

## *A Christmas Carol Grammar*

### **Identifying Subjects and Verbs**

Identify the simple subject and simple predicate of the following sentences:

1. Nobody ever stopped him in the street.
2. This lunatic, in letting Scrooge's nephew out, had let two other people in.
3. The sound resounded through the house like thunder.
4. Every room above, and every cask in the wine-merchant's cellars below, appeared to have a separate peal of echoes of its own.
5. Suddenly a man, in foreign garments: wonderfully real and distinct to look at, stood outside the window, with an axe stuck in his belt, and leading an ass laden with wood by the bridle.
6. He rubbed his hands; adjusted his capacious waistcoat; laughed all over himself, from his shows to his organ of benevolence; and called out in a comfortable, oily, rich, fat, jovial voice:
7. During the whole of this time, Scrooge had acted like a man out of his wits.
8. There were great, round, pot-bellied baskets of chestnuts.
9. Then up rose Mrs. Cratchit, Cratchit's wife.
10. Its tenderness and flavor, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration.
11. And every man on board, waking or sleeping, good or bad, had had a kinder word for another on that day than on any day in the year; and had shared to some extent in its festivities.
12. Quiet and dark, beside him stood the Phantom, with its outstretched hand.
13. The old man raked the fire together with an old stair-rod, and having trimmed his smoky lamp with the stem of his pipe, put it in his mouth again.
14. Scrooge crept towards it, trembling as he went; and following the finger, read upon the stone of the neglected grave his own name, Ebenezer Scrooge.
15. "I don't know what to do!"
16. The Spirits have done it all in one night.
17. Make up the fires, and buy another coal-scuttle.
18. He had no further intercourse with Spirits, but lived upon the Total Abstinence Principle, ever afterwards.

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### **Identifying Prepositional Phrases**

Circle the prepositional phrases in the following paragraphs.

1. A light shone from the window of a hut, and swiftly they advanced towards it. Passing through the wall of mud and stone, they found a cheerful company assembled round a glowing fire. An old, old man and woman, with their children and their children's children, and another generation beyond that, all decked out gaily in their holiday attire. The old man, in a voice that seldom rose above the howling of the wind upon the barren waste, was singing them a Christmas song: it had been a very old song when he was a boy; and from time to time they all joined in the chorus. So surely as they raised their voices, the old man got quite blithe and loud; and so surely as they stopped, his vigor sank again.

2. But even here, two men who watched the light had made a fire, that through the loophole in the thick stone wall shed out a ray of brightness on the awful sea. Joining their horny hands over the rough table at which they sat, they wished each other Merry Christmas in their can of grog; and one of them: the elder, too, with his face all damaged and scarred with hard weather, as the figure-head of an old ship might be: struck up a sturdy song that was like a Gale in itself.