

# Festive Activities

**Segment: Intermediate and above.**

## Gapped Text

This activity raises student awareness about word forms, revises grammatical terminology, and helps students think about text cohesion, sentence structure and collocations.

### Instructions:

1. Review the grammatical terms listed in the gapped text.
2. Put students into pairs, if you're running this session online you could set up separate breakout rooms to pair students together. Give student A the gapped text. Student A should look at the grammar terms next to the gaps in the text and ask student B for a word. For example, if the gap needs an adjective, student B should say an adjective.
3. Once the gaps have been filled with the correct part of speech, the students read the text. Of course, it will sound very silly because student B won't have seen the text to know what word would make sense!
4. Give the students another copy of the gapped text and ask them to think about what words might have been in the original text.
5. Ask students say what clues they used to fill in the blanks. For example, in the level 1 text, they may have guessed that the place was England because the letter was from the Oxford Orchestra. In the level 3 text, students will have used the collocation clue 'Eve' and the phrase 'merry Christmas' to guess the holiday.
6. Hand out the original text so that students can compare.
7. There are a number of ways to follow up. You could ask the students to write the next paragraph, bring them back together to read their version out to the class. or promote an active discussion about what they've read.



# Gapped Text 1

## Bookworms level 1.

Original Text.

Source: *Christmas in Prague* by Joyce Hannam.

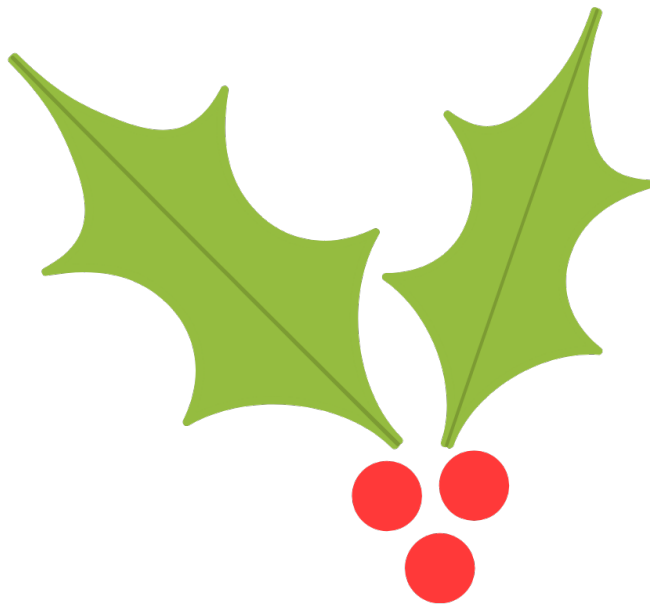
The Oxford Bookworms Library. OUP p.5

### England 1995

'Hey, Jan, look at this!' Carol said. She had a letter in her hand and took it across to her husband at the breakfast table. 'It's from the Oxford Orchestra,' she said. 'They're giving concerts in the Czech Republic this Christmas. They're doing three concerts in Prague and they're asking me to go because they need a harpist. Shall we go to Prague for Christmas? I can play with the orchestra, and you can come with us.'

'When are the concerts?' asked Jan. 'I always have a lot of work in the weeks before Christmas. I must finish writing my new book then.'

See page 3 for the gapped text activity handout.



# Gapped Text 1

## Bookworms level 1.

Gapped Text.

\_\_\_\_\_ (place) 1995

'Hey, Jan, look at this!' Carol said. She had a \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) in her hand and took it across to her husband at the breakfast table. 'It's from the Oxford Orchestra,' she said. 'They're giving concerts in the Czech Republic this Christmas. They're doing three concerts in Prague and they're asking me to \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) because they need a \_\_\_\_\_ (job). Shall we go to Prague for Christmas? I can play with the orchestra, and you can come with us.'

'When are the \_\_\_\_\_ (plural noun)?' asked Jan. 'I always have a lot of work in the weeks before Christmas. I must finish writing my \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) book then.'



## Gapped Text 2

### Bookworms level 3.

Original Text.

Source: *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.

*The Oxford Bookworms Library. OUP. pp 3-5.*

One Christmas Eve, old Scrooge was working busily in his office. It was cold, frosty, foggy weather. Outside it was already dark, although it was only three o'clock in the afternoon, and there were candles in all the office windows. The fog covered everything, like a thick, grey blanket.

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'Merry Christmas, uncle! God bless you!' cried a happy voice. Scrooge's nephew had arrived.

'Bah!' said Scrooge crossly. 'Humbug!'

'Christmas is humbug! Surely you don't mean that, uncle?' said his nephew.

