



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.





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?

poor office man help Eve nothing doctor happy hates ghost
name school life pays girlfriend

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





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. Ebenezer 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.
6. False. Scrooge and Belle **never got married**.
7. False. Bob Cratchit's son is called **Tiny Tim**.
8. True.
9. False. Scrooge buys a **turkey** for the Cratchit family.
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.

Ebenezer Scrooge Bob Cratchit Fred Jacob Marley The Ghost of Christmas Past
The Ghost of Christmas Present The Ghost of Christmas Future
Belle Mr Fezziwig Martha Cratchit Tiny Tim

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?



1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.





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.





A Christmas Carol

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 Cratchit 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 /-ɪd/. Remember /-ed/ is never an option!

/-t/	/-d/	/-ɪd/
worked	lived	hated
danced	married	
	loved	

Answer key

Irregular - was/were
Irregular – bought
Regular – danced
Irregular - went
Irregular – had
Regular – hated
Regular – lived
Regular – loved
Irregular – married
Regular – worked

Text Answers

- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. was | 11. was |
| 2. loved | 12. danced |
| 3. hated | 13. married |
| 4. worked | 14. bought |
| 5. lived | 15. went |
| 6. was | |
| 7. was | |
| 8. had | |
| 9. had | |
| 10. was | |





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. Don't be _____, Uncle!

Scrooge: Why not! I live in a world of _____ 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 _____. 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

happy – sad
angry – calm
good – bad
generous – mean
quiet – loud
kind – unkind
right – wrong
stupid – sensible
cold – hot
poor – rich

Text Key
quiet
cold
happy
poor
good
kind
angry
stupid
generous
right





A Christmas Carol

Pair Work

9. The Life and Works of Charles Dickens

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

PART A

Charles Dickens was born in Landport, (1) _____, 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 (3) _____.

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 (5) "_____."

Later on, Dickens became a reporter. In December 1833, The Monthly Magazine, published his first work. Dickens's got married to (7) _____, 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 (9) _____ 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 (11) _____. 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,(2) _____. 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 (4) _____ 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 (6) _____. 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 (8) _____ 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 (10) “_____ 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 (12) _____.





A Christmas Carol

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.
10. What/which short story became famous? *A Christmas Carol* became famous.
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! |





11. Text 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. Text 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.
3. False. Fred loves Christmas.
4. True.
5. True.
6. False. Scrooge has never believed in ghosts.
7. True.
8. False. Jacob Marley was a mean man.
9. True.
10. False. Scrooge doesn't tell Bob he has to work on Christmas day.





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 dont 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 tommorrow."

6. "Mr Marley has been dead for seven years."

7. "You don't want to work tommorrow, 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





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

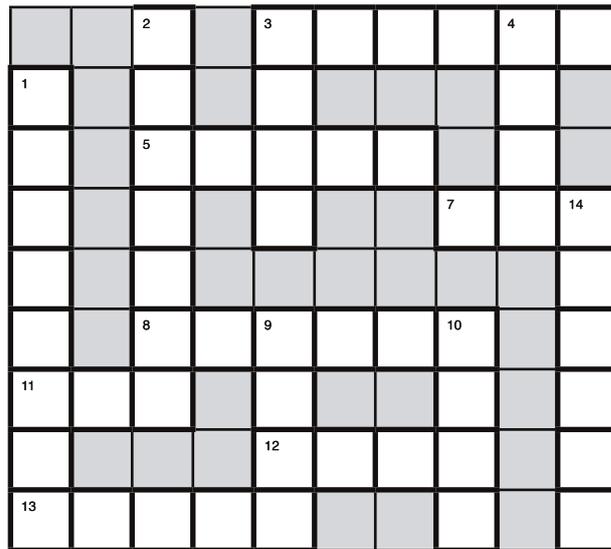
- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1. hear – here | Bob: Sorry, Mr Scrooge, but it's very cold in here . |
| 2. shore – sure | Fred: You are not serious, I'm sure ! |
| 3. paw – poor | Scrooge: The poor people can die, for all I care! |
| 4. waist – waste | Scrooge: Christmas is a waste of time! |
| 5. 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. |





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)





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*Down*

1. Ebenezer
2. England
3. mean
4. earn
5. Past
10. warn
14. dinner

Across

3. Marley
5. grave
7. end
8. nephew
11. zed
12. star
13. roast





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.

POINTS	CHARACTERS	TIMES/PLACES	GENERAL
10	<i>Scrooge</i>	<i>Christmas Eve</i>	<i>Humbug!</i>
25	<i>Jacob Marley</i>	<i>Poor houses</i>	<i>A waste of time</i>
50	<i>Bob Cratchit</i>	<i>Seven years</i>	<i>Three</i>
100	<i>Charity worker</i>	<i>Fred’s house</i>	<i>Chains</i>





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?





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