

- 1 Read the story about Ebenezer Scrooge by Charles Dickens and choose the correct option.

It was a cold Christmas Eve. Ebenezer Scrooge, a mean greedy old man, was sitting in his counting house. He was a real miser: it was freezing cold inside, but he refused to spend money on heating coals for a fire. Later in the evening, Scrooge's nephew came to invite him to his Christmas party. Then two gentlemen dropped by (зашли / увайшли) and asked Scrooge to donate some money to their charity. Ebenezer wasn't happy to see the visitors and didn't want to give any money.

After a short walk around the festive town, Ebenezer Scrooge returned to his dark cold apartment. That evening the ghost of his dead partner, Jacob Marley, visited him and told him his story. Marley had been punished for his greedy and self-serving life by having to walk the earth in heavy chains (цепи / ланцюги). Marley wanted to warn Scrooge and save him from the same fate (судьба / лёс). He told Scrooge that three spirits would visit him during each of the next three nights.

The first ghost was a strange childlike creature with a brightly glowing head. It was the Ghost of Christmas Past. The spirit took Scrooge back into his childhood and youth where he was able to meet his love, Belle, who had left him because he loved money more than anything. Ebenezer Scrooge was deeply moved and started crying.

The second ghost was the Ghost of Christmas Present. It was a giant dressed in a green fur coat, who took Scrooge around London and showed him how differently people were celebrating Christmas. He saw a crippled young boy (калека / калека) whose kindness moved Scrooge to tears. The Ghost also took him to his nephew's Christmas party, which Ebenezer found so wonderful that he wanted to stay till the end. At the end of the evening the Ghost showed Scrooge two starving children, Ignorance and Want. The Ghost quickly disappeared as a dark hooded figure approached Scrooge.

That was the last ghost — the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come. He showed Scrooge several mysterious things related to the death of a stranger. Scrooge saw how some businessmen were discussing the dead man's fortune and wealth. He also saw a poor couple happy to hear the news about their unforgiving creditor. Scrooge asked the Ghost to tell him the name of the stranger. Suddenly he found himself near a grave. When he looked at the headstone, he was shocked to read his name. He begged the Spirit to change his fate and promised to be generous and kind to people. After that he woke up in his bed.

Full of joy by that chance to be alive, Ebenezer Scrooge rushed into the street to share his happiness. He sent a giant turkey to the crippled boy's family and went to his nephew's party. As the years went by, he kept his promise and always helped the poor, donated money to charity and related other people with kindness, generosity and respect.

1. Ebenezer Scrooge was ____
 - a) a generous young man.
 - b) a greedy old man.
 - c) an old man who needed help.
2. Two gentlemen came to Scrooge ____
 - a) to invite him to a Christmas party.
 - b) to ask for money.
 - c) to bring him some heating coals for a fire.
3. Ebenezer Scrooge saw the ghost ____
 - a) of his nephew.
 - b) of himself.
 - c) of his business partner.
4. The first ghost ____
 - a) showed Scrooge his childhood and youth.
 - b) showed Scrooge his future.
 - c) showed Scrooge how to raise money for charity.
5. The second ghost ____
 - a) showed him his love.
 - b) helped two starving children.
 - c) showed him different scenes of Christmas celebrations.

6. Scrooge asked the third ghost ____
- a) to give him some fortune and wealth of the dead man.
 - b) to tell him the name of the dead man.
 - c) to show him his fate.
7. At the end of the story Scrooge ____
- a) changed into a kind and generous person.
 - b) remained miser.
 - c) became a Christmas ghost.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2 Read the story again and mark the sentences true (T) or false (F).

1. Ebenezer Scrooge gave a lot of money to charity when two gentlemen came. ____
2. Jacob Marley had to wear heavy chains because he thought only about himself and never spent money on other people. ____
3. When Scrooge saw his childhood he experienced deep emotions. ____
4. Scrooge didn't like his nephew's Christmas party. ____
5. The poor couple didn't have to worry about their debt any more. ____
6. Ebenezer Scrooge found himself near his own grave. ____
7. Scrooge did some things he had never done before the visit of the three ghosts. ____

1 a) Match the two parts of the expressions.

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|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. cost | A. down the drain |
| 2. make | B. debt |
| 3. pour the money | C. of money |
| 4. tighten | D. a fortune |
| 5. be short | E. on your expenses |
| 6. cut down | F. for bargains |
| 7. get into | G. your belt |
| 8. look | H. ends meet |

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 a) Match the two parts of the proverbs.

1. Time is
2. Money is the root
3. Money makes
4. The best things in life are
5. Look after the pennies and
6. A fool and his money are
7. Money doesn't grow
8. Money can't buy

- A. of all evil.
- B. on trees.
- C. free.
- D. you happiness.
- E. money.
- F. the world go round.
- G. soon parted.
- H. the pounds will look after themselves.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS