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

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.

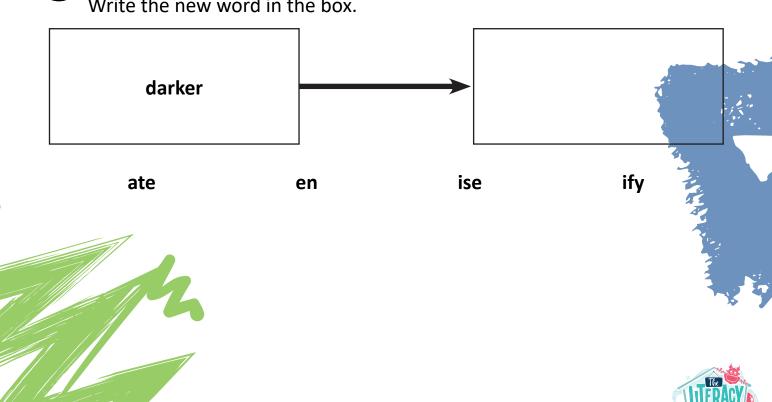
7 Fill in the missing adjectives.

adjective	comparative adjective	superlative adjective
cold	colder	
thick		
hard		hardest

CHALLENGE

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

Write the new word in the box.



FOCUS ON - SENTENCE

1 Underline the prepositional phrase.

People were moving into bustling cities.

What is the grammatical term for the underlined words?

Tick one.

People send <u>many Christmas cards with snowy scenes</u>, hoping for a white Christmas.

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

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

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 saves Christmas.

past	
present	
present perfect	

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

$\overline{}$		
$\langle \ \ \rangle$	People was not celebrating Christmas that	much
` '	reoble was not deteblating chilistinas that	much

$\overline{}$				
)	Doonlo word	not celebrating	Christmas th	at much
	reopie weie	HOL CEIEDI ALIH	Cili istilias ti	iat illucii.

- People is not celebrating Christmas that much.
- People are not celebrating Christmas that much.
- **1** Identify the different pronouns.

Tick **one** box in each row.

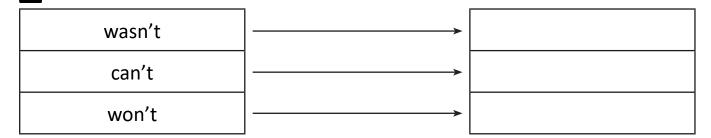
pronoun	1st person	3rd person	
his			
we		3	
us		7	,





FOCUS ON - PUNCTUATION

1 Change the contracted form into the uncontracted form.



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.

Tick the box that shows where a comma is needed.

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

1 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

- 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.