

## Before Reading - [A Christmas Carol](#) by Charles Dickens



adapted by [Kieran McGovern](#)

**This is Ebenezer Scrooge. Choose three words to describe him:**

*cold \* mean \* happy \* young \* kind \* soft \* hard*

---

**Do you think these sentences are true or false?**

- A. *A Christmas Carol* is set in London in the 1840s.
  - B. Scrooge is a nice young man.
  - C. The weather is cold.
  - D. Scrooge is going to a Christmas party.
- 

**Read and/or [listen](#) to the first part of the story:**

Old Marley was dead. There was **no doubt** about that. Did Scrooge know he was dead? Of course he did. Scrooge and he were partners for many years.

Scrooge was Marley's only friend. Scrooge never painted out Old Marley's name. There it stood, years after, above the door: Scrooge and Marley. Sometimes people new to the business called him Scrooge. Sometimes they called him Marley. Scrooge answered to both names. It was all the same to him.

Oh! But he was a **tight-fisted!** The cold within him **froze** his old features. He carried his own low temperature always about with him and didn't **thaw** it one degree at Christmas.

Nobody ever stopped him in the street to say, "My dear Scrooge, how are you? When will you come to see me?" But what did Scrooge care?

---

**Quick Check**

1. Who was Joseph Marley?
2. Whose names are on the sign?
3. What did Scrooge not care about?

**Vocabulary: Match the word or phrase in bold with the meaning below**

- |                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| a) when ice turns to liquid | c) certain      |
| b) turned to ice            | d) not generous |

[esolepacks.com](http://esolepacks.com)