Lesson 1

RED NOSE DAY: Funny for money!

Culture & Reading

1 Read the article.

Red Nose Day: laughter with a lasting impact



Red Nose Day is one of the UK's best-known fundraising events. It is organised by **Comic Relief**, a charity founded in 1985 by comedian Richard Curtis and actor Lenny Henry. The first **Red Nose Day** took place in 1988. Since then, it has brought together schools, workplaces, celebrities and local communities to raise money for people facing poverty and hardship in the UK and around the world.

Red Nose Day takes place every year in **March**, but its exact date changes from one year to the next. It is usually held on a **Friday**. For example, it took place on 20 March in 2026 and is scheduled for 19 March in 2027. The event combines entertainment with fundraising: people may **wear a red nose**, organise a bake sale, take on a **sponsored challenge** or put on a comedy show. The BBC also broadcasts a special evening of comedy and entertainment to encourage donations.



However, the campaign is about more than having a laugh for one day. Comic Relief uses the money raised to support partner organisations working with people affected by poverty, homelessness, violence or emergencies. These organisations provide practical help, but they can also address the underlying causes of hardship and help communities build a more secure future. Red Nose Day shows how collective action can turn small **contributions** into **long-term support**.

2 Reading comprehension – Answer in full sentences.

1. Who founded Comic Relief, and when?

2. When did the first Red Nose Day take place?

3. On which month does Red Nose Day take place, and does it have a fixed date?

4. Give two examples of fundraising activities mentioned in the text.

5. What kinds of difficulties do the partner organisations address?

6. How can their work have a long-term impact?

3 True or false? Justify with a quotation or information from the text.

	True	False
1 Red Nose Day always takes place on the same date.	☐	☐
2 The BBC helps promote the event through a special programme.	☐	☐
3 Comic Relief only supports people in the UK.	☐	☐
4 The campaign aims to address the causes of hardship as well as immediate needs.	☐	☐

4 Vocabulary – Match the words with their definitions.

1	hardship	a	an activity people complete to collect donations from supporters
2	underlying causes	b	the deeper reasons why a problem exists
3	sponsored challenge	c	difficulties that make life challenging
4	partner organisation	d	an organisation that works with another group towards a shared goal
5	collective action	e	people working together to achieve something
6	long-term impact	f	an effect that continues over a long period

5 Grammar – Present perfect

Find two examples of the present perfect in the article and copy them.

- _____
- _____

Complete the sentences with the present perfect form of the verbs in brackets.

1. Comic Relief _____ (bring) people together since 1988.
2. The campaign _____ (support) communities for many years.
3. Many schools _____ (organise) fundraising events.

6 Think and discuss

1. Why do you think comedy can encourage people to support a serious cause?

2. Which fundraising activity would work best at your school? Explain why.