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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 Ebenezer Scrooge. Unfortunately, I died seven years ago. Now, I must wear a chain and walk through the world of the living.



Bob Cratchit

I am Bob Cratchit. 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.

Chapter One



Scrooge



Along, 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 called² ‘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 owner³ was Scrooge.

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

Scrooge was known by everyone to be mean⁴, miserly⁵, and cold⁶. He hated⁷ spending money and he hated giving money away⁸ even more. And cold? Scrooge's thin white lips, icy blue nose, and tiny⁹ red eyes showed the cold.



His weak¹⁰, brittle¹¹ 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 charcoal¹² 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。

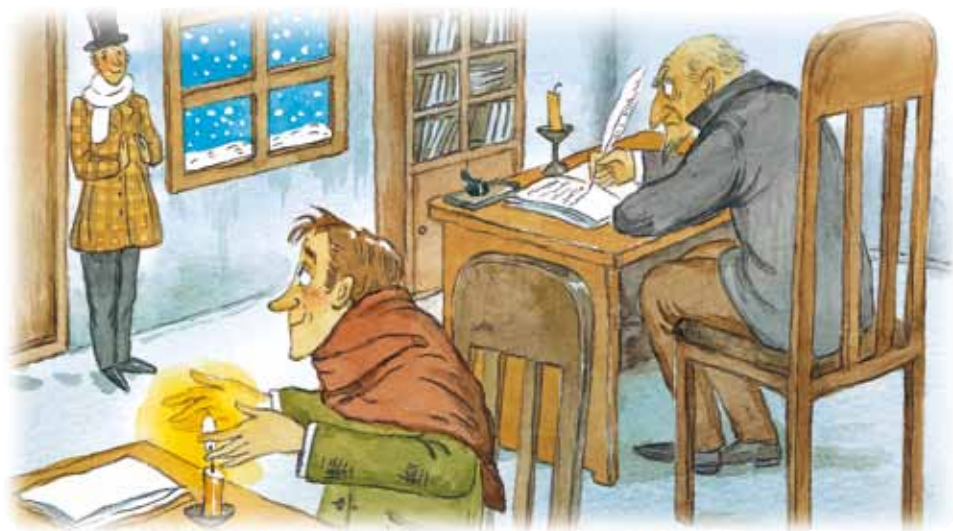
had + 過去分詞 (past participle)：過去完成式，用來說明過去已經發生的事件。

- 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。



Though¹ it was only three o'clock in the afternoon, it was already getting dark because of the heavy², wet fog. The only other person in the office was Bob Cratchit, Scrooge's clerk³. Bob was sitting next to a tiny fire. He tried warming⁴ his hands over the candle he was using for light, but that couldn't help.



1. **though** [ðəʊ] (conj.)

雖然；儘管

2. **heavy** [ˈhevi] (a.)

多的；大量的

3. **clerk** [klɜ:k] (n.) 文書職員

4. **warm** [wɔ:rm] (v.) 使暖和

5. **merry** [ˈmeri] (a.)

快樂的；歡欣的

“Merry⁵ Christmas, Uncle!” a cheerful⁶ voice suddenly said. It was Scrooge’s young nephew⁷, Fred.

“Bah⁸, humbug⁹,” answered Scrooge. He looked angry about having his work interrupted¹⁰.

“Humbug! Why do you think Christmas is a humbug, Uncle?” Fred looked warm. “Surely¹¹ you don’t mean that¹². 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** [ˈtʃɪrfl] (a.)

快樂的；興高采烈的

7. **nephew** [ˈnefju:] (n.)

姪子；外甥

8. **bah** [bɑ:] (int.)

呸；啐（表示輕蔑或厭惡）

9. **humbug** [ˈhʌmbʌg] (n.)

胡說八道；騙人的話

10. **interrupt** [ɪntəˈrʌpt] (v.)

打斷；阻礙

11. **surely** [ˈʃʊrli] (adv.)

一定地；當然地

12. **do not mean that**

沒有那個意思



Scrooge was getting angry¹. “There are many fools in the world wishing² each other³ ‘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 money⁴ 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 generous⁵!”



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** [ˈdʒenərəs] (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 to⁶ work,” Scrooge ordered⁷.
“Or you won’t have a job to be merry about.”

“Don’t be angry, Uncle. I just came to invite⁸ 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 alone⁹.”



6. **get back to** 回到……

7. **order** ['ɔ:də] (v.) 命令

8. **invite** [In`vait] (v.) 邀請

9. **leave alone** 避免打擾



8. **for nothing** 徒然

9. **hold** [hould] (v.) 抓住；握住

10. **tightly** [ˈtaɪtli] (adv.) 緊緊地

11. **change one's mind**

12. **once** [wʌns] (conj.)

只要當……之時

Comprehension Quiz Chapter One

- 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.