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 revisit 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.

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.
1b. 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?

The story begins on Christmas (1)_.

Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean, unkind old man, is working in his (2)_________ with Bob Cratchit, his clerk. His nephew Fred visits him and invites Ebenezer to celebrate Christmas day at his house. Scrooge refuses. He (3)_________ Christmas because he thinks it’s too expensive. Next a charity worker collecting money for the poor arrives, but Scrooge gives her (4)_____________. 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 (5)_____________ 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 (6)_________ 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 (7)_____________ 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 (8)_____________. The only thing that makes them sad is that the youngest son, Tiny Tim, is ill. Tiny Tim is likely to die without a (9)_____________, 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 (10)_____________.

Finally, The Ghost of Christmas Future arrives. He doesn’t speak but shows Scrooge people talking about a (11)_____________ 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 (12)_____________ 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 (13)_____________ everyone now and become a better person. He buys a big Turkey for the Cratchit family and (14)_____________ 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 (15)_____________.

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**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 (1) ___________.

Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean, unkind old man, is working in his (2) ____________ with Bob Cratchit, his clerk. His nephew Fred visits him and invites Ebenezer to celebrate Christmas day at his house. Scrooge refuses. He (3) ____________ Christmas because he thinks it’s too expensive. Next a charity worker collecting money for the poor arrives, but Scrooge gives her (4) ____________. 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 (5) ____________ 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 revisit his own past. They go to his old (6) ____________ 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 (7) ____________ 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 (8) ____________. The only thing that makes them sad is that the youngest son, Tiny Tim, is ill. Tiny Tim is likely to die without a (9) ____________, 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 (10) ____________.

Finally, The Ghost of Christmas Future arrives. He doesn’t speak but shows Scrooge people talking about a (11) ____________ 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 (12) ____________ 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 (13) ____________ everyone now and become a better person. He buys a big Turkey for the Cratchit family and (14) ____________ 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 (15) ____________.
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. doctor
10. happy
11. man
12. name
13. help
14. pays
15. life
2. True or False

*Read and listen to the story (activity one). Decide if the sentences are true or false. If they are false, correct them.*

1. Ebenezer Scrooge is a generous man. T F
2. Every year Scrooge spends Christmas day with his nephew Fred. T F
3. Ebenezer gives nothing to charity. T F
4. Jacob Marley has been dead for seven years. T F
5. The Ghost of Christmas Past is silent. T F
6. Scrooge and Belle got a divorce. T F
7. Bob Cratchit has a son called Tiny Tim. T F
8. The Ghost of Christmas Future shows Scrooge his own grave. T F
9. On Christmas morning, Scrooge buys a chicken for the Cratchit family. T F
10. Scrooge promises to change his way of life and become a better person. T F

3. Story Order

*Read and listen to the story (activity one). Put the events of the story in the correct order.*

___ 1. Scrooge sees his own grave.
___ 2. A charity worker asks Scrooge to give money to the poor.
___ 3. The Ghost of Christmas Past arrives.
___ 4. Scrooge buys a turkey for the Cratchit family.
___ 5. The Ghost of Christmas Present meets Scrooge.
___ 6. Scrooge sees himself at school.
___ 7. Jacob Marley warns Scrooge to change his way of life.
___ 8. Scrooge sees his girlfriend leave him.
___ 9. Fred invites his uncle to his house for Christmas.
___ 10. Scrooge wakes up on Christmas morning and is very happy.
2. True or False

Teaching notes

Time
20–30 minutes

Level
Easy

Skills Focus
Writing and reading (possibly speaking).

Aim
To test the student’s comprehension of the synopsis of the play. It could be used as an opportunity for the students to work in pairs to discuss the correct answers.

Pre/post activity
Ask the students, as a group, to decide if sentence one is correct. Then correct the sentence together on the board. After the activity let the students take turns to write corrected sentences on the board. If there are any errors in the work allow their class-mates to correct them.

Answer key
1. False. Ebeneezer Scrooge is a mean man.
2. False. Scrooge never spends Christmas with his nephew, Fred.
3. True.
4. True.
5. False. The Ghost of Christmas Past speaks to Scrooge.
7. Trye
8. True.
10. True.
3. Story Order

**Teaching notes**

**Time**
15–20 minutes

**Level**
Easy

**Skills Focus**
Reading (possibly speaking).

**Aim**
Comprehension. To make students consider the sequence of events in the play in a logical order.

**Variation**
This activity could be made into a competition for small groups. Before the class, cut the sentences into ten strips of paper, each containing one of the sentences from activity three. Give each small group a set of the ten sentences and ask them to put them in the correct order. The teacher should move around the classroom checking to see who gets the correct order first. This activity is great as a fun group activity.

**Answer key**
9. Fred invites his uncle to his house for Christmas.
2. A charity worker asks Scrooge to give money to the poor.
7. Jacob Marley warns Scrooge to change his way of life.
3. The Ghost of Christmas Past arrives.
6. Scrooge sees himself at school.
8. Scrooge sees his girlfriend leave him.
5. The Ghost of Christmas Present meets Scrooge.
1. Scrooge sees his own grave.
10. Scrooge wakes up on Christmas morning and is very happy.
4. Scrooge buys a turkey for the Crachit family
4a. The Characters

Read and listen to the descriptions of the characters in the play. Use the information to help you with the exercise on the next page, and then listen to see if your answers are correct.

