2a

Read

A. Discuss.

- What charities are there in your country? Do they do a good job?
- Have you ever done anything for charity?

B. Read the text quickly. What do all the people mentioned in the text have in common?

The things people will do...!

There are thousands of charities and non-profit organisations around the world that help those in need. Competition is fierce and they have to think of imaginative ways to raise money. A popular trend recently has been for charities to attract the help of members of society who do all sorts of weird and wonderful activities to raise money on their behalf. People are prepared to do unusual and even extreme things for this cause.

David Hunt, who is a firefighter, did something of the kind in 2010. He spent 48 hours without any food locked in a glass box which was hanging 30 feet in the air from a crane above central London. His unusual challenge was certainly not easy, but it successfully gained a lot of attention. With a little help from another firefighter who was on the ground, they managed to persuade the public to support their cause by making donations that added up to over five thousand pounds. Their chosen charities were The Fire Fighters Charity and Cancer Research UK.

It is not just the young who have gone up high to raise money for charity. In 2009, Kay Matthews, who was 90 at the time, went to Norfolk, UK, to skydive from a plane 13,000 feet above the ground for a war-victims charity. She raised about £3000. Few people are brave enough to go skydiving, let alone an elderly woman, but she loved every minute of it.

Others prefer to stay firmly on the ground, but still no further away from danger, like Nick Le Souef, a 67-year-old businessman who lives in Melbourne, Australia. In 2010, he decided to spend 3 weeks living in a shop window with 400 deadly spiders to raise money for a children's charity. The real-life spiderman wasn't at all nervous as he slept among his eight-legged friends, and survived the experience unharmed, raising fifty thousand dollars. The spiders, however, weren't so lucky, as by the end of the challenge, a few of them had started eating each other.

Raising money for charity is also popular with students. Alison Bishop, from Middleton School in Peterborough, UK, decided to do her bit for charity by doing a sponsored silence in March 2011. She spent a whole school day without saying a word. She had to write things down in class and she wore a sign saying 'Please don't speak to me, I'm doing a sponsored silence for the National Deaf Children's Association.' It was quite difficult but she managed to raise £874.

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C. Read the text again and complete the table below.

Name	When	Where	For which charity	Money raised	What they did

D. Look at the highlighted words in the text and try to guess what they mean. Then match them with the meanings 1-8 below.

1. a difficult task: _____
2. not injured: _____
3. able or likely to cause death: _____
4. help: _____
5. great interest people show in somebody / something: _____
6. strange, unusual: _____
7. the surface of the Earth: _____
8. fearless: _____

TIPS! When trying to guess the meaning of an unknown word, always look for clues in the context (the words before and after it as well as the previous and following sentences). Also look for clues in the word itself. See if it is similar to any other words that you know and try to analyse it into its parts - root, ending, prefix, suffix. Then try to determine:

- what part of speech it is (verb, noun, adjective, etc.)
- if it has a positive, negative or neutral meaning
- what general topic it is related to
- what it means approximately

E. Discuss.

- Would you do any of these activities for charity? Why / Why not?
- How important do you think it is to encourage young people to raise money for charities? What values can they be taught this way?

Project

Do some research on the Internet to find a charity organisation that you would be willing to help. Present it to the class and say what you would be willing to do to raise money for this charity.

Grammar

Countable and uncountable nouns

- *There's not enough **light** in this room. Turn on the **lights**, please.*

Quantifiers

some / any

- *I haven't got **any** money. I need to get **some** from the bank.*

much / many / a lot of / lots of / plenty of

- *A: I've looked at **a lot of / lots of / plenty of** websites, but I can't find **much** useful information.*
  *B: There are so **many** ways to find what you need. Let me show you.*

(a) few / (a) little

- *A: I just want to spend **a little** time with Steve before he goes.*
  *B: He has very **little** time left before he has to leave.*
- *A: I'm going to the supermarket to get **a few** oranges. Have we got enough apples?*
  *B: There are very **few**. So get some.*

Circle the correct words.

1. Rodney always gives a **little / lot** money to charity organisations. I want to give **much / some** money too, but there are so **a lot / many** that I don't know which organisation to choose.
2. **A:** Have you got **some / much** homework to do?
   B: Not really, just **few / a few** Maths exercises that I need to finish. How about you?
   A: Well, I've finished most of it. I've got very **little / much**.
3. **A:** I'm going camping in the **wood / woods** with my friends.
   B: Are you going to buy **some / any** equipment for your trip?
   A: No, I'm going to borrow everything from my cousins.
4. **A:** Hey, Uncle Charlie, you've been skydiving **plenty of / few** times. Is it difficult?
   B: Well, not really, but you need to do **some / many** ground training before your first jump. And you need to be over eighteen, so you'll have to wait a **little / few** more years.

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