

Charles Dickens



Lots of our impressions of Victorian England come from the stories that Charles Dickens wrote during that period. It wasn't just his ideas of that period that have lasted, either. Every year, people in Great Britain send Christmas cards showing snowy scenes and hope for a white Christmas. Charles Dickens is more responsible than anyone else for the idea of thick snow at Christmas in England, and yet it rarely happens.

However, we perhaps can't blame him entirely. He grew up during a period known as the Little Ice Age, where Britain was colder than it had been since the 15th century. Even the River Thames froze over during the winter of 1814; it was that cold. In fact, Dickens has been credited with saving Christmas. Not many people celebrated Christmas at that time. Work was hard, and people were moving into bustling cities. He published *A Christmas Carol* in 1843, and people suddenly had a reason to remember how much fun Christmas could be.

Many of his other stories show us the darker side of Victorian England. This included poverty, child labour and unsafe living conditions.



FOCUS ON - WORD

1 Circle the correct verb in the sentences below.

Dickens **has / had** grown up during a period known as the Little Ice Age.

People **sended / sent** Christmas cards showing snowy scenes.

Charles Dickens **was / were** the author who **writted / wrote** stories such as A Christmas Carol.

2 Fill in the missing adjectives.

adjective	comparative adjective	superlative adjective
cold	colder	
thick		
hard		hardest

CHALLENGE

3 Replace the suffix in the word darker with a different suffix.

Write the new word in the box.

darker	→	
--------	---	--

ate

en

ise

ify

FOCUS ON - SENTENCE

1 Underline the prepositional phrase.

People were moving into bustling cities.

2 What is the grammatical term for the underlined words?
Tick **one**.

People send many Christmas cards with snowy scenes, hoping for a white Christmas.

- prepositional phrase
- expanded noun phrase
- main clause
- subordinate clause

3 Rewrite the sentence below with the adverb at the start.
Remember to punctuate your answer correctly.

People suddenly had a reason to remember how much fun Christmas could be.

CHALLENGE

4 Change the underlined adverb for another adverb with similar meaning.

However, we perhaps can't blame him entirely.

clearly

definitely

certainly

probably

FOCUS ON - TEXT

1 Match the underlined verb form to its verb tense.
Use each box only **once**.

In fact, Dickens <u>has been credited</u> with saving Christmas.
In fact, Dickens <u>saved</u> Christmas.
In fact, Dickens <u>saves</u> Christmas.

past
present
present perfect

2 Which sentence below is written in the past progressive tense?
Tick **one**.

- People was not celebrating Christmas that much.
- People were not celebrating Christmas that much.
- People is not celebrating Christmas that much.
- People are not celebrating Christmas that much.

3 Identify the different pronouns.
Tick **one** box in each row.

pronoun	1st person	3rd person
his		
we		
us		

FOCUS ON - PUNCTUATION

1 Change the contracted form into the uncontracted form.

wasn't	→	
can't	→	
won't	→	

2 Write a question using **ONLY** the words in the answer below.
Remember to punctuate your question correctly.

QUESTION: _____

ANSWER: People do hope for a white Christmas.

3 Tick the box that shows where a comma is needed.

In Victorian ↓ England ↓ life was hard and ↓ not many people ↓ celebrated Christmas.

4 Insert the missing commas.

Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol Oliver Twist Nicholas Nickleby and David Copperfield.

Answers - Charles Dickens

WORD

1. Dickens **had** grown up during a period known as the Little Ice Age.
People **sent** Christmas cards showing snowy scenes.
Charles Dickens **was** the author who **wrote** stories such as A Christmas Carol.
2. cold – colder – coldest
thick – thicker – thickest
hard – harder – hardest

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

darken

SENTENCE

1. People were moving into bustling cities.
2. 2nd option – expanded noun phrase
3. Suddenly, people had a reason to remember how much fun Christmas could be.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

However, we probably can't blame him entirely.

TEXT

1. present perfect – In fact, Dickens has been credited with saving Christmas.
past – In fact, Dickens saved Christmas.
present – In fact, Dickens saves Christmas.
2. 2nd option – People were not celebrating Christmas that much.
3. his = 3rd person pronoun
we = 1st person pronoun
us = 1st person pronoun

PUNCTUATION

1. wasn't = was not
can't = cannot
won't = would not
2. Do people hope for a white Christmas?
3. In Victorian England, life was hard and not many people celebrated Christmas.
4. Charles Dickens wrote A Christmas Carol, Oliver Twist, Nicholas Nickleby and David Copperfield.