1. **Ebenezer Scrooge** is about 60 years old. He works in an office for many hours every day and return home, where he lives alone, in the evenings. His business is called Scrooge and Marley, but his business partner died seven years before. He is an unkind and ungenerous man. He thinks Christmas is a waste of time and money. He has grey hair, brown eyes and is quite thin. He wears a dark suit to work and a dressing gown at night. He doesn’t believe in ghosts but is scared when he sees them.

2. **Bob Cratchit** works for Scrooge in his office and is very poor. He is 32 years old and is married with five children. Hi youngest son, Tiny Tim, is very ill and is dying. Bob cannot afford to pay for a doctor to cure his son. Despite this, Bob is a happy person and tries to like everyone. He is quite tall and slim with brown hair and eyes. He wears old and scruffy clothes.

3. **Fred** is Scrooge’s nephew. His mother was Scrooge’s sister, who died just after Fred was born. He is a very happy person and is always trying to cheer Scrooge up. He is married and lives in a big house in the centre of London. They are quite rich and give a lot of money to the poor. He is of average height and bald. He is 28 years old.

4. **Jacob Marley** was Scrooge’s business partner and has been dead for seven years. Now he is a ghost that must travel around the world seeing things he didn’t see in life. He is very sad because he knows that he wasted his life making money. He comes to warn Scrooge to change his way of life. He wears grey ghostly clothes and carries a long chain.

5. **The Ghost of Christmas Past** seems young but has an old woman’s face. She has a light that shines out of her head. The ghost takes Scrooge to re-visit his past life.

6. **The Ghost of Christmas Present** is green and covered in leaves. He is very jolly and quite large. He has 2000 brothers and sisters — one for every year. He shows Scrooge his present life and people’s opinion of him.

7. **The Ghost of Christmas Future** doesn’t speak and is very scary. It wears a dark cape with a hood, and it’s impossible to see its face. It is very tall and thin. It shows Scrooge what will happen in the future if he doesn’t change his way of life.

8. **Belle** was Scrooge’s girlfriend when he was a young apprentice. She is short, with brown hair and blue eyes. She is pretty, but a little shy. She loved Scrooge but believed that he loved money more than her, and so she left him.

9. **Mr Fezziwig** is about 50 years old and is a very jolly man. He is also very generous and loves parties. He was Scrooge’s boss when he was an apprentice clerk and was very kind to him. He is married with three daughters. On a Christmas Eve in the past he had a big party with musicians and dancing.

10. **Martha Cratchit** is Bob’s wife. She is short and round. She is always happy even though she is very poor, and has very little to feed her five children. She does all the work in the Cratchit house and is often tired.

11. **Tiny Tim** is the youngest son in the Cratchit family. He is seven years old but small for his age. He tries to be happy but is often weak, because he is dying. He loves his family very much and wants to get better so that he can work and earn money to help the family.
4b. Who Said That?

Use the information from Activity 4a to help you decide which character said the sentences below. Then listen to see if you were correct. Three characters will not be used.

1. ________________ Don’t be angry, uncle!
2. ________________ A man who says happy Christmas is an idiot.
3. ________________ No sir, I don’t want to work tomorrow, sir.
4. ________________ When I was alive I never travelled. I stayed in the office all the time making money.
5. ________________ I think you love money too much. I think you love money more than me.
6. ________________ I have many brothers and sisters. About 2000: one for every year.
7. ________________ Come. Let’s see another Christmas in your past life.
8. ________________ Come on Ebenezer, no more work tonight. It’s Christmas!
4. The Characters & Who Said That?

**Teaching notes**

**Time**
30–40 minutes

**Level**
Easy/medium

**Skills Focus**
Reading and listening (possibly speaking).

**Aim**
To familiarize the students with the characters in ‘A Christmas Carol’.

**Pre/post activity**
Ask the students what they already know about the characters in ‘A Christmas Carol’. Ask them what they think they look like or what clothes they wear. After the activity, ask them who their favourite character was and why. Ask them who they didn’t like and why.

**Answer key**
1. Fred
2. Scrooge
3. Bob Cratchit
4. Jacob Marley
5. Belle
6. The Ghost of Christmas Present
7. The Ghost of Christmas Past
8. Mr. Fezziwig
5. Text Comprehension

Read and listen to the first two scenes of the play, then answer these questions with complete sentences, giving as much information as possible.

1. What do you think Scrooge means when he says "humbug"?
2. Who was Jacob Marley?
3. Is Bob Cratchit well-off?
4. Why does Scrooge hate Christmas?
5. How many days holiday does Bob Cratchit get every year?
6. What does Scrooge think should happen to poor people?
7. What do Jacob Marley’s chains signify?
8. Why does Jacob Marley visit Scrooge?
9. Why is the charity worker collecting money?
10. Who are the visitors?
5. Text Comprehension

**Teaching notes**

**Time**
30–40 minutes

**Level**
Medium

**Skills Focus**
Vocabulary, listening, writing.

**Aim**
To familiarise the students with scenes from *A Christmas Carol* and the vocabulary used in them. Also, the activity helps them to understand what is happening within the scene and to be able to choose the relevant information to answer the question.