'I do,' said Scrooge. 'Why do you call it "merry" Christmas? You're too poor to be merry.'

'Well,' replied the nephew, smiling, 'why are you so cross? You're too rich to be unhappy.'

'Of course I'm cross,' answered the uncle, 'when I live in a world full of stupid people like you! You say "Merry Christmas"! But what is Christmas? Just a time when you spend too much, when you find yourself a year older and not an hour richer, when you have to pay your bills. Everyone who goes around saying "Merry Christmas" should have his tongue cut out. Yes, he should!'

See page 5 for the gapped text activity handout.



## Gapped Text 2

### Bookworms level 3.

#### Gapped Text.

One \_\_\_\_\_ (holiday) Eve, old Scrooge was working \_\_\_\_\_ (adverb ending in -ly) in his office. It was cold, frosty, foggy weather. Outside it was already \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective), although it was only three o'clock in the afternoon, and there were \_\_\_\_\_ (plural noun) in all the office windows. The \_\_\_\_\_ (noun) covered everything, like a thick, grey blanket.

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'\_\_\_\_\_ (exclamation), uncle! God bless you!' cried a happy voice. Scrooge's nephew had arrived.

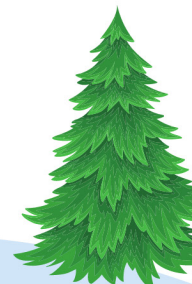
'Bah!' said Scrooge crossly. 'Humbug!'

'Christmas is humbug! Surely you don't mean that, uncle?' said his \_\_\_\_\_ (family member).

'I do,' said Scrooge. 'Why do you call it "merry" Christmas? You're too \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) to be merry.'

'Well,' replied the nephew, smiling, 'why are you so cross? You're too \_\_\_\_\_ (adjective) to be unhappy.'

'Of course I'm cross,' answered the uncle, 'when I \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) in a world full of stupid people like you! You say "Merry Christmas"! But what is Christmas? Just a time when you spend too much, when you find yourself a year \_\_\_\_\_ (comparative adjective) and not an hour richer, when you have to \_\_\_\_\_ (verb) your bills. Everyone who goes around saying "Merry Christmas" should have his \_\_\_\_\_ (body part) cut out. Yes, he should!'



# Extensive Reading Activities

Free sample chapters from our collection of festive graded readers.

Extensive reading is based on the well-established premise that we learn to read by reading. Reading extensively creates fluent readers. Studies show that the students that read more increase their vocabulary, and become better writers!

**Click on or type in the web addresses below to access your sample!**

## [A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens](#)

Chapter 1, Stage 3 Bookworms

**Sample Chapter:** <https://oxelt.gl/2JXSqHd>



Christmas is humbug, Scrooge says - just a time when you find yourself a year older and not a penny richer. The only thing that matters to Scrooge is business, and making money. But on Christmas Eve three spirits come to visit him. They take him travelling on the wings of the night to see the shadows of Christmas past, present, and future - and Scrooge learns a lesson that he will never forget.

## [Christmas in Prague by Joyce Hannam](#)

Chapter 1, Stage 1 Bookworms

**Sample Chapter:** <https://oxelt.gl/3ac400m>



In a house in Oxford three people are having breakfast - Carol, her husband Jan, and his father Josef. They are talking about Prague, because Carol wants them all to go there for Christmas. Josef was born in Prague, but he left his home city when he was a young man. He is an old man now, and he would like to see Prague again before he dies. But he is afraid. He still remembers another Christmas in Prague, many long years ago - a Christmas that changed his life for ever...



# 12 Days of Winter Singalong

**Suitable for any level.**

The 12 Days of Christmas is a popular Christmas song, and you could teach students the song and sing along. Go to [www.lyricstraining.com](http://www.lyricstraining.com) to find the song with gap-fill activity games for beginners up to 'expert'. (Use the search function to find the song). Pre-teach some of the more difficult vocabulary first. This activity can be delivered online!

Another idea is to take just the theme of the song about giving of gifts over the 12 days of Christmas to revise vocabulary, counting and ordinals.

1. Display 12 pictures of vocabulary words. They should be large enough for all to see, whether online or in the classroom. In the example below, the teacher is using food vocabulary.
2. Start by saying, "On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me..." then point to / display a card and finish the line with the vocabulary word, getting everyone to join in, e.g. "...one red apple." Then let students read out the card in subsequent verses: "On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me two pears and a red apple."
3. With each verse the numbers increase and you count down, e.g.: "Four sweet potatoes, three bananas, two pears and a red apple."
4. Ideally, you and the students should try to remember each verse without looking back at the card!

