

One _____ (holiday) Eve, old Scrooge was working _____ (adverb ending in -ly) in his office. It was cold, frosty, foggy weather. Outside it was already _____ (adjective), although it was only three o'clock in the afternoon, and there were _____ (plural noun) in all the office windows. The _____ (noun) covered everything, like a thick, grey blanket.

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'_____ (exclamation), uncle! God bless you!' cried a happy voice. Scrooge's nephew had arrived.

'Bah!' said Scrooge crossly. 'Humbug!'

'Christmas is humbug! Surely you don't mean that, uncle?' said his _____ (family member).

'I do,' said Scrooge. 'Why do you call it "merry" Christmas? You're too _____ (adjective) to be merry.'

'Well,' replied the nephew, smiling, 'why are you so cross? You're too _____ (adjective) to be unhappy.'

'Of course I'm cross,' answered the uncle, 'when I _____ (verb) in a world full of stupid people like you! You say "Merry Christmas"! But what is Christmas? Just a time when you spend too much, when you find yourself a year _____ (comparative adjective) and not an hour richer, when you have to _____ (verb) your bills. Everyone who goes around saying "Merry Christmas" should have his _____ (body part) cut out. Yes, he should!'