**Answer key**
1. Scrooge uses, ‘Humbug’ as an expression of disbelief or distaste for something.
2. Jacob Marley was Scrooge's business partner.
3. No, Bob Cratchit is poor.
4. Scrooge hates Christmas because he sees it as a waste of money.
5. Bob Cratchit gets one day holiday every year – Christmas day.
6. He thinks that poor people should go to poor houses or prisons.
7. Jacob Marley's chains signify his unkindness and bad acts in life.
8. He visits Scrooge to warn him to be a better person.
9. She is collecting money to feed, clothe and give shelter to the poor.
10. The visitors are ghosts of the past, present and future.
6. Questions

*Put the words in the correct order to form a question. Next answer the questions.*

1. Story/ when/ the/ begin/ does?
   .................................................................?

2. Fred/ who/ is?
   .................................................................?

3. Jacob Marley/ why/ Scrooge/ does/ visit?
   .................................................................?

4. Belle/ why/ leave/ did/ Scrooge?
   .................................................................?

5. Cratchit family/ are/ sad/ the/ why?
   .................................................................?

6. What/ scrooge/ does/ buy/ them/ for?
   .................................................................?

7. Fezziwig/ is/ Mr. / who?
   .................................................................?

8. What/ ghost/ look/ of/ like/ Christmas past/ does/ the?
   .................................................................?

*Now write more questions to ask your partner.*

.................................................................?

.................................................................?

.................................................................?
A Christmas Carol

6. Questions

Teaching notes

Time
30 minutes

Level
Easy/medium

Skills Focus
Question forms, writing.

Aim
To familiarise the students with different question forms and the word order of questions.

Extended activity
Ask the students to write 5 more questions about A Christmas Carol. Now put the words in the questions in an incorrect order (as in the activity above) and ask the students to exchange their questions with another classmate. The students then re-order the questions and answer them.

Answer key
1. When does the story begin? The story begins on Christmas Eve.
2. Who is Fred? Fred is Scrooge’s nephew.
3. Why does Jacob Marley visit Scrooge? He visits Scrooge to warn him to be a better person.
4. Why did Belle leave Scrooge? Belle left Scrooge because he loved money more than her.
5. Why are the Crachit family sad? They are sad because they are too poor for a doctor and Tiny Tim is very ill.
6. What does Scrooge buy for them? Scrooge buys them a large Turkey and he gives them money for Tiny Tim’s medicine.
7. Who is Mr. Fezziwig? Mr. Fezziwig is Scrooge’s first boss.
8. What does the Ghost of Christmas Past look like? The ghost is dressed in white with a covered face.
7. Verbs in the Past Simple and Gap-fill

Look at the verbs below. What is their form in the past simple? Are they regular or irregular?

1. Be
2. Buy
3. Dance
4. Go
5. Have
6. Hate
7. Live
8. Love
9. Marry
10. Work

Complete the description of Scrooge, using the verbs above in the past simple. You will need to use the verb “to be” five times and the verb “to have” twice.

Now listen to find out if you have guessed correctly.

Scrooge........ a mean man. He........... money very much but he.........
Christmas. Scrooge........ in an office with Bob Cratchit but he........ alone.
He........ about 60 years old and he........ tall and thin. He........ a nephew
called Fred and he........ a partner called Jacob Marley. Scrooge........ scared
of ghosts. He........ a lonely child. He........ at Mr. Fezziwig’s party but he
never........ Belle. On Christmas day he........ a turkey for the Cratchit family
and........ to his nephew’s house for Christmas dinner.
7. Verbs in the Past Simple and Gap-fill

**Teaching notes**

**Time**
30–40 minutes

**Level**
Medium

**Skills Focus**
Vocabulary.

**Aim**
To practise the past simple of irregular and regular verbs.

**Suggested Post Activity**
Ask the students to pick out the regular verbs in the list below and to put the -ed endings into three lists depending on the sound: /-t/, /-d/ and /-id/. Remember /-ed/ is never an option!

|-t/ | /-d/ | /-id/
---|---|---
worked | danced | lived
married | hated |

**Answer key**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Irregular - was/were</th>
<th>Text</th>
<th>Answers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Irregular – bought</td>
<td>1. was</td>
<td>11. was</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular – danced</td>
<td>2. loved</td>
<td>12. danced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular - went</td>
<td>3. hated</td>
<td>13. married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular – had</td>
<td>4. worked</td>
<td>14. bought</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular – hated</td>
<td>5. lived</td>
<td>15. went</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular – lived</td>
<td>6. was</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular – loved</td>
<td>7. was</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irregular – married</td>
<td>8. had</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular – worked</td>
<td>9. had</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. was</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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8. Adjectives and Gap-fill

Match the adjectives in Column A with the adjectives with the opposite meaning in Column B.

A | B
---|---
1. Happy | Wrong
2. Angry | Sad
3. Good | Calm
4. Generous | Hot
5. Quiet | Mean
6. Kind | Bad
7. Right | Loud
8. Stupid | Unkind
9. Cold | Rich
10. Poor | Sensible

Now try to complete the conversation using the adjectives in column A, then read and listen to the beginning of Scene 1 of the play to find out if you have guessed correctly.

Scrooge: Oh! For heavens sake, Mr. Cratchit, cough, cough, cough. Stop coughing! Be ________, I can’t count!
Bob: Sorry, Mr. Scrooge, but it’s very ________ in here.
Scrooge: Cold, cold in here! Then wear more clothes, Mr. Cratchit, more clothes!
Bob: Yes, Mr. Scrooge, more clothes
Scrooge: You are here to work, Mr. Cratchit, to work, not to be warm. Now stop coughing and get on with your work!
Bob: Yes, Sir.
Fred: Hello.
Scrooge: Oh! Fred
Fred: Merry Christmas, Uncle. God bless you!
Scrooge: Merry Christmas! Humbug! Don’t say Merry Christmas to me!
Fred: Why aren’t you ________, Uncle? Everybody is happy at Christmas.
Scrooge: I don’t like Christmas
Fred: You are not serious, I’m sure!
Scrooge: I am serious. Merry Christmas! Why are you happy? You are too ________ to be happy.
Fred: Why are you unhappy? You are too rich to be unhappy!
Scrooge: Rich? Me? Humbug! Christmas is a waste of time!
Fred: A waste of time! No, uncle, Christmas is ________. People are ________ at Christmas.
Scrooge: Why not! I live in a world of ________ people! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas!
Fred: Uncle! Don’t be so miserable! Christmas is a time to love, to enjoy and to be ________.
A time to give. A time to give money to the poor. Christmas has never put a penny into my pocket but I say "God bless Christmas!"
Bob: Yes, quite ________, Sir, God bless Christmas!
8. Adjectives and Gap–fill

