

Text E (English / A2)

Red Nose Day (A1)

No, it isn't a clown festival. Red Nose Day is a time for people to do silly things for a serious reason.

In 1985, there was a terrible famine in Ethiopia. A group of British comedians decided to do shows to raise money. In 1988, they started Red Nose Day: they encouraged the public to wear red clown noses and collect money. And they had a TV show with celebrities doing silly things too. Red Nose Day was very popular and raised lots of money. So the comedians continued. Now, there is a Red Nose Day in March every second year. Since 1988, it has raised £700 million (820 million euros). The money is donated to projects in developing countries and in Britain to help children, handicapped people and poor families. Red Nose Day donations pay for schools and medical clinics. For example, thanks to money raised in 2015, over 860,000 children received vital vaccines.

Do Something Funny for Money!

Many schools in the U.K. participate. They sell special red noses, organise quizzes, shows, cake or dance competitions. Pupils pay to come to school in silly costumes or to throw custard pies at their teacher.

Help:

- silly(adj): stupid.
- comedians(n): a comic actor, humourist.
- raise money(exp): collect money.
- second year(exp): in 2017, 2019, 2021...
- developing countries(exp): poor countries, not industrialised.
- over (adj): more than, a bigger number than
- custard pies (n): tart with custard (thick yellow cream).
- gave (v): preterite of give.

