A Christmas Carol

1a. A Christmas Carol – The Story
(Worksheet A)

Read and listen to the story of A Christmas Carol.

The story begins on Christmas Eve. Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean, unkind old man, is working in his office with Bob Cratchit, his clerk. His nephew Fred visits him and invites Ebenezer to celebrate Christmas day at his house. Scrooge refuses. He hates Christmas because he thinks it’s too expensive. Next a charity worker collecting money for the poor arrives, but Scrooge gives her nothing. When it is time to finish work, Scrooge is angry that he has to give Bob Cratchit a day off work on Christmas day.

After work Scrooge goes home to spend Christmas alone and unhappy. That night the ghost of his dead business partner, Jacob Marley, visits him. He tells Scrooge that he must change his way of life or face the consequences. He tells him that three ghosts will visit him. Scrooge is scared but he goes to sleep. He wakes up to see The Ghost of Christmas Past, who takes him to re-visit his own past. They go to his old school and see Scrooge as a lonely and unhappy child. They also visit him as a happy, young man working in his first job, with a kind boss called Mr. Fezziwig. Finally they see Scrooge’s girlfriend leave him because of his love of money.

Later that night, Scrooge meets The Ghost of Christmas Present. He takes Scrooge to see the Cratchit family’s Christmas. They are happy even though they are poor. The only thing that makes them sad is that the youngest son, Tiny Tim, is ill. Tiny Tim is likely to die without a doctor, something the Cratchit family cannot afford to pay for. Scrooge also visits the house of his nephew. The people are all having fun and are happy.

Finally, The Ghost of Christmas Future arrives. He doesn’t speak but shows Scrooge people talking about a man who has died. They speak about the man without affection and are not sad that he is dead. When Scrooge sees the grave of the man, he realises it has his name on it. It is his death the people are talking about! He is very sad.

When he wakes up the next morning, Scrooge realises it is still Christmas morning and he is very happy. He wants to help everyone now and become a better person. He buys a big Turkey for the Cratchit family and pays for the doctor for Tiny Tim. Next, he goes to his nephew’s house and joins in the celebrations. He is sorry for all the bad things he has done and promises to start a new life.
A Christmas Carol — The Story (Worksheet B)

Fill in the gaps in the story of, A Christmas Carol from the words below.

Now listen to the story. Were you correct?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>poor</th>
<th>office</th>
<th>man</th>
<th>help</th>
<th>Eve</th>
<th>nothing</th>
<th>doctor</th>
<th>happy</th>
<th>hates</th>
<th>ghost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>name</td>
<td>school</td>
<td>life</td>
<td>pays</td>
<td>girlfriend</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The story begins on Christmas ______________. Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean, unkind old man, is working in his ______________ with Bob Cratchit, his clerk. His nephew Fred visits him and invites Ebenezer to celebrate Christmas day at his house. Scrooge refuses. He ______________ Christmas because he thinks it’s too expensive. Next a charity worker collecting money for the poor arrives, but Scrooge gives her ______________. When it is time to finish work, Scrooge is angry that he has to give Bob Cratchit a day off work on Christmas day.

After work Scrooge goes home to spend Christmas alone and unhappy. That night the ______________ of his dead business partner, Jacob Marley, visits him. He tells Scrooge that he must change his way of life or face the consequences. He tells him that three ghosts will visit him. Scrooge is scared but he goes to sleep. He wakes up to see The Ghost of Christmas Past, who takes him to re-visit his own past. They go to his old ______________ and see Scrooge as a lonely and unhappy child. They also visit him as a happy, young man working in his first job, with a kind boss called Mr. Fezziwig. Finally they see Scrooge’s ______________ leave him because of his love of money.

Later that night, Scrooge meets The Ghost of Christmas Present. He takes Scrooge to see the Cratchit family’s Christmas. They are happy even though they are ______________. The only thing that makes them sad is that the youngest son, Tiny Tim, is ill. Tiny Tim is likely to die without a ______________, something the Cratchit family cannot afford to pay for. Scrooge also visits the house of his nephew. The people are all having fun and are ______________.

