

The Old Curiosity Shop

Charles Dickens

The story step by step

- 1 Listen to Chapter 1 (from 'It was a dark, rainy night ...' to '... them both.'). Complete the text with the missing prepositions you hear. Check your answers on p. 8 of the book or in the answer key.

It was a dark, rainy night *in* the city _____ London and the light _____ a lamp could be seen _____ the front window _____. The Old Curiosity Shop. The room that was lit _____ the lamp was full _____ old and curious things _____ sale _____ all shapes and sizes. _____ a small sitting room _____ the back of the building sat a man _____ long, grey hair, whose face looked old and tired. Nearby a pretty girl _____ bright blue eyes was carefully preparing dinner _____ them both.

- 2 Listen to Chapter 2 (from 'About a week later ...' to '... coming for his lesson!'). Complete the table with the names in the box. You can use the names more than once. Check your answers on pp. 10–15 of the book or in the answer key.

Daniel Quilp Fred Nell Nell's grandfather Richard Swiveller

Who	Says	To whom
<i>Nell's grandfather</i>	You are not welcome here.	<i>Fred</i>
	You can't change that relationship! If you could, you'd have done it years ago.	
	And who are you to criticize me?	
	Carefully, carefully, that's right.	
	That's enough then – we are friends.	
	And you know about some of his mysteries and secrets.	
	What would you do then? Something violent, I'm sure.	
	You are a private man and keep that secret well.	
	I really hope things will get better.	

- 3 Listen to Chapter 3 (from 'Mr Richard Swiveller lived ...' to '... new plan.'). Circle the adjective or adverb you hear. Check your answers on pp. 17–18 of the book or in the answer key.

<u>famous</u> /famously	immediate/immediately	beautiful/beautifully
cheap/cheaply	pretty/prettily	rich/richly
impatient/impatiently	similar/similarly	poor/poorly
cheerful/cheerfully	clear/clearly	greedy/greedily
rude/rudely	easy/easily	clever/cleverly
fashionable/fashionably	calm/calmly	persuasive/persuasively
serious/seriously	uncertain/uncertainly	surprising/surprisingly

- 4 Listen to Chapter 4 (from 'Quilp shook his head ...' to 'Goodbye Nelly.'). Write the six parts of the body you hear. Check your answers on pp. 20–21 of the book or in the answer key.

- 1 head
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

- 5 Listen to Chapter 5 (from 'Nell's grandfather became seriously ill ...' to '... and led him away.'). Match the beginnings of the sentences you hear (1–9) with the ends (a–i). Check your answers on pp. 24–26 of the book or in the answer key.

1 Nell's grandfather became seriously ill	a while her grandfather was ill.
2 He then decided to live for a while	b when Kit came and called to her from the street below.
3 He was not a very pleasant man	c until her grandfather's illness passed.
4 She was sitting alone by the open window	d that she would always have to look after both of them.
5 Many people came to the house	e in the back rooms of the ground floor with his lawyer.
6 It was not long	f before Quilp and Mr Brass were awake.
7 They left the house quietly the next morning,	g and then held her grandfather's hand and led him away.
8 From that moment Nell knew	h and he was clearly afraid of Daniel Quilp.
9 She took a deep breath	i and could not move from his bed.

- 6 Listen to Chapter 6 (from 'Nell and her grandfather walked ...' to '... away into the fields.'). Put these events in the correct order. Check your answers on pp. 27–30 of the book or in the answer key.

- a Codlin and Harris discussed their new travelling friends. _____
- b Nell and her grandfather walked all morning through the streets of London. 1
- c Nell and her grandfather, warm and dry at last, fell asleep near the fire. _____
- d Nell noticed that Codlin and Harris were watching her closely. _____
- e Nell carefully sewed the piece of gold into the bottom of her dress. _____
- f Nell quickly and quietly led her grandfather out through the back door of the public house. 10
- g They found themselves near a pleasant field and they sat down to rest. _____
- h They heard voices and soon found two men. _____
- i They stopped near some workmen's cottages and asked if they could buy some milk. _____
- j They watched the puppet performance and ate some dinner. _____

- 7 Listen to Chapter 7 (from 'While Nell and her grandfather were travelling ...' to '... shyly at each other.'). Complete the phrases with the verbs you hear. Check your answers on pp. 31–34 of the book or in the answer key.

- 1 _____ *play* _____ a trick on him
- 2 _____ a visit
- 3 _____ friends
- 4 _____ rich
- 5 _____ his offer
- 6 _____ the pony
- 7 _____ the carriage
- 8 _____ into the house
- 9 _____ up into the carriage
- 10 _____ home
- 11 _____ about money
- 12 _____ on the door

- 8 Listen to Chapter 8 (from 'Nell and her grandfather walked ...' to '... so late in the day.'). You will hear the words in the box below. Group the words according to the pronunciation of *-ed* endings. Check your answers in the answer key.

walked confused frightened happened worryed started reached
 looked asked added stayed cleaned tided painted dressed guessed
 invited climed thanked

/t/	/d/	/ɪd/
walk <u>ed</u>	confus <u>ed</u>	start <u>ed</u>

- 9 Listen to Chapter 8 (from 'When they had started to move along the road ...' to '... her and her grandfather away.'). Decide if the following sentences are true (T) or false (F). Check your answers on pp. 38–40 of the book or in the answer key.

- 1 The caravan wasn't clean or comfortable. F
- 2 Mrs Jarley had one hundred life-sized wax figures in her collection. —
- 3 Nell and her grandfather didn't know where they were going next. —
- 4 Nell couldn't read or write. —
- 5 Mrs Jarley couldn't write. —

- 6 Mrs Jarley had noticed Nell's grandfather looking into space. —
- 7 Mrs Jarley wanted Nell to clean the wax figures. —
- 8 Mrs Jarley offered to pay Nell and her grandfather and give them bed and board. —
- 9 Nell didn't accept the job offer. —
- 10 Nell saw Mr Quilp outside the caravan. —
- 11 Nell couldn't stop worrying about Mr Quilp. —

- 10** Listen to Chapter 10 (from 'Nell and her grandfather had been working ...' to '... I must have it.'). Match the direct speech below with the reported speech you hear. Check your answers on p. 41 of the book or in the answer key.

For example:

The landlord welcomed them cheerfully to his pub.

'Welcome to my pub!' said the landlord cheerfully.

- 1 Nell's grandfather told her they were playing cards in the next room.

- 2 Nell's grandfather said that he'd always dreamt of that moment.

- 3 He asked Nell how much money they had.

- 4 He ordered Nell to give the money to him then.

- 5 Nell asked her grandfather to let her keep it.

- 6 Nell told him she didn't want to stay.

- 7 Nell begged him not to take it.

- 8 Nell's grandfather told her he hadn't meant to upset her.

- 11** Listen to chapter 11 (from 'The simple ...' to '... studying law.'). Choose the correct alternative you hear. Check your answers on p. 45 of the book or in the answer key.

The simple ~~difficult~~ and ~~cheap~~ *expensive* office of Mr Sampson Brass (who you might remember was Quilp's *accountant/lawyer*) was in a *narrow/wide* street somewhere in London. There was a sign *on/over* the door that said, 'Mr Sampