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Before You Read

Scrooge

My name is Ebenezer Scrooge. I hate to spend money or give money away. I have only one thing to say about Christmas: "Bah, humbug!"

Marley

I am Jacob Marley. I used to be partners with Ebenzer Scrooge. Unfortunately, I died seven years ago. Now, I must wear a chain and walk through the world of the living.

Bob Crachit

I am Bob Crachit. I work for Mr. Scrooge as a clerk. I have a beautiful family and a good life. I work very hard, but sadly I don't make much money.

Fred

My name is Fred. I am Mr. Scrooge's nephew. I am quite different from my uncle. I like to laugh and spend time with my lovely family. I guess I take after my mother.

Christmas Ghost of Past

I am the Ghost of Christmas Past. I show Ebenezer Scrooge his past Christmases. I try to make him see his faults by reminding him of better times.

Christmas Ghost of Present

I am the Ghost of Christmas Present. I show Ebenezer Scrooge scenes from this Christmas, which will hopefully convince him to change his miserly ways.

Christmas Ghost of Future

I am the Ghost of Christmas Future. I must show Ebenezer Scrooge what waits for him in the future if he remains a heartless, mean old man.
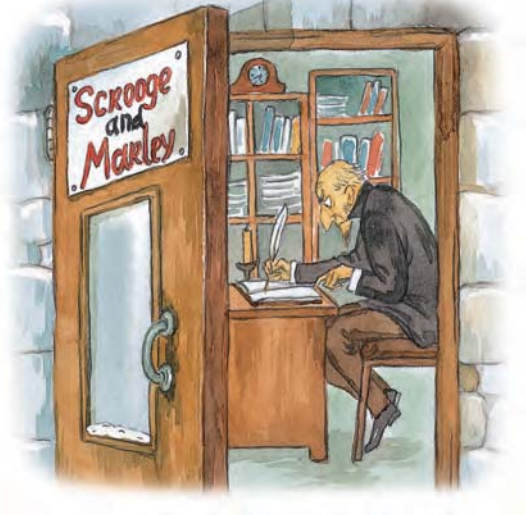
Scrooge

A long, long time ago, Scrooge and Marley had been good business partners.[1] Each had tried to work harder than the other. Each had wanted to be richer than the other.

Even now, seven years after Marley had died, the company was still called[2] 'Scrooge and Marley.' If you went to their office, that is what you would see on the door, 'Scrooge and Marley.' But now the only owner[3] was Scrooge.

1. **business partner** 生意夥伴
2. **be called** 被稱為
3. **owner** [`ounər] (n.) 所有人
4. **mean** [mi:n] (a.)
   小氣的；心地不好的
5. **miserly** [`maɪzərli] (a.)
   吝嗇的；貪婪的
6. **cold** [kould] (a.) 冷酷的
7. **hate (V-ing/to do)**
   [heɪt] (v.) 討厭做……
8. **give away** 贈送；分發
9. **tiny** [`taɪni] (a.)
   極小的；微小的
10. **weak** [wi:k] (a.) 衰弱的
11. **brittle** [`brɪtl] (a.)
    冷淡的；無人味的
12. **charcoal** [`tʃɑ:rkoul] (n.) 木炭

Scrooge was known by everyone to be mean[4], miserly[5], and cold[6]. He hated[7] spending money and he hated giving money away[8] even more. And cold? Scrooge's thin white lips, icy blue nose, and tiny[9] red eyes showed the cold.

His weak[10], brittle[11] voice could make you hear the cold. Feeling the cold was the worst —he kept his office very, very cold, especially at Christmas. He hated to buy charcoal[12] for the fire, so his office was always cold and dark.

