

A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens

Level 1

400 Headwords



Retold by
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CHAPTER 1

Seven years ago, Ebenezer Scrooge and Jacob Marley had a business together. Marley was now dead, and so Scrooge had the business, and a young man, Bob Cratchit, worked for him. It was Christmas Eve.

‘Can I have a holiday tomorrow?’ Bob Cratchit asked Scrooge.

‘What? Not work? But you want pay?’ said Scrooge.

Bob didn’t answer.

‘Very well,’ said Scrooge. ‘But you must start work early the next day.’

Bob left, and Scrooge went out into the snow and he pulled the door closed. A young man with a red face came up to Scrooge.

‘Happy Christmas, Uncle!’ he said.

‘What? Fred! Happy Christmas? Why are you so happy? You’re poor!’ said Scrooge.

‘Then why are you so **sad**?’ said Fred. ‘You’re rich, Uncle Scrooge.’

sad (adjective) not happy; upset; sorry



'Can I have a holiday tomorrow?' Bob Cratchit asked Scrooge.

‘Bah!’ said Scrooge.

‘Come for Christmas dinner tomorrow, Uncle Scrooge,’ said Fred.

‘Bah!’ said Scrooge, and he walked to his house in the cold. At his house, he put his key in the door. It was dark and he saw faces from his **past**.

‘Who’s that?’ asked Scrooge. ‘Is that you Marley?’

Scrooge closed his eyes and opened them again. He didn’t want to see the dead Jacob Marley. The faces went. Scrooge went into his house and looked behind the door. No Marley. He closed the door.

Ebenezer Scrooge was a rich man, but he lived in a small, cold, dark house. He was a tall, old man with little hair. In his bedroom, he remembered the face of Jacob Marley. He looked under the table. No Marley. He looked under the bed. No Marley. He was **safe**. Scrooge didn’t like Christmas. He didn’t like **expensive** food or drink. And he didn’t like other people.

bah (exclamation) used to show that you don’t like something

past (noun) the time before the present

safe (adjective) free from harm or danger

expensive (adjective) costing a lot of money



'Come for Christmas dinner tomorrow, Uncle Scrooge,' said Fred.

He sat on his bed and ate some bread. Then he drank some water and pulled a blanket over him. He shut his eyes. He was tired, but then, he heard a noise. The noise was in the kitchen. He heard the noise throughout the house. It got **louder**. It was outside his bedroom door. The door didn't open, but then, the noise was in his bedroom! Scrooge sat up in his bed. His eyes were open, and he saw Jacob Marley's ghost. The **ghost** wore Marley's work clothes, but his face was white.

'Wh-wh-what do you want?' asked Scrooge.

'I died seven years ago,' said the ghost of Jacob Marley. 'But I am still here, between this life and the next. You will be like me.'

'No!' said Scrooge. 'I don't want to walk in the streets and houses when I'm dead.'

'Then listen to me,' said the ghost. 'Three more ghosts will visit you.'

'Oh no!' said Scrooge.

loud (adjective) making a lot of noise

ghost (noun) the spirit of a dead person appearing to people



*Scrooge sat up in his bed. His eyes were open,
and he saw Jacob Marley's ghost.*

QUIZZES

GRAMMAR QUIZZES

Quiz 1

Complete the sentences with *can't* or *mustn't*.

1. I open the lid on this jar. It is too difficult.
2. He open the gate. If the cows escape, the farmer will be angry.
3. She go to the party on Sunday because she has to study for her exam.
4. They leave the house. The police told them to stay inside.
5. My dad ice skate, but he tried hard when we went to the rink.
6. You drink from the glass because it is cracked.
7. I reach the top shelf because I am too short.
8. She run to the station because she is carrying heavy bags.
9. I eat peanuts because I will be very ill.
10. You drive on the road when the red light shows.
11. We swim today because the weather is too cold.
12. I do my homework. I have to ask my sister for help.
13. You leave the baby alone in the room.
14. We see the lighthouse because the fog is so thick.