

Race Against Time

Arnold slammed the vehicle into gear and **accelerated** rapidly across the sand. **Time was of the essence**: one second too late and the pyramid would keep its secrets **concealed** forever.

“Will we make it?” asked Andi nervously, clutching the **dishevelled** papers in her hands. Reams and reams of aged sheets stuck out wildly at different angles. “Will we be able to stop the **proceedings**?”

“Hold on tight,” Arnold responded, pressing his foot firmly on the pedal until the vehicle’s tyres began to screech and smoke. “We’re almost there.”

1. What might the word **accelerated** mean in the phrase, ‘**accelerated** rapidly across the sand’?

2. What do you think the phrase, ‘**time was of the essence**’ might mean?

3. What might the word **concealed** mean in the phrase, ‘keep its secrets **concealed** forever’?

4. What might the word **dishevelled** mean in the phrase, ‘clutching the **dishevelled** papers’?

5. In the question, ‘Will we be able to stop the **proceedings**?’ what might the word **proceedings** mean?