**Teaching notes**

**Time**
30–40 minutes

**Level**
Medium

**Skills Focus**
Vocabulary.

**Aim**
To extend the students’ vocabulary and consider the position of adjectives in the sentences.

**Extended activity**
Ask the students to work in pairs to choose another ten adjectives from anywhere in the script. The students then put the adjectives into column A. Now the students find out the opposite adjectives and put them into column B, in a random order. The students then exchange papers and try to match each adjective to its opposite adjective.

**Answer key**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>happy – sad</td>
<td>quiet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>angry – calm</td>
<td>cold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>good – bad</td>
<td>happy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>generous – mean</td>
<td>poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quiet – loud</td>
<td>kind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kind – unkind</td>
<td>angry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>right – wrong</td>
<td>stupid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stupid – sensible</td>
<td>generous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cold – hot</td>
<td>right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poor – rich</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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9. The Life and Works of Charles Dickens

Separate the text into two parts and with a partner practice asking questions and giving answers about the life and work of Charles Dickens.

PART A

Charles Dickens was born in Landport, on February 7, 1812. John Dickens, his father, worked as a clerk in a naval payroll office in Portsmouth. He was posted to several places like London, then to Chatham, and finally, in 1822, back to London, where the family lived in Camden Town. Dickens’s father was sent to prison for debt in 1825.

Due to their increasing poverty, Charles left school at the age of twelve and joined a boot polish factory to support his family. There he came to know how the oppressed are used brutally by the factory owners for work purposes, they were ill-fed, shabbily clothed and diseased. That’s what also inspired him to write "A Christmas Carol."

Later on, Dickens became a reporter. In December 1833, The Monthly Magazine, published his first work. Dickens’s got married to Catherine Hogarth, the daughter of his colleague at, The Morning Chronicle newspaper. They had ten children together but they separated in 1858.

Dickens’s huge success continued with, “Pickwick Papers”. It was all about social injustice, the plight of the lower class and deprivation of basic needs. Following this serialized novel, there was “Oliver Twist”. After these serious works, Dickens made his next novel “Nicholas Nickleby” more but with a moral too.

One of Dickens’s short stories “A Christmas Carol” too became very famous. Later on in 1850, he wrote “David Copperfield” which was largely largely. He helped many poor people, like struggling artists through The Guild of Literature and Arts foundation.

He fell ill and died afterwards on June 9, 1870 and was put to rest in “Poets Corner” at Westminster Abbey.
A Christmas Carol

**PART B**

Charles Dickens was born in Landport, Portsmouth, on February 7. John Dickens, his father, worked as a clerk in a naval payroll office in Portsmouth. He was posted to several places like London, then to Chatham, and finally, in 1822, back to London, where the family lived in Camden Town. Dickens’s father was sent to prison for debt in 1824.

Due to their increasing poverty, Charles left school at the age of and joined a boot polish factory to support his family. There he came to know how the oppressed are used brutally by the factory owners for work purposes, they were ill-fed, shabbily clothed and diseased. That’s what also inspired him to write “Oliver Twist.”

Later on, Dickens became a . In December 1833, The Monthly Magazine, published his first work. Dickens’s got married to Catherine Hogarth, the daughter of his colleague at, The Morning Chronicle newspaper. They had children together but they separated in 1858.

Dickens’s huge success continued with, “Pickwick Papers”. It was all about social injustice, the plight of the lower class and deprivation of basic needs. Following this serialized novel, there was “Oliver Twist”. After these serious works, Dickens made his next novel “Nicholas Nickleby” more humorous but with a moral too.

One of Dickens’s short stories “too” became very famous. Later on in 1850, he wrote “David Copperfield” which was largely autobiographical. He helped many poor people, like struggling artists through The Guild of Literature and Arts foundation.

He fell ill and died afterwards on June 9, 1870 and was put to rest in “Poets Corner” at Poets Corner.
Pair Work

9. The Life and Works of Charles Dickens

Teaching notes

Time
30–40 minutes

Level
Medium

Skills Focus
Writing, speaking.

Aim
To allow students to use a variety of question forms.

Instructions
Separate the text into two parts. Give students part A or part B equally. Give the students ten minutes to work on the questions either individually or in groups. Then put students into pairs (one part A, one part B) and let them ask and answer the questions to complete the information.

Variation
To make the activity easier give the students the question word needed to form each question.

e.g.
1. Where .....?
2. When .....?
3. Why .....?
4. How old.......?
5. What .....?
6. What .....?
7. Who .....?
8. How many .....?
9. What .....?
10. What/which .....?
11. What .....?
12. Where .....?

