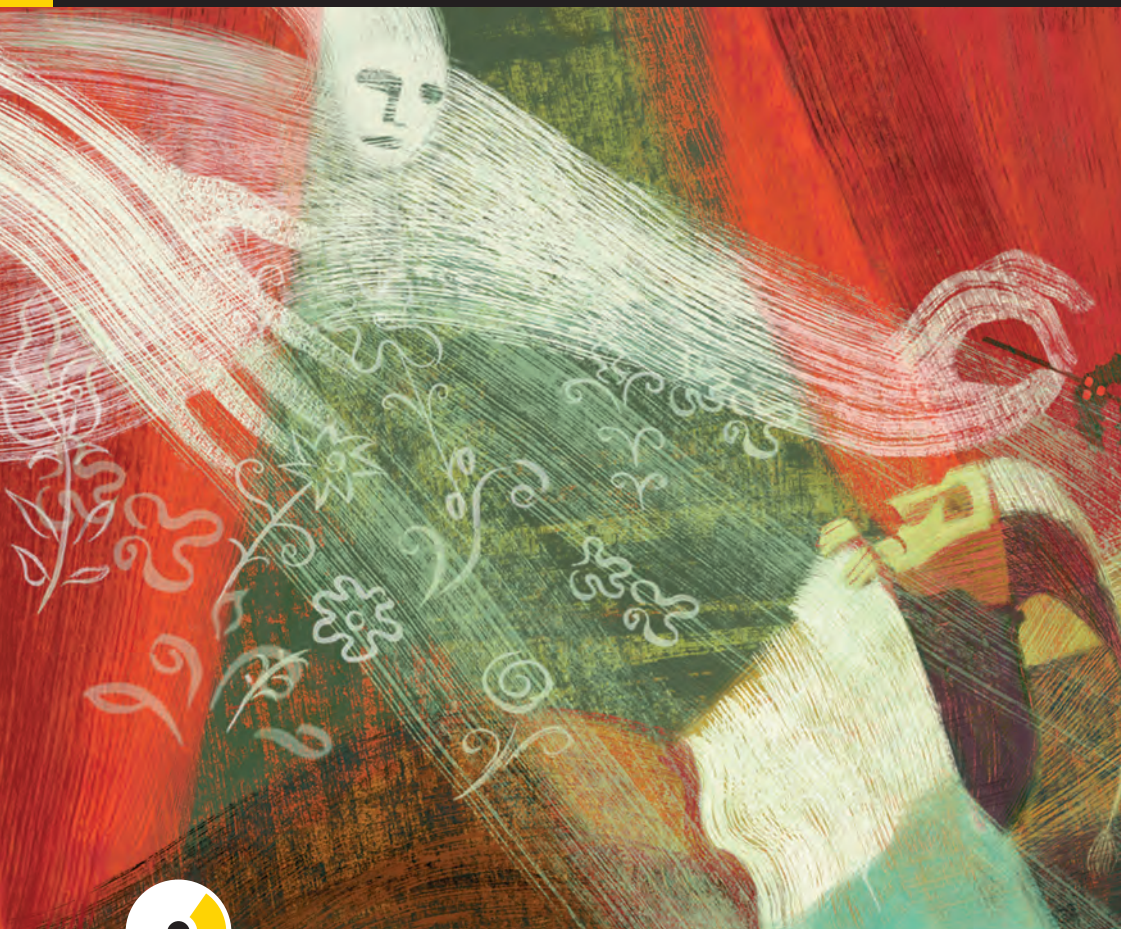


Charles Dickens

# A Christmas Carol



Audio CD



Vicens Vives - A Christmas Carol (Blackcat. Reading & Training)

- ISBN: 9788431677589



Charles Dickens

# A Christmas Carol



Text adaptation, notes and  
activities by **Peter Foreman**

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This story is recorded in full.



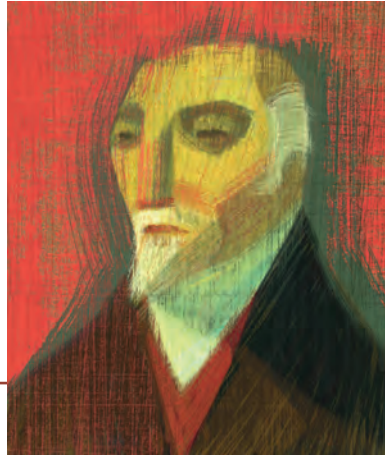
These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities.



*Charles Dickens* (1839) by Daniel Maclise.

## Some information about Charles Dickens

Charles Dickens was born in Portsea in 1812, the son of John and Elizabeth Dickens. His father worked for the Navy Pay Office and for several years Charles enjoyed a happy childhood. These happy times did not last and when he was ten years old his family moved to London. His parents always had money problems and they sent Charles to work in a factory when he was twelve years old. He



# Scrooge



**M**arley was dead. That was certain because there were people at his funeral. Scrooge was there too. He and Marley were business partners, <sup>1</sup> and he was Marley's only friend. But Scrooge looked very happy at the funeral because on that day he made some money. Scrooge was a clever businessman.

