

Sentence Beginning Excerpts

Excerpts for Sentence Beginning Activity	
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Adjective	External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge.
	Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster.
Dependent Clause	As the words were spoken, they passed through the wall, and stood upon an open country road, with fields on either hand.
	As he threw his head back in the chair, his glance happened to rest upon a bell . . .
	"If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, none other of my race . . . will find him here"
	Though he looked the phantom through and through, and saw it standing before him . . . he was still incredulous, and fought against his senses.
	Although they had but that moment left the school behind them, they were now in the busy thoroughfares of a city . . .
	"Since you ask me what I wish, gentlemen, that is my answer. . . ."
	When Scrooge awoke, it was so dark, that looking out of bed, he could scarcely distinguish the transparent window from the opaque walls of his chamber.
	When it had said these words, the spectre took its wrapper from the table, and bound it round its head, as before.
Prepositional Phrase	In the main street, at the corner of the court, some labourers were repairing the gas-pipes, and had lighted a great fire in a brazier . . .
	After several turns, he sat down again.
	During the whole of this time, Scrooge had acted like a man out of his wits.
	To his great astonishment the heavy bell went on from six to seven, and from seven to eight . . .
	At the ominous word liberality, Scrooge frowned, and shook his head, and handed the credentials back.

Subject (noun)	The clerk in the Tank involuntarily applauded.
	The apparition walked backward from him; and at every step it took, the window raised itself a little . . .
	The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shriveled his cheek, stiffened his gait . . .
	Admiration was the universal sentiment, though some objected that the reply to “Is it a bear?” ought to have been “Yes;” . . .
	Holly, mistletoe, red berries, ivy, turkeys, geese, game, poultry, . . . and punch, all vanished instantly.
Subject (proper noun)	Scrooge never painted out Old Marley’s name.
	Scrooge had a very small fire, but the clerk’s fire was so very much smaller that it looked like one coal.
	Marley’s Ghost bothered him exceedingly.
	Master Peter Cratchit plunged a fork into the saucepan of potatoes . . .
Subject (pronoun)	It was the very thing he liked.
	He lived in chambers which had once belonged to his deceased partner.
	“. . . We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices. . . .”
	They went, the Ghost and Scrooge, across the hall, to a door at the back of the house.
	“. . . I don’t make merry myself at Christmas and I can’t afford to make idle people merry. . . .”
Adverb	Suddenly a man, in foreign garments . . . stood outside the window, with an axe stuck in his belt . . .
	“‘Heartily sorry,’ he said, ‘for your good wife.’”
	Reverently Scrooge disclaimed all intention to offend or any knowledge of having willfully “bonneted” the Spirit at any period of his life.
	Mildly the Spirit gazed upon him.
	. . . [C]onsequently, when the Bell struck One, and no shape appeared, he was taken with a violent fit of trembling.

Source: Adapted from Dickens, C. (1843). A Christmas carol in prose: Being a ghost story of Christmas. Accessed at www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/46?msg=welcome_stranger on May 8, 2017.