to be the music that people will be listening to in 2100. It is a lot of fun, and it gets your heart racing. Some rock music would have been

nice though. It's good to hear something different once in awhile.

6 There is one thing that is not good about *Hover Speed*. You cannot make your own Speeder. This would have been really cool to do. In some other games you can pick the colour, shape and other parts of your racer. If there is a second *Hover Speed* game made, Magic Lab Studios should put this in.

7 *Hover Speed* is really fun to play. It is great for kids of any age, but older kids will like it better. This is because some tracks can be tricky to handle. Still, everyone should play this game. It is a cool new spin on an old idea.





Questions

- Hover Speed is
 - a game for five players.
 - an old racing game.
 - made by Magic Lab Studios.
- What do Hover Speeders do?
 - They float on magnets.
 - They can't flip upside down.
 - They are robots.
- What is the best race track?
 - Grand Trophy
 - Crystal Volcano
 - Robotic Island
- What changes in the game?
 - your friends
 - the weather
 - the hover speeders
- What is not good about Hover Speed?
 - listening to electronic music
 - looking at the graphics
 - making your hover speeder
- If the reviewer is right, who do you think would win in a race between a thirteen year old and a nine year old?
 - The nine year old, because the tracks are tricky.
 - The thirteen year old, because you can bump your friends off the track.
 - The thirteen year old, because some tracks are tricky.

Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues. The brackets show the text sections ().

float scary cranky island older

- The opposite of younger (7)
- To feel angry or upset (3)
- To lie on top of water (1)
- Land surrounded by water (1)
- Very frightening (4)

Grammar

Words that sound the same but have different meanings are called **Homophones**. E.g. **to, too** and **two**. Write the correct **Homophone** in these sentences.

- It's good to **here/hear** something different.
- Even the **weather/whether** changes!
- It is **grate/great** for kids of any age.
- Some rock music **would/wood** have been nice.

Back To The Text...

- The illustration on page 3 shows a Speeder on
 - lap one.
 - lap two.
- What would be a good sub-heading for section 4?
 - Hover Speed – Graphics
 - Hover Speed – Music

- The purpose of this text is
 - to review a computer game.
 - to persuade you to buy computer games.

Cloze

Video Games

Choose from the following words to complete this cloze passage.

faster games colour
television anywhere

Video games were first seen in the 1960s. Most of these used a console connected to a 19. These first 20 look very basic and slow when compared to modern games. Not only have games become 21 but they have become portable. The Game Boy lead the way in 1989 by allowing you to play 22. We now have Play Station Portable which is in full 23.

Challenge Option

Research: Find and list five computer games with a space theme.