Answer key
1. Where was Charles Dickens born? He was born in Landport, Portsmouth.
2. When was he born? He was born on February 7th, 1812.
3. Why was Dickens’ father sent to prison? He was sent to prison for debt.
4. How old was Dickens when he left school? He was 12 when he left school.
5. What did the boot polish factory inspire him to write? It inspired him to write ‘Oliver Twist’.
6. What did Dickens become, later on? He became a reporter.
7. Who did Dickens get married to? He got married to Catherine Hogarth.
8. How many children did they have together? They had ten children together.
9. What type of novel was Nicholas Nickleby? It was a humorous novel.
11. What was David Copperfield? David Copperfield was autobiographical.
12. Where was he buried? He was buried at Westminster Abbey.
10. Synonyms and Antonyms

Look at the words below and find the word in the text which is a synonym (word with the same meaning) (S) or an antonym (word with the opposite meaning) (A). The words in the script have been typed in bold to help you with this exercise. They are all in Scene 1 of the script which you can also listen to on the CD.

1. Mean (A)
2. Polite (A)
3. Come here (A)
4. Horrible (S)
5. Crazy (S)
6. Cruel (A)
7. Start (A)
8. Assist (S)
9. Very tasty (S)
10. Intelligent (S)

Write your answers and the relevant sentences from the script below:

1. Generous  Fred: Christmas is a time to love, to enjoy, and to be generous.

2. ..........................................................

3. ..........................................................

4. ..........................................................

5. ..........................................................

6. ..........................................................

7. ..........................................................

8. ..........................................................

9. ..........................................................

10. ..........................................................
10. Synonyms and Antonyms

Teaching notes

Time
20–30 minutes

Level
Medium

Skills Focus
Listening, reading (possibly speaking).

Aim
To increase vocabulary by not only learning the words used within the play but also to encourage students to think about new words related to them.

Suggested Post Activity
Ask the students, in pairs, to find five new words from the scene. Then, write the synonym/antonym of the word. Next, the students exchange words with another pair or present them on the board to the other students. This could be done as a game with students scoring points for correct answers.

Answer key
1. Mean – generous (A)
   Fred: Christmas is a time to love, to enjoy and to be generous.

2. Polite – rude (A)
   Charity Worker: Oh! How rude!

3. Come here – go away (A)
   Scrooge: Boo! Go away you horrible little boy!

4. Horrible – terrible (S)
   Charity Worker: No! Those places are terrible.

5. Crazy – mad (S)
   Scrooge: I think the world is going mad!

6. Cruel – kind (A)
   Fred: People are kind at Christmas.

7. Start – stop (A)
   Scrooge: What’s that noise of bells.. bells.. everywhere bells… it’s probably some stupid children …stop that noise!

8. Assist – help (S)
   Marley: I am here to help you.

9. Very tasty – delicious (S)
   Fred: It will be delicious. Please come!

10. Intelligent – clever (S)
    Scrooge: The way you talk is quite clever sir, you should be a politician!
A Christmas Carol

11. True or False – Listening

Read and listen to the first two scenes of the play and decide if the sentences are true or false. If you think a sentence is false, write the correct version.

1. Scrooge has no family.
2. The office is very cold.
3. Fred doesn’t like Christmas.
4. Scrooge doesn’t give any money to the charity worker.
5. Fred is Scrooge’s nephew.
6. Scrooge has always believed in ghosts.
7. Jacob Marley has been dead for 7 years.
8. Jacob Marley was a generous man.
9. Jacob Marley wants to help Scrooge.
10. Scrooge tells Bob he has to work on Christmas Day.

Write the correct sentences below:

1. .................................................................
2. .................................................................
3. .................................................................
4. .................................................................
5. .................................................................
6. .................................................................
7. .................................................................
8. .................................................................
9. .................................................................
10. .................................................................
11. True or False – Listening

Teaching notes

Time
20–30 minutes

Level
Medium

Skills Focus
Listening, reading (possibly speaking).

Aim
To test the students understanding of the scene and the complexities of what is happening within it.

Notes
This activity could be done individually as a simple listening activity or in pairs with students discussing the answer. Encourage students to give as much information as possible to support their answer.

Answer key
1. False. Scrooge has a nephew – Fred.
2. True.
4. True.
5. True.
6. False. Scrooge has never believed in ghosts.
7. True.
8. False. Jacob Marley was a mean man.
10. False. Scrooge doesn’t tell Bob he has to work on Christmas day.

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.
12. Reported Speech

Put the text below into reported speech. Remember to think about how this affects tense, situation and subject/object.

E.g. “I don't like roast turkey and roast potatoes .. ”
He said that he didn’t like roast turkey and roast potatoes.

1. “Be quiet, I can’t count.”

2. “Christmas is a waste of time.”

3. “...you should be a politician.”

4. “It will be delicious.”

5. “I am very sorry that you won’t come tomorrow.”

6. “Mr Marley has been dead for seven years.”

7. “You don’t want to work tomorrow, do you?”

8. “Who were you then?”

9. “Tonight at 1 o'clock.”

10. “I am here to show you how to change your life.”
12. Reported Speech

Teaching notes

Time
45 minutes

Level
Difficult

Skills Focus
Grammar, writing.

Aim
To practise the change in tense and certain words of time when they are used in reported speech.

Extended activity
Ask students to choose five more sentences from the scene and change them to reported speech. This could be done either individually or as a team activity presented on the board.

Answer key
1. He told him to be quiet as he couldn’t count/ He said to be quiet because he couldn’t count.
2. He said that Christmas was a waste of time.
3. He told him that he should be a politician.
4. He said that it would be delicious.
5. He said that he was very sorry that he wouldn’t come the next day.
6. He told her that Mr. Marley had been dead for seven years.
7. He asked him if he wanted to work the next day or not.
8. He asked him who he had been.
9. He told him that night at 1 o’clock.
10. He told him that he was there to show him how to change his life.
13. Homophones

Homophones are words that sound the same but are spelled differently and have a different meaning. Look at the words and then listen to scenes one and two. Find the word which has the same sound. Check your answers by reading the text.

