

# TO THE LIMIT



Read the text and answer the questions. You can use the letters as many times as you need.

Which celebrity

- raised the least money?
- had someone with him for most of the journey?
- had to lose weight?
- was given some money directly by people?
- has experience in doing sporting challenges for charity?
- attracted spectators in spite of bad weather and the time?
- recovered from a health problem during a challenge?



## A Eddie Izzard

Eddie Izzard is better known for his comedy and acting skills than his running! However, Eddie decided to set himself a big challenge to try to raise a lot of money for charity. He set out to run 43 marathons across the UK.

His aim was to run one marathon every day, six days a week and he nearly did it! In fact it took him slightly longer - 51 days. A challenge like this would be difficult for an experienced runner and Eddie had very little experience! When he decided to go ahead with the marathons he was rather overweight and hadn't done much running before. Some fitness experts worked out a nine month program for him to prepare but Eddie only had five weeks! So, he trained hard and then set out on the challenge of a lifetime. And he succeeded. Despite blisters and sore toes he ran and ran and returned home triumphant. He believes that it was his determination not to give up that saw him through the challenge - as well as the fear of letting down his charity. He ended up raising more than £200,000 online. Well done, Eddie!

## B Matt Baker

Imagine cycling 16 hours a day for eight days from Edinburgh in Scotland to London. Then imagine that you are pulling a rickshaw behind you and most of the time there is a passenger in it! This was the task that Matt Baker, a TV presenter, set himself last year to raise money for charity. Luckily, Matt was quite fit to start with. However, after the exhausting ride he had lost weight, was suffering from lack of sleep and had a very sore bottom! Matt is certain that he could not have finished the task without the encouragement of people who lined the roads to watch him - even at night in the pouring rain. He was amazed by people's generosity. Many just pushed money into his hands and pockets as he rode past. Matt finished the challenge having raised over a million pounds. But he never wants to see a rickshaw again!

## C David Walliams

David Walliams is a popular TV comedy actor who has spent a lot of time in recent years doing swimming challenges for charity. He has raised large amounts of money by swimming across the English Channel and the Straits of Gibraltar and in 2012 he swam 140 miles along the Thames River, finishing at Westminster Bridge in central London. David completed this marathon swim in eight days and it certainly wasn't an easy challenge. Because of the cold summer, the water temperature was low. When his skin started turning blue he had to wear a wetsuit! Then after a short time he picked up a stomach illness. The Thames isn't the cleanest river! In spite of a fever and sickness David continued. Luckily, he got better and completed his journey. Thousands and thousands of people cheered as he swam past and the final total donated to his online campaign raised was £1.1 million. What will it be next, David? Across the Atlantic?!