

Wrong Trousers' Day



Whether they're your bellbottoms or your pyjama bottoms – you have the right to wear the wrong trousers on 27 June.

It's all Nick Park's fault – he is the director of the 1993 Academy Award-winning thirty-minute film *The Wrong Trousers*, starring clay heroes Wallace and Gromit. This is the film that sparked the idea for a fund-raising event for a new Bristol Children's Hospital in the south west of England (Nick Park's *Aardman* studios are based in Bristol). The idea was simple – wear the wrong trousers! This was back in 1997 and since then *Wrong Trousers' Day* has become national, raising money for children's hospices not only in Bristol, but also in other UK cities. Since 2003, *Wrong Trousers' Day* has helped improve facilities for sick children in 87 hospitals through the *Wallace and Gromit's Children's Charity*.

So how does it work? It's simple: You wear the wrong trousers to work or school and pay one pound to the charity. Groups of workers in various offices around the country get together and have a *Wrong Trousers Day*, wearing something more casual, colourful or exotic than usual. Many companies will match the funding raised by their employees, so twice the amount of money is sent to the charity. Some schools have a non-uniform day (most UK schools have a school uniform) and children can wear their wackiest trousers on this day.

And it's not just school children and workers who pay for the right to look wrong. Over the years there have been some high-profile backers, for example actors / directors like Angelina Jolie, Kevin Spacey and Russell Crowe who have been involved in this topsy-turvy fundraising day.

So what are you waiting for – on with your shorts, Capri pants, jodhpurs or bloomers – it doesn't matter what they are, so long as they are the wrong trousers.

To find out more about *Wrong Trousers' Day*, click [here](#).

If you would like to watch *The Wrong Trousers* by Nick Park, click [here](#).

And if you would like to use *Wrong Trousers' Day* as a topic in your class from A2.1 upwards, then we have provided you with an activity. You'll find it in the following Teacher's notes and on the Worksheet.

Teacher's notes

Design your wrong trousers!

(level A2.1 upwards, 15+ mins)

- Copy **Design your wrong trousers!** (see Worksheet) – one for each student.
- On the board write *Wrong Trousers' Day* and ask students what they think it is.
- Explain *Wrong Trousers' Day* and its aims.
- Give each student a copy of **Design your wrong trousers!** and ask students to complete the task. Help with any unknown words (e.g. flared = ausgestellt, silk = Seide, denim = Jeans, velvet = Samt, spots = Punkte, squares = Karo).
- Write a sample sentence on the board: *I'm going to wear long, black, silk trousers with blue flowers.*
- Remind students of the right order of adjectives: shape, colour, material.
- If they have pens or crayons, students can draw their trouser design.
- Ask each student to read out one of his / her 'designs'.
- Ask students if they think *Wrong Trousers' Day* is a good idea to raise money for charity. Ask students which other fund raising ideas they know and if they've participated in one themselves.

Worksheet

Design your wrong trousers!

You're going to design some trousers for yourself, your teacher and your class mates. Use the words below to help you.

Shape short, long, narrow, wide, flared, three-quarter	Material wool, cotton, silk, denim, leather, velvet
Colour blue, red, purple, orange, yellow, green, pink, black, brown, white, grey	Pattern spots, flowers, stripes, squares, stars, holes

1 I'm going to wear _____, _____, _____ trousers with _____.

2 _____ is going to wear _____, _____, _____ trousers with _____.

3 _____ is going to wear _____, _____, _____ trousers with _____.

4 _____ is going to wear _____, _____, _____ trousers with _____.



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