1. ______________________ hear
2. ______________________ shore
3. ______________________ paw
4. ______________________ waist
5. ______________________ piece
6. ______________________ two
7. ______________________ dye
8. ______________________ eye

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.
13. Homophones

Teaching notes

Time
15–20 minutes

Level
Easy

Skills Focus
Reading, listening and spelling.

Aim
To familiarise the students with the sound of words and to encourage them to use the context of the text to work out the meaning of the word.

Notes
This activity could be done individually as a simple vocabulary exercise or in pairs with students discussing the answer.

Suggested post activity
Ask the students (individually or in pairs) to choose five more words from the list of homophones and write their own sentences. Then let them take turns to present them on the board for their class-mates to solve. This could be made into a game with points!

Answer key
1. hear – here
   Bob: Sorry, Mr Scrooge, but it’s very cold in here.
2. shore – sure
   Fred: You are not serious, I’m sure!
3. paw – poor
   Scrooge: The poor people can die, for all I care!
4. waist – waste
   Scrooge: Christmas is a waste of time!
5. piece – peace
   Scrooge: Now I am very busy, so please, leave me in peace.
6. two – too
   Bob: And to you too, Fred!
7. dye – die
   Scrooge: The poor people can die, for all I care!
8. eye – I
   Fred: I am sorry.
A Christmas Carol

14. Crossword

Complete the crossword. All the answers can be found in the play.

Clues Down

1. ............ Scrooge. (9)
2. The country the story is set in. (7)
3. An adjective to describe a person who doesn’t like spending money. (4)
4. To get money by working. (4)
9. The first ghost scrooge sees is the ghost of Christmas ....... . (4)
10. Scrooge’s partner tries to ....... Scrooge what will happen if he doesn’t change his ways. (4)
14. The English always eat turkey for Christmas ............ . (6)

Clues Across

3. Scrooge’s partner was Jacob ....... . (6)
5. The place you are put when you’re dead. Scroog saw his ............ . (5)
7. The final part of a story. (3)
8. Fred is Scrooge’s ....... . (6)
11. The last letter of the alphabet. (3)
12. What you might put on top of the Christmas tree. (4)
13. ........ turkey. The way it is cooked in the oven. (5)

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.
A Christmas Carol

14. Crossword

Teaching notes

Time
20–30 minutes

Level
Medium

Skills Focus
Writing, vocabulary.

Aim
To reinforce the vocabulary of the play and its meaning.

Notes
Give the students the list of vocabulary from the play to look at whilst doing the crossword. All the vocabulary needed can be found within the list. It is a good idea to do the crossword in pairs giving students a chance to discuss their ideas. Alternatively the crossword could be used as a homework activity.

Variation
The students could be split into two groups with one group given the answers to the ‘across’ clues and one group given the answers to the ‘down’ clues. The students should then individually or in groups write the clues to match their answers. When they are finished they pair up with someone from the other group to trade clues and then they complete the crossword.

Answer key

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Down</th>
<th>Across</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Ebenezer</td>
<td>3. Marley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. England</td>
<td>5. grave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. mean</td>
<td>7. end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. earn</td>
<td>8. nephew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Past</td>
<td>11. zed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. warn</td>
<td>12. star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. dinner</td>
<td>13. roast</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 15. The Question Game

In groups of 3 or 4 take turns to choose an answer and then say the question. For example the answer, “Fred”, might lead to the question, “Who is Scrooge’s nephew?” or “Who invited Scrooge to Christmas dinner?” There are different possibilities for the questions, but they must be grammatically and factually correct to receive the points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POINTS</th>
<th>CHARACTERS</th>
<th>TIMES/PLACES</th>
<th>GENERAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Scrooge</td>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td>Humbug!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Jacob Marley</td>
<td>Poor houses</td>
<td>A waste of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50</td>
<td>Bob Cratchit</td>
<td>Seven years</td>
<td>Three</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Charity worker</td>
<td>Fred’s house</td>
<td>Chains</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15. The Question Game

Teaching notes

Time
50–60 minutes

Level
Difficult

Skills Focus
Speaking.

Aim
To allow students to practise a variety of question forms.

Notes
This is a fun activity based on the game Jeopardy. At the beginning of the class draw the grid with answers on the white/blackboard. Separate the class into groups of five or six and tell them to look at the answers. Give the groups 10–15 minutes to prepare questions for the answers. Each team then takes turns to choose an answer. The question they give must be factually and grammatically correct to win the points. There may be a variety of correct answers, e.g. the answer Scrooge could produce:

Who is Bob Cratchit’s boss?
Or
Who is visited by ghosts?
Or
Who hates Christmas?

Possible answers
Scrooge: (see above)
Jacob Marley: Who was Scrooge’s business partner?
Bob Cratchit: Who worked for Scrooge?
Charity worker: Who asked Scrooge to give money to the poor?
Christmas Eve: When does A Christmas Carol take place?
Poor houses: Where does Scrooge think the poor people should go?
Seven years: How long has Jacob Marley been dead?
Fred’s house: Where is Scrooge invited to eat Christmas dinner?
Humbug: What does Scrooge often say?
A waste of time: What does Scrooge think Christmas is?
Three: How many ghosts visit Scrooge after Jacob Marley?
Chains: What does Jacob Marley wear?