> **One Point Lesson**
>
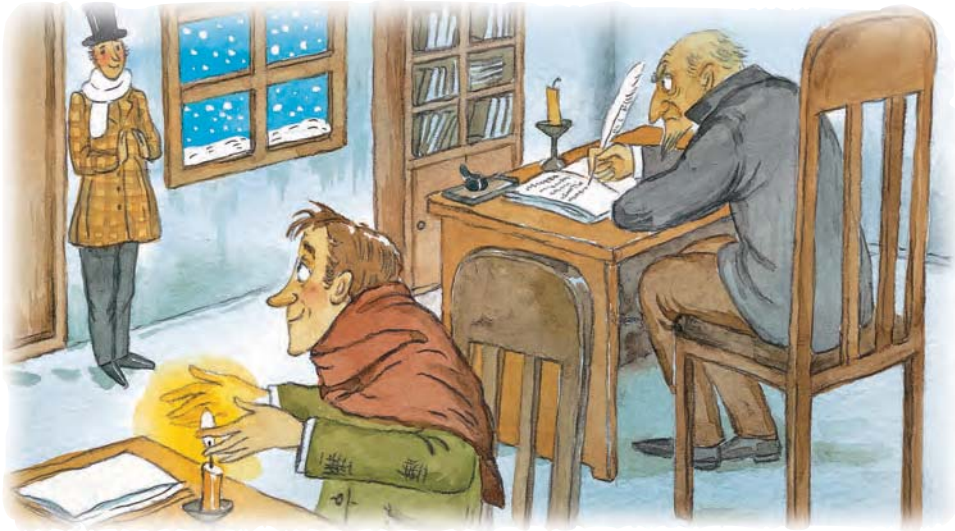> ◊ Each **had tried** to work harder than the other.
> 每個人都試著比別人更努力工作。
>
> ──────────────────────
>
> **had + 過去分詞 (past participle)**：過去完成式，用來說明過去已經發生的事件。
>
> e.g. I **had lived** in Tainan before I moved to Taipei two years ago.
> 兩年前我搬到台北之前，一直住在台南。

🎧 2

Though[1] it was only three o'clock in the afternoon, it was already getting dark because of the heavy[2], wet fog. The only other person in the office was Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's clerk[3]. Bob was sitting next to a tiny fire. He tried warming[4] his hands over the candle he was using for light, but that couldn't help.

1. **though** [ðou] (conj.) 雖然；儘管
2. **heavy** [ˋhevi] (a.) 多的；大量的
3. **clerk** [klɜːk] (n.) 文書職員
4. **warm** [wɔːrm] (v.) 使暖和
5. **merry** [ˋmeri] (a.) 快樂的；歡欣的

"Merry[5] Christmas, Uncle!" a cheerful[6] voice suddenly said. It was Scrooge's young nephew[7], Fred.

"Bah[8], humbug[9]," answered Scrooge. He looked angry about having his work interrupted[10].

"Humbug! Why do you think Christmas is a humbug, Uncle?" Fred looked warm. "Surely[11] you don't mean that[12]. Everyone likes Christmas."

"Yes, I do mean it," said Scrooge. "Merry Christmas, what is there to be merry about? Aren't you poor? You have nothing to be happy about."

"Well, why aren't you happy, Uncle? You are very rich," Fred answered with a smile.

6. **cheerful** [ˋtʃɪrfl] (a.)
   快樂的；興高采烈的
7. **nephew** [ˋnefjuː] (n.)
   姪子；外甥
8. **bah** [bɑː] (int.)
   呸；啐（表示輕蔑或厭惡）
9. **humbug** [ˋhʌmbʌg] (n.)
   胡說八道；騙人的話

10. **interrupt** [ɪntəˋrʌpt] (v.)
    打斷；阻礙
11. **surely** [ˋʃurli] (adv.)
    一定地；當然地
12. **do not mean that**
    沒有那個意思

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Scrooge was getting angry[1]. "There are many fools in the world wishing[2] each other[3] 'Merry Christmas' when they don't even have any money!"

"Uncle, please! It's such a nice time of year."

