

UNIT 9 Read and Write



En esta unidad vas a:

- leer un artículo sobre tiendas benéficas
- aprender a utilizar expresiones que indican finalidad.



WALK along the streets of any British town and you're sure to find a charity shop among the rows of shops there. Charity shops have been on Britain's high streets for years, but the very first one was set up in Oxford in 1949 thanks to the inspiration of one man, Joe Mitty.

In 1942 Mitty was a young army officer in India. Whilst he was there, he made several trips to Calcutta where he was affected greatly by the poverty on the city's streets. He suddenly knew he wanted to do something to make the world a better place.

After leaving the army, Mitty got a job with the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, the organization that became Oxfam. He worked at an administrative centre in the city which sent second-hand clothes to people living in poverty after World War II. However, Mitty soon realized that it would be better to sell the donations so as to create cash for those people in need. As a result, the administrative centre became a shop for selling all kinds of donated items. By 1953, its profits had gone up to £10,000 a year.

'You donate it and we'll sell it,' Mitty once said. He never turned anything down,

including a pair of false teeth! On one occasion, someone tied their donation to a lamp post outside the shop. It was a donkey and Mitty sold it in less than an hour! On another occasion, a woman held up her hand to show a diamond ring. She declared that if Mitty could get it off her finger, she would donate it. Mitty rushed to the bathroom for some soap so that he could get the ring off. He then sold it for £75, a fortune in those days.

Meanwhile, Oxfam shops were opening all over Britain and, by 1971, they were making £1 million a year. Since then over 700 shops have been opened and more than half a billion pounds have been raised for good causes.

Towards the end of his life, Mitty received various awards in recognition of his work for charity. At one ceremony in 2006, while Mitty was accepting his award, his son (on Mitty's instructions) was collecting autographs from the celebrities there so they could be sold by Oxfam! Joe Mitty, 'the grandfather of charity shops', died in September 2007 at the age of 88 after a lifetime of working to help others.

1 Indica si las siguientes afirmaciones son verdaderas (true) o falsas (false).



- 1 Charity shops have been on British streets since 1953. _____
- 2 Mitty realised it was better to send donations directly to poor people. _____
- 3 Mitty didn't just receive clothes and shoes. _____
- 4 Mitty received £75 for a piece of jewellery. _____
- 5 Since 1971, Oxfam have continued to grow and make more money. _____
- 6 Joe Mitty collected people's signatures at an event in 2006. _____

2 Completa las frases con las fechas del recuadro.

2007 1971 1942 1953 2006 1949

- 1 Joe Mitty died in _____.
- 2 Oxfam was making around a million pounds a year in _____.
- 3 Mitty's idea of selling donations increased income in _____.
- 4 He helped convert the administrative centre into a shop in _____.
- 5 He got recognition for his work in _____.
- 6 He was a soldier in Asia in _____.

Words to remember

3 Relaciona los verbos del texto (1-8) con las definiciones (a-h).

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1 realize | a to collect money for a particular purpose |
| 2 create | b to fasten something with string, rope, etc. |
| 3 donate | c to get something that someone gives or sends you |
| 4 tie | d to go somewhere or do something in a hurry |
| 5 declare | e to gradually begin to know something |
| 6 rush | f to give money or things to an organization |
| 7 raise | g to announce something |
| 8 receive | h to make something new exist |

- 1 e 2 ____ 3 ____ 4 ____ 5 ____ 6 ____
7 ____ 8 ____

4 Busca las palabras en el texto

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| A great idea (paragraph 1). | inspiration |
| 1 Being poor (paragraph 2). | _____ |
| 2 Already used by someone else (paragraph 3). | _____ |
| 3 A very large amount of money (paragraph 4). | _____ |
| 4 Prizes (paragraph 6). | _____ |
| 5 Signatures of famous people (paragraph 6). | _____ |

Expressing purpose

to, in order to y so as to

Los infinitivos precedidos de *to* (infinitivos que expresan finalidad) se utilizan para explicar el propósito con el que se realiza una acción. Para ello, también se emplean las expresiones *in order to* y *so as to* (para, a fin de), sobre todo en textos escritos formales.

He died after a lifetime of working to help others.

Murió después de toda una vida trabajando para ayudar a los demás.

It would be better to sell the donations so as to create cash.

Sería mejor vender los objetos donados para generar dinero en efectivo.

for + sustantivo o gerundio (forma acabada en -ing)

Para explicar el motivo por el que se realiza una acción también puede utilizarse *for*. Sin embargo, *for* nunca se emplea con verbos en infinitivo, sino que debe ir seguido de un sustantivo. Cuando se quiere indicar la función o la finalidad de un objeto o lugar (no de una persona), se utiliza *for* seguido de gerundio (forma acabada en -ing).

Mitty rushed to the bathroom for some soap.

Mitty corrió al cuarto de baño a por jabón.

The administrative centre became a shop for selling donated items.

El centro administrativo se convirtió en una tienda para vender objetos donados.

so that

So that también se puede emplear para explicar el motivo por el que se realiza una acción. Suele ir seguido de un sujeto y de *can*, *can't*, *will* o *would* en el presente; o de *could*, *couldn't*, *would* o *wouldn't* en el pasado. En inglés informal, *that* suele omitirse.

Mitty rushed to the bathroom for some soap so (that) he could get the ring off.

Mitty corrió al cuarto de baño a por jabón para poder sacarle el anillo del dedo.

1 Completa el texto con una palabra en cada espacio.

The word 'sponsor' is often associated with sport and business, but for many people who run in the London marathon it has another meaning: 1 _____ raise money for charity. A lot of people who run the marathon are doing it 2 _____ a cause. Before the race they ask their families, friends, colleagues and neighbours to promise to give them a certain amount of money 3 _____ that they can give it to a charity when they finish the race. In fact, 4 _____ order to keep running, a lot of runners think of the money they'll raise to keep themselves motivated. However, some runners who aren't very confident of finishing ask people to sponsor them for every kilometre they complete so 5 _____ to make sure that they'll be



able to collect some money even if they don't run all 42 kilometres. Today, the London marathon is more than just a race. It's become a way of raising thousands of pounds 6 _____ help charities.