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.
16. Christmas Quiz

How much do you know about Christmas in Britain? Test yourself with this quiz. Be careful—sometimes there is more than one correct answer!

1. A Christmas carol is...
   A. A song sung at Christmas
   B. A mean man
   C. A ghost

2. What is usually found under the Christmas tree?
   A. Christmas cards
   B. Presents
   C. Shoes

3. Rudolph the reindeer is famous for his shiny red...
   A. Eyes
   B. Ears
   C. Nose

4. Father Christmas traditionally arrives through the...
   A. Door
   B. Windows
   C. The chimney

5. If someone holds mistletoe above your head you must...
   A. Clap your hands
   B. Kiss them
   C. Turn around three times

6. Complete this phrase: ............ Christmas and a ........... New Year!
   A. Merry, happy
   B. Nice, pleasant
   C. Good, better

7. What would you find on the top of a Christmas tree?
   A. A star
   B. A fairy
   C. An angel

8. What is traditionally eaten for Christmas dinner?
   A. Chicken
   B. Turkey
   C. Roast beef

9. What is Father Christmas also known as?
   A. Santa Claus
   B. Papa Claus
   C. Mister Claus

10. When is Boxing Day?
    A. December 24th
    B. December 26th
    C. December 31st
16. Christmas Quiz

Teaching notes

Time
15–20 minutes

Level
Easy

Skills Focus
Speaking.

Aim
A fun activity to open or close the class.

Extension activity
If the students are interested in the idea of writing a quiz, get them to choose their own topic and write 5-10 questions to present to the class.

Answers
1. A
2. B
3. C
4. C
5. B
6. A
7. A, B, or C
8. B
9. A
10. B
A Christmas Carol

Vocabulary

A list of useful vocabulary from the play.

- alone
- enough
- long
- simple
- alive
- enjoy
- look after
- show (v.)
- angry
- first
- marry
- shut up
- arrive
- forget
- mean (adj.)
- shy
- bald
- friend
- midnight
- sleep
- believe
- fun
- mince pies
- slim
- bless
- future
- miserable
- sorry
- bright
- generous
- miss
- spend
- business partner
- get better
- money
- strong
- cap
- get up
- much
- taxes
- cape
- ghost
- must
- third
- carol
- go away
- nephew
- tomorrow
- carry
- grave
- past
- tonight
- chain
- hate
- party
- travel
- change
- hear
- penny
- true
- charity
- help
- poor
- visions
- cheer up
- hood
- present (adj.)
- visitor
- clerk
- horrible
- prison
- wake up
- Christmas Eve
- humbug
- remember
- waste
- cold
- ill
- roast
- weak
- cough
- joke
- rude
- work
- cure
- jolly
- ruin
- wrong
- dance
- kind
- sad
- yet
- dead
- leave
- scared
- young
- die
- light
- scruffy
- dinner
- life
- second
- dressing gown
- listen
- see
- earn
- lonely
- self-love
A Christmas Carol

SCRIPT

Scene 1 & 2

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.
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.
(Enter Scrooge’s nephew - Fred.)

Fred Hello.
Scrooge Oh! Fred!
Fred Merry Christmas, Uncle. God bless you!
Scrooge Merry Christmas! Humbug!
Fred Why aren’t you happy, Uncle? Everybody is happy at Christmas.
Scrooge I don’t like Christmas.
Fred You are not serious, I’m sure!
Scrooge I am serious. Merry Christmas! Why are you happy? You are too poor to be happy.
Fred Why are you unhappy? You are too rich to be unhappy!
Scrooge Rich? Me? Humbug! Christmas is a waste of time!
Fred A waste of time! No, uncle, Christmas is good. People are kind at Christmas. Don’t be angry, Uncle!
Scrooge Why not? I live in a world of stupid people! Merry Christmas! Merry Christmas! What is Christmas to you! It is just a time for buying things. For buying things when you don’t have any money. When you don’t have any money to pay for them! A man who says Merry Christmas is an idiot. Take him away and cook him in a Christmas pudding! Merry Christmas! Huh! Humbug!
Fred Uncle! Don’t be so miserable! Christmas is a time to love, to enjoy and to be generous. A time to give. A time to give money to the poor. Christmas has never put a penny into my pocket but I say "God bless Christmas!"

Bob Yes, quite right, sir, God bless Christmas!

Scrooge Shut up, you, Bob Cratchit! If I hear another word from you you’ll enjoy Christmas Day looking for a new job!

(to Fred) The way you talk is quite clever sir, you should be a politician!
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](http://www.ipaproductions.com).

Fred
Uncle. Listen. Tomorrow is Christmas Day. Come and have dinner with us tomorrow. We’re having roast turkey and roast potatoes with fresh vegetables, and Christmas pudding with cream and brandy and mince pies. It will be delicious. Please come!

Scrooge
No, thank you I don’t like roast turkey or roast potatoes and Christmas pudding is disgusting! I will never celebrate Christmas! Now I am very busy, so please, leave me in peace. Good Bye.

Fred
I am sorry. I am very sorry that you won’t come tomorrow. We can be friends, Uncle. I want to be friends. Friends at Christmas. And so I say a Merry Christmas, Uncle.

Scrooge
Good bye!

Fred
And a Happy New Year!

Scrooge
Good bye!

Fred
And God Bless you, dear Uncle!

Scrooge
Good bye!

Fred
(Leaving) Merry Christmas to you too, Bob!

