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"Merry Christmas!"

dark, cold apartment,

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heavy chains.

the Ghost of Christmas Past,

lust for money

sheds tears of regret

The Ghost of Christmas Present,

a miniature feast

Ignorance and Want,

dark, hooded figure

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come

to learn the lesson

implores the spirit to alter his fate,

honors Christmas with all his heart:

kindness, generosity, and warmth.

Safely tucked in his bed

Drop by

Sharing the same fate

A mean-spirited, **miserly old man** named Ebenezer Scrooge sits in his counting-house on a frigid Christmas Eve. His clerk, Bob Cratchit, shivers in the anteroom because Scrooge refuses to spend money on **heating coals** for a fire. Scrooge's nephew, Fred, **pays his uncle a visit** and invites him to his annual Christmas party. Two portly gentlemen also **drop by** and ask Scrooge for a contribution to their charity. Scrooge reacts to the holiday visitors with **bitterness and venom**, spitting out an angry "Bah! Humbug!" in response to his nephew's "**Merry Christmas!**"

Later that evening, after returning to his **dark, cold apartment**, Scrooge receives a **chilling visitation** from the ghost of his dead partner, Jacob Marley. Marley, looking **haggard and pallid**, relates his unfortunate story. As punishment for his greedy and self-serving life his spirit has been condemned **to wander the Earth** weighted down with **heavy chains**. Marley hopes to save Scrooge from **sharing the same fate**. Marley informs Scrooge that three spirits will visit him during each of the next three nights. After the wraith disappears, Scrooge collapses into a deep sleep.

He wakes moments before the arrival of the **Ghost of Christmas Past**, a strange childlike phantom with a brightly glowing head. The spirit escorts Scrooge on a journey into the past to previous Christmases from the curmudgeon's earlier years. Invisible to those he watches, Scrooge revisits his childhood school days, his apprenticeship with a jolly merchant named Fezziwig, and his engagement to Belle, a woman who leaves Scrooge because his **lust for money** eclipses his ability to love another. Scrooge, deeply moved, **sheds tears of regret** before the phantom returns him to his bed.

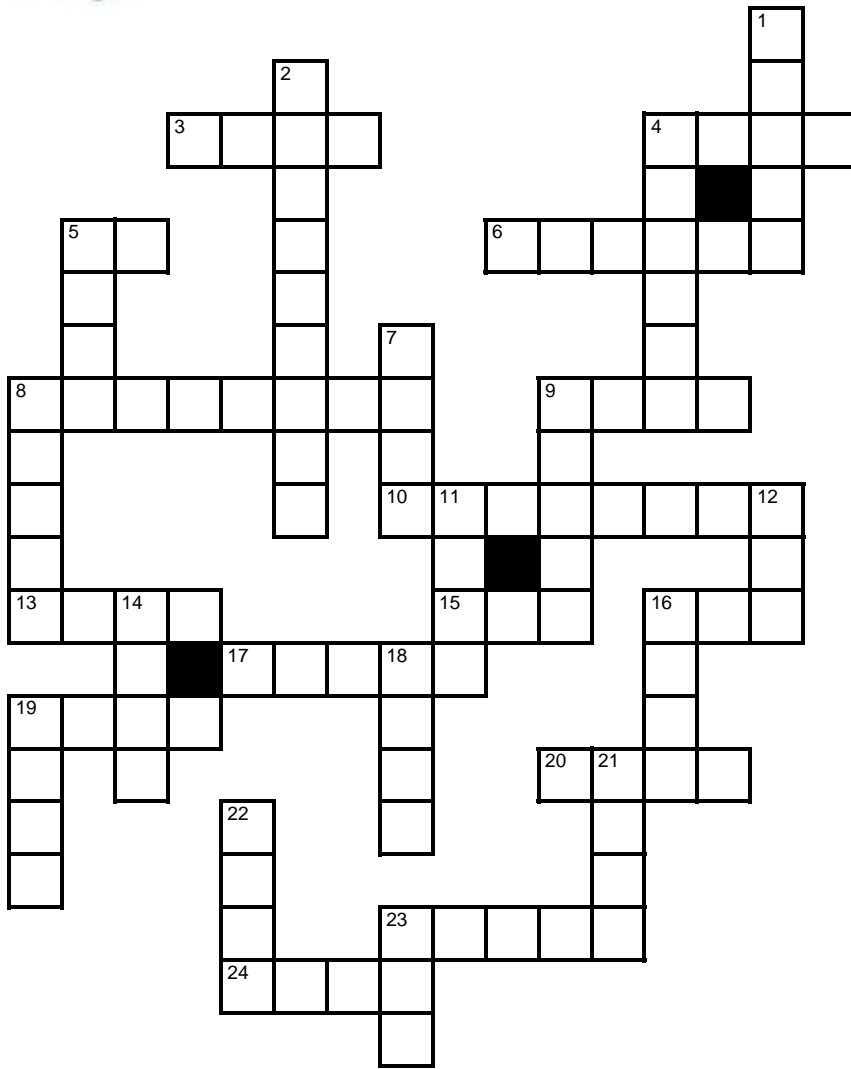
The Ghost of Christmas Present, a majestic giant clad in a green fur robe, takes Scrooge through London to unveil Christmas as it will happen that year. Scrooge watches the large, bustling Cratchit family prepare **a miniature feast** in its meager home. He discovers Bob Cratchit's crippled son, Tiny Tim, a courageous boy whose kindness and humility warms Scrooge's heart. The specter then zips Scrooge to his nephew's to witness the Christmas party. Scrooge finds the jovial gathering delightful and pleads with the spirit to stay until the very end of the festivities. As the day passes, the spirit ages, becoming noticeably older. Toward the end of the day, he shows Scrooge two starved children, **Ignorance and Want**, living under his coat. He vanishes instantly as Scrooge notices a **dark, hooded figure** coming toward him.