"Nice? What is nice? I never make any money[4] on Christmas because no one ever works." Scrooge didn't understand Christmas.

"But Christmas isn't about money, Uncle." said Fred. "I love Christmas. It's a time to be happy and generous[5]!"

1. **get angry** 被激怒
2. **wish** [wɪʃ] (v.) 祝福；但願
3. **each other** 彼此；互相
4. **make money** 賺錢
5. **generous** [ˋdʒenərəs] (a.) 慷慨的；心胸寬大的

Bob, in his tiny office, agreed. "You are right, sir. Merry Christmas to you."

"You get back to[6] work," Scrooge ordered[7]. "Or you won't have a job to be merry about."

"Don't be angry, Uncle. I just came to invite[8] you to Christmas dinner." Fred knew his uncle didn't like Christmas, but he felt sorry for Scrooge. Scrooge had no family.

"No, I'm too busy. You have your Christmas, and I'll have mine. Now leave me alone[9]."

6. **get back to** 回到……
7. **order** [ˋɔːrdər] (v.) 命令
8. **invite** [ɪnˋvaɪt] (v.) 邀請
9. **leave alone** 避免打擾

Just then[6] two fat gentlemen wearing[7] expensive clothes came into the office.

"Excuse us, is this 'Scrooge and Marley's office'?"

"Yes, it is," answered Scrooge, again looking angry about an interruption[8].

"May I ask, are you Mr. Scrooge or Mr. Marley?" one of the men asked.

"Mr. Marley is dead. He died on Christmas Eve seven years ago, in 1836."

"Oh, I'm sorry," said the same man. "But we are here, at this blessed[9] time of year, to ask[10] if you would like to give some money to the poor. So many people have nothing to eat."

One Point Lesson

🔹 But we are here, at this blessed time of year, to ask if you would like to give some money to **the poor**.
但是我們在這兒，在這個一年中最神聖的日子，問問您是否願意捐一些錢出來幫助窮人。

「**the + 形容詞**」：指某類的全體成員，若當作主詞，後面需加複數動詞。

e.g. **the poor** 窮人　　　　**the rich** 富人
　　　the living 活著的人　　**the dead** 死去的人

"No, I will give no money to people who are too lazy to[7] work." said Scrooge.

"But sir, some of them could die. Won't you help them?"

"I do help them. They already get too much money from me and my taxes[8]. Besides[9], there are too many people in the world now. A few lazy fools dying is a good thing!"

The two men could tell[10] Scrooge would never give them anything. They gave Bob a sorrowful[11] look.

"Now get back to work and no more interruptions!" Scrooge shouted at his clerk.

8. **for nothing** 徒然
9. **hold** [hould] (v.) 抓住；握住
10. **tightly** [ˋtaɪtli] (adv.) 緊緊地
11. **change one's mind**
    改變主意

12. **once** [wʌns] (conj.)
    只要當……之時

A Circle the words best describe the character of Mr. Scrooge.

miserly   cheerful

lazy   mean

cold   foolish

generous   warm

B Match.

1 Bob   •   • a Scrooge's business partner

2 Fred   •   • b Scrooge's nephew

3 Marley   •   • c Scrooge's clerk

C Match.

1 poorhouse   •   • a a place for children with no families

2 orphanage   •   • b a place for poor people

3 prison   •   • c a place for criminals

D Choose the correct answer.

1 Fred came to Scrooge's office _____.

    (a) to make his uncle angry

    (b) to invite him to Christmas dinner

    (c) to give him charcoal for the fire

2 The gentlemen came to Scrooge's office _____.

    (a) to get a donation

    (b) to ask him to pay taxes

    (c) to wish him a merry Christmas

E True or False.

T F **1** Scrooge and Marley worked together for seven years.

T F **2** Christmas was only a time for Scrooge to be generous.

T F **3** Fred felt sorry for Scrooge because Scrooge had no family.

T F **4** Bob didn't have to work on Christmas.