Finally, The Ghost of Christmas Future arrives. He doesn’t speak but shows Scrooge people talking about a ______________ who has died. They speak about the man without affection and are not sad that he is dead. When Scrooge sees the grave of the man, he realises it has his ______________ on it. It is his death the people are talking about! He is very sad.

When he wakes up the next morning, Scrooge realises it is still Christmas morning and he is very happy. He wants to ______________ everyone now and become a better person. He buys a big Turkey for the Cratchit family and ______________ for the doctor for Tiny Tim. Next, he goes to his nephew’s house and joins in the celebrations. He is sorry for all the bad things he has done and promises to start a new ______________.
1c. A Christmas Carol – The Story
(Worksheet C)

Fill in the gaps in the story of, A Christmas Carol.

Now listen to the story. Were you correct?

The story begins on Christmas _____________.

Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean, unkind old man, is working
in his _______________ with Bob Cratchit, his clerk.

His nephew Fred visits him and invites Ebenezer to
celebrate Christmas day at his house. Scrooge refuses.

He _______________ Christmas because he thinks
it’s too expensive. Next a charity worker collecting
money for the poor arrives, but Scrooge gives her
______________ When it is time to finish work,
Scrooge is angry that he has to give Bob Cratchit a day
off work on Christmas day.

After work Scrooge goes home to spend Christmas
alone and unhappy. That night the _______________ of his dead business partner, Jacob Marley, visits him.

He tells Scrooge that he must change his way of life or
face the consequences. He tells him that three ghosts
will visit him. Scrooge is scared but he goes to sleep.

He wakes up to see The Ghost of Christmas past, who
takes him to re-visit his own past. They go to his old
___________ and see Scrooge as a lonely
and unhappy child. They also visit him as a happy,
young man working in his first job, with a kind
boss called Mr. Fezziwig. Finally they see Scrooge’s
___________ leave him because of his
love of money.

Later that night, Scrooge meets The Ghost of
Christmas Present. He takes Scrooge to see the
Cratchit family’s Christmas. They are happy even
though they are _______________. The only thing
that makes them sad is that the youngest son,
Tiny Tim, is ill. Tiny Tim is likely to die without a
______________, something the Cratchit family
cannot afford to pay for. Scrooge also visits the house
of his nephew. The people are all having fun and are
______________.

Finally, The Ghost of Christmas Future arrives. He
doesn’t speak but shows Scrooge people talking about
a ________________ who has died. They speak about
the man without affection and are not sad that he is
dead. When Scrooge sees the grave of the man, he
realises it has his ______________ on it. It is his
death the people are talking about! He is very sad.

When he wakes up the next morning, Scrooge realises
it is still Christmas morning and he is very happy.

He wants to ______________ everyone now and
become a better person. He buys a big Turkey for the
Cratchit family and ______________ for the doctor
for Tiny Tim. Next, he goes to his nephew’s house
and joins in the celebrations. He is sorry for all the
bad things he has done and promises to start
a new ______________.
1. A Christmas Carol — The Story

Teaching notes

Time
30–40 minutes

Level
Easy/medium/difficult

Skills Focus
Vocabulary, reading, writing.

Aim
To familiarise the students with the story of *A Christmas Carol* and the vocabulary used in the story.

Instructions
Ask the students what they know about the Charles Dickens and the story of ‘A Christmas Carol’ (they may have seen *A Muppet Christmas Carol!*). Now give the students worksheet A and ask them to read through the text underlining any difficult vocabulary. Present the difficult vocabulary on the board and the students can help each other with the meaning of the words. Then listen to the story of *A Christmas Carol*.

Alternative activity
For students of a higher level use worksheet B and give the students time to decide what the missing words could be from the list. This activity could be done in pairs. Ask the students for suggestions to what the words could be. Listen to see if they are correct. Use worksheet C for the highest level students.

Answers
1. eve
2. office
3. hates
4. nothing
5. ghost
6. school
7. girlfriend
8. poor
9. are
10. happy
11. man
12. name
13. help
14. pays
15. life

This activity is designed to be used in conjunction with a performance of IPA Productions’ *A Christmas Carol*. For more information, visit www.ipaproductions.com.