



## A Christmas Carol



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_.



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### 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.



### 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.



## 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!"

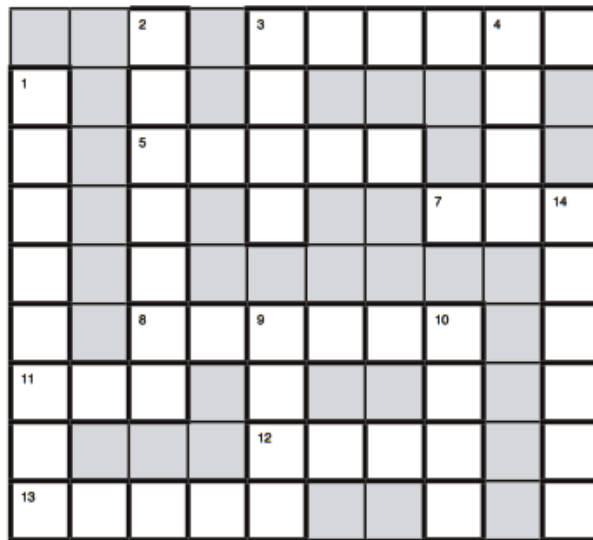
**Bob:** Yes, quite \_\_\_\_\_, Sir, God bless Christmas!



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# 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)



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# 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