The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come leads Scrooge through a sequence of mysterious scenes relating to an unnamed man's recent death. Scrooge sees businessmen discussing the dead man's riches, some vagabonds trading his personal effects for cash, and a poor couple expressing relief at the death of their unforgiving creditor. Scrooge, anxious **to learn the lesson** of his latest visitor, begs to know the name of the dead man. After pleading with the ghost, Scrooge finds himself in a churchyard, the spirit pointing to a grave. Scrooge looks at the headstone and is shocked to read his own name. He desperately **implores the spirit to alter his fate**, promising to renounce his insensitive, avaricious ways and to honor Christmas with all his heart. Whoosh! He suddenly finds himself **safely tucked in his bed**.

Overwhelmed with joy by the chance to redeem himself and grateful that he has been returned to Christmas Day, Scrooge rushes out onto the street hoping to share his newfound Christmas spirit. He sends a giant Christmas turkey to the Cratchit house and attends Fred's party, to the stifled surprise of the other guests. As the years go by, he holds true to his promise and **honors Christmas with all his heart**: he treats Tiny Tim as if he were his own child, provides lavish gifts for the poor, and treats his fellow human beings with **kindness, generosity, and warmth**.



Christmas Collocation Crossword



Across

- 3 People _____ presents on Christmas morning.
- 4 People _____ friends and relatives on the phone.
- 5 People _____ skiing, skating, and snowboarding.
- 6 Frost _____ the window.
- 8 People _____ Christmas trees.
- 9 We _____ you a merry Christmas.
- 10 Santa _____ presents on Christmas Eve.
- 13 People _____ under the mistletoe.
- 15 People _____ ribbons around presents.
- 16 People _____ the presents under the tree.
- 17 Santa _____ a red suit.
- 19 Children _____ stockings by the fire.
- 20 Children _____ snowmen.
- 23 Santa _____ the stockings with chocolates and toys.
- 24 Reindeer _____ Santa's sleigh.

Down

- 1 Snow _____ from the sky.
- 2 People _____ Christmas on December 25th.
- 4 Santa _____ his list.
- 5 People _____ presents to each other.
- 7 People _____ cards in the mail.
- 8 People _____ eggnog and hot chocolate.
- 9 Children _____ letters to Santa.
- 11 Santa _____ cookies on Christmas Eve.
- 12 Children _____ on Santa's lap.
- 14 People _____ carols.
- 16 You shouldn't _____ at your present before Christmas morning.
- 18 Bells _____.
- 19 Children _____ snowball fights.
- 21 Santa _____ children what they want for Christmas.
- 22 People _____ the present before you give it to someone.
- 23 Reindeer _____ in the sky.





A Letter to Santa

Dear Santa Claus,

Christmas is coming and I am looking forward to your visit. This year, I would like many things for Christmas:

First of all, _____

As well, _____

Finally, _____

I have been a good _____ this year, so I think I deserve these presents. Three good things I have done are:

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

When you come down the chimney, please look in the kitchen. I am going to leave _____ and _____ on the table for you to have. Thank you Santa, I am very excited.



Signed _____

1. your favorite toy when you were kid
2. your favorite book, movie or music group
3. your favorite candy
4. three adjectives to describe yourself + write boy/girl
5. three funniest things you said or did when you were little
6. your favorite food and drink
7. your nickname