Yes, old Marley was certainly dead. But years later his name was still there above the office door. Scrooge and Marley. That was the company's name. Sometimes people called Scrooge 'Scrooge' and sometimes 'Marley'. He always answered. It was all the same to him.

Oh, but he was a mean man, <sup>2</sup> Scrooge! He never spent any money and he never gave any away. He was an old miser. And he was a cold and solitary man. The cold was inside him. You could see it in his red eyes and on his blue nose and thin, white lips. You could hear it

1. **business** ['biznis] **partners** : together, Scrooge and Marley had a company for buying and selling things.
2. **mean man** : man who isn't generous.



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in his hard voice, and it made his office cold, especially at Christmas. Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, ‘My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come and see me?’ Children never spoke to him, and even dogs ran away from him. But Scrooge didn’t care. <sup>1</sup> He liked it. That was what he wanted.

One Christmas Eve Scrooge was sitting in his office. It was only three o’clock in the afternoon but it was already dark. The weather was very cold and there was a lot of fog. It came into the office through the windows and doors. Bob Cratchit, Scrooge’s clerk, <sup>2</sup> was copying letters in a dark little room, and the old man watched him carefully. Bob had a very very small fire in his room. It was even smaller than Scrooge’s, and he tried to warm his hands at the candle but he couldn’t do it.

END

‘A merry <sup>3</sup> Christmas, uncle!’ said a happy voice. And Scrooge’s nephew <sup>4</sup> Fred came in.

‘Bah!’ answered Scrooge. ‘Humbug!’ <sup>5</sup>

His nephew looked warm. His face was red and his eyes were bright.

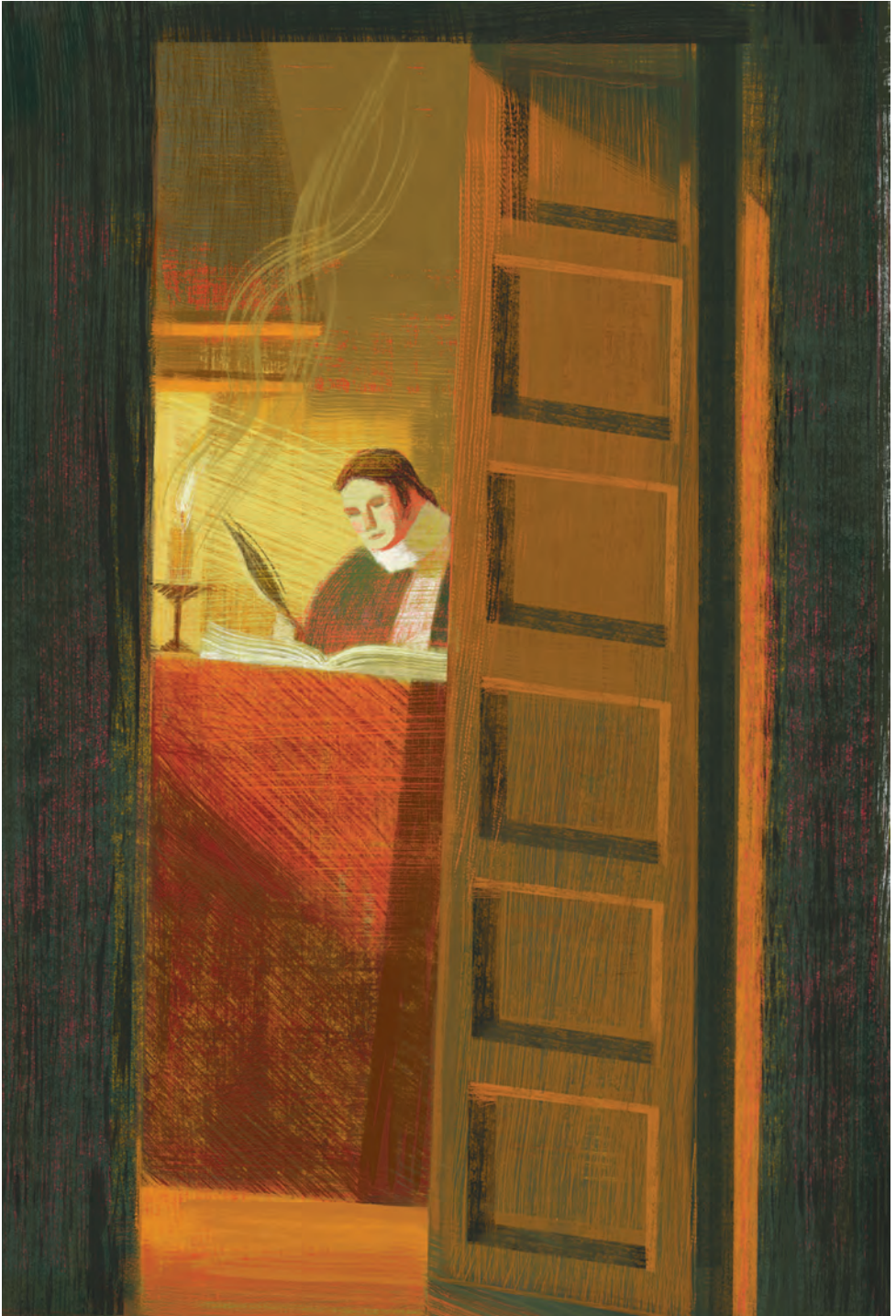
‘Christmas a humbug, uncle?’ he cried, surprised. ‘You don’t mean that, I’m sure.’

