

Go the Extra Mile



Mohammed at the well.

London, UK: It's two o'clock in the afternoon and Sophie Hanson is running a marathon. She's wearing a T-shirt that says 'Go the Extra **Mile**' (1), but she's feeling tired. She can hear her school 5 friends **cheering** and she knows she has to finish. She grabs a bottle of water, takes a long drink and carries on. By the time she finishes, she will have raised £200.

Halfway around the world, in Sierra Leone, 10 Africa, Mohammed Koroma is thirsty. It's 30 degrees outside, so he picks up a cup of water and takes a long drink. The water is from a new well in his village, so it isn't contaminated. It's cool and clear and Mohammed has not been ill for a week. 15 He will be going to school again at 8 a.m. tomorrow.

Sophie and Mohammed are two teenagers with very different lives, but their lives are connected through charity. Sophie is taking part 20 in a huge national event that raises money for people in the United Kingdom and **abroad** – a sponsored run for Sport Relief. Mohammed's village has a new well that was paid for with money from the same event. Every year, Sport 25 Relief and its sister charity, Comic Relief, raise money for good causes. By the end of this year, people will have completed more than 350 events. These events include marathons and football matches, talent shows and baking competitions, 30 and when they are all completed, they will have raised over £50 million. That's enough money to transform the lives of thousands of people. Over the next few years, this money will be helping people like Mohammed.

35 According to recent research, the United

Kingdom is the fifth most generous nation in the world. Charities are an important part of British society, and some of the world's biggest and most famous organizations, such as Oxfam and Save 40 the Children, started in the United Kingdom. Today, there are over 160,000 charities, and more than three quarters (79%) of people **donate money** or volunteer time every month. Many people make regular donations to big charities 45 that aid poor people in different countries. Other people buy products from their online shops. Smaller charities, such as sports projects or hospices, help local people in difficult conditions and benefit from smaller events, like **car boot** 50 **sales** (2) and fun runs. They also need volunteers for the day-to-day organisation of these projects.

Teenagers play a big role in this culture of giving. A recent World Vision study showed that 69% of teens are conscious of the needs of others 55 because of the internet and globalization. And although teens may not have much money to give, they often help in other ways. They give up their free time and they volunteer. In the United Kingdom, more than a third of teenagers have 60 given time to charities in the last year. In fact, supporting a charity is part of everyday life, and young people are the new champions of this culture. 'I feel good when I do something,' explains Sophie after the race. 'I read about so 65 many problems in the news – at home and abroad. Often, I feel **helpless**. I don't have a lot of money, but then I can volunteer, I can get sponsors and I can make a difference.' Back in Sierra Leone, Mohammed is smiling.

Jayne Wildman, Insight Intermediate

(text slightly modified)

Glossary:

(1) **mile**: 1.609 kilometres

(2) **car boot sales**: an outdoor event where people sell things they do not want from the "boot" (= *coffre*) of their car.

Exercises

Exercise 1

___ / 12 points

Answer the following questions about the text “Go the Extra Mile”. Do not copy from the text. Use your own words as much as possible and write complete sentences! Each one of your sentences must contain a verb.

1. Why is Sophie Hanson running a marathon?

2. What kinds of events do Sport Relief and Comic Relief organise?

3. Why has Mohammed Koroma not been sick recently?

4. What interesting information do we learn about Oxfam and Save the Children?

5. What role does the internet play in helping people?

6. Why do you think *Mohammed is smiling* at the end of the text?

Exercise 2**Underline the correct alternative of the words taken from the text** _____ / 4 points

1. **cheering** (line 5) means:
a) shouting insults b) shouting encouragement c) shouting in pain d) shouting in a high voice
2. **abroad** (line 21) means:
a) nearby b) in Europe c) in foreign countries d) here
3. **donate money** (lines 42-43) means:
a) take money b) spend money c) win money d) give money
4. **helpless** (line 66) means:
a) happy b) unable to do anything c) powerful d) able to do something

Exercise 3

_____ / 10 points

Your best friend Emma has just returned from Brazil, where she worked for a charity. Recreate the following dialogue by asking questions.

- You:** Hi Emma! _____ ?
- Emma:** It was great! I met so many new people!
- You:** _____ ?
- Emma:** No, I travelled with a charity called Oxfam.
- You:** _____ ?
- Emma:** I worked with children in an orphanage. I helped them with their schoolwork.
- You:** _____ ?
- Emma:** There were about 45 children in this orphanage.
- You:** _____ ?
- Emma:** I stayed for 3 weeks.