Bob
And to you too, Fred! *(Fred leaves)*

Scrooge
(to Bob) And to you too, Fred! Humbug! How can you enjoy Christmas? I pay you less than 1 pound a week. With 1 pound a week you have to look after a wife and five children. Merry Christmas! How can you say Merry Christmas. I think the world is going mad! Now back to work! 1... 2... 3... 4... 5...

(Enter Charity worker.)

CW
Hello. Merry Christmas.

Scrooge
Now what!

CW
Scrooge and Marley I believe? Scrooge? Marley? Marley? Scrooge? Sorry to disturb you, but are you Mr Scrooge or Mr Marley?
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.

A Christmas Carol

Scrooge

I am Mr Scrooge. Mr Marley is dead. Mr Marley has been dead for 7 years. Mr Marley died 7 years ago today.

CW

Oh! I’m sorry! I didn’t know Mr Marley was dead. Poor Mr Marley! He was so kind. But I’m sure you are kind, too. Kind like Mr Marley always was.

Scrooge

Hmm! What do you want?

CW

I am collecting money for the poor. Every year at Christmas we try to help the poor. There are many poor people in London. Many thousands of people who haven’t got food or clothes or a bed to sleep in. And I am collecting money for those poor people.

Scrooge

I see. Poor people! You are collecting money for the poor. Tell me, aren’t there any poor houses for the poor people?

CW

Well, yes, there are poor houses. But they are terrible places!

Scrooge

And aren’t there any prisons for the poor people?

CW

Well, of course, there are prisons. But they are terrible places, too!

Scrooge

If there are poor houses and prisons then the poor people can go there!

CW

No! Those places are terrible. The poor people die in those places! I am collecting money to give the poor people food and clothes and a bed to sleep in. And to make them happy at Christmas. Christmas is a time for everyone to be happy. Isn’t it? How much money would you like to give?

Scrooge

How much money? Nothing! The poor people can die, for all I care! I will give nothing. I pay my taxes. Every year I pay my taxes. And taxes pay for prisons and poor houses! The poor can eat and sleep in the prisons and poor houses and be happy there and if not the poor people can die, there are too many poor people in London anyway! I will give nothing! Now, go away and leave me in peace!
A Christmas Carol

CW
Oh! How rude! Very well.
Thank you for your time
and a Merry Christmas
to you!

Scrooge
Hmmph! Merry Christmas,
Merry Christmas!
I hate Christmas!

(Enter small boy at door singing carols.)

Scrooge
Boo! Go away you horrible little boy! Hmmph! I can’t
concentrate on my work with all these interruptions.
You, Cratchit, come here!

Bob
Yes, Sir.

Scrooge
Tomorrow is Christmas Day, is it not?

Bob
Yes, Sir, it is, Sir, Christmas Day, Sir.

Scrooge
And you want a holiday tomorrow, do you?

Bob
Yes, Sir, all day, Sir, please Sir.

Scrooge
You don’t want to work, tomorrow, do you?

Bob
No Sir, I don’t want to work tomorrow, Sir.

Scrooge
And if I stop your money for not working, you will think
I am a very bad person, I suppose?

Bob
Well... It is only one day a year, Sir.

Scrooge
Hmmph. One day, one day. Take your one day, your
Christmas Day and "enjoy it", but make sure you come
early to work the next day!

Bob
Yes, Sir, thank you Sir. A Merr...y... (goes)
Scene 2
*Scrooge in his rooms*

Scrooge  What's this? Dogs barking! Am I imagining things?... What's that noise of bells... bells... everywhere bells... it's probably some stupid children... stop that noise! I can hear chains... chains...

*(Ghost of Jacob Marley comes in.)*

Scrooge  Who are you?
Marley   Ask me who I was?
Scrooge  Who were you, then?
Marley   In life, I was your friend, Jacob Marley.
Scrooge  My friend! Jacob Marley! Jacob, will you sit down?
         Can you sit down?
Marley   I can and I will. *(sits)* Do you believe in me?
Scrooge  No, I don't believe in you.
Marley   You can see me.
Scrooge  Yes, I can see you.
Marley   And you can hear me.
Scrooge  Yes, I can hear you.
Marley   You can see me and hear me, but you don't believe in me. Why not?
Scrooge  Because I don't believe in ghosts. You are a vision.
         Just a vision. I have visions. I see things. They come and they go. They come and they go. And now you will go! I don't want to see you. So, Go away!
Marley   Do you believe in me now?
Scrooge  Yes, yes, I believe in you now!
Marley   Good!
Scrooge  But, tell me, Ghost of Jacob Marley, what do you want with me? Why are you here?
Marley  I am here to help you. I am here to show you how to change your life. Your terrible life.

Scrooge  And what is that chain hanging from your coat?

Marley  *This is the chain I made for myself when I was alive. The chain of unkindness, the chain of self-love, the chain of making money. When I was alive I never travelled. I stayed in the office all the time making money. You too have a chain. Every day you make one piece more and soon your chain will be as long as mine.*

Scrooge  No! Jacob. Stop! I don’t want a chain. Please help me.

Marley  Then, you have to change your life. You have to be a good man and help others. Listen. We haven’t got much time. *Tonight you will have three visitors.*

Scrooge  *Three visitors? Tonight? Does it have to be so many?*

Marley  Be quiet and listen! They will help you to be a good man. The first visitor will come tonight at one o’clock.

Scrooge  *Tonight at one o’clock.*

Marley  The second and third visitors will come soon after that. You will not see me again. Now, I must go. Remember what I said. Remember my words. The chain, the chain…

Scrooge  The chain…

Remember his words…

Huh! Stupid Christmas and stupid ghosts!