‘Yes, I do,’ said Scrooge. ‘Merry Christmas! Why are you merry? You’re a poor man, aren’t you?’

‘Well, why are *you* so unhappy? You’re rich.’

‘Bah! Humbug!’

1. **Scrooge didn’t care** : it wasn’t important to Scrooge.
2. **clerk** [kla:k] : person who works in an office or a bank.
3. **merry** : happy.
4. **nephew** ['nefju:] : (here) the son of Scrooge’s sister.
5. **Humbug!** : (here) Scrooge is saying ‘Don’t talk nonsense!’



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‘Don’t be angry, uncle,’ said Fred.

‘Why not? There are too many fools <sup>1</sup> in this world. You say “Merry Christmas” when you’re a year older and poorer. That’s stupid!’

‘Uncle – please!’

‘Nephew! You have your own Christmas and I’ll have mine. Leave me alone.’

‘But you don’t celebrate Christmas, uncle.’

‘Because I never make any money at Christmas. I don’t like it. Leave me alone.’

‘But Christmas is a good time,’ said the nephew. ‘It’s the only time in the year when people open their hearts and help each other. They become kind and generous. I like Christmas and I say God bless it!’ <sup>2</sup>

The clerk in his little room clapped his hands <sup>3</sup> happily and said, ‘Yes, that’s right!’

‘Another word from *you* and you’ll lose your job,’ Scrooge said to him.

‘Don’t be angry, uncle. Come and eat with us tomorrow,’ said his nephew.

‘No! Go away! I’m busy.’ <sup>4</sup>

‘But why won’t you come?’

‘Why did you get married?’ Scrooge asked.

‘Because I fell in love.’

‘Because you fell in love! Bah! That’s more stupid than a merry Christmas. Good afternoon.’

‘But why don’t you ever come to see me, uncle?’

1. **fools** : stupid people.

2. **God bless it!** : ‘Thank God for Christmas!’

3. **clapped his hands** :



4. **busy** [bizi] : occupied.

## Understanding the text

**1** Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones, like the example.

- |   | T                        | F                                   |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. Scrooge didn't go to Marley's funeral.                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Scrooge and Marley worked together years ago.                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c. Scrooge always spent a lot of money.                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d. People liked Scrooge.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| e. Bob Cratchit and Fred were rich.                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| f. Fred liked Christmas.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| g. Scrooge never visited his nephew.                              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| h. The two fat gentlemen were collecting money for the poor.      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| i. Scrooge gave them some money.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| j. Marley died on December 25th.                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| k. Scrooge didn't give any money to the carol singer.             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| l. Bob Cratchit was happy because the next day was Christmas Day. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

a. *Scrooge went to Marley's funeral.*.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

## Past Continuous

*One Christmas Eve Scrooge was sitting in his office.*

The verb **was sitting** is in the Past Continuous (Past Simple of **to be** + present participle) and describes the continuation of an action in the past. Look at these examples.

*Early that morning the birds **were singing** in the garden.*

*Our cat **was watching** them. (description)*

*Scrooge **was working** in his office when his nephew Fred came in. (the continuing action started before the simple past action and was interrupted by it.)*

### 2 Read the text and underline the appropriate words in italics.

It was Christmas Eve. Scrooge <sup>1</sup> *was sitting/sat* in his office. The cold and fog <sup>2</sup> *came/was coming* in through the door and windows. A small fire <sup>3</sup> *burnt/was burning* in the fireplace. Bob Cratchit <sup>4</sup> *was copying/copied* letters in his dark room when suddenly his very small fire <sup>5</sup> *was going/went* out. He <sup>6</sup> *tried/was trying* to warm his cold hands at the candle, but he couldn't. Scrooge <sup>7</sup> *watched/was watching* him carefully when the door <sup>8</sup> *was opening/opened* and Scrooge's nephew Fred <sup>9</sup> *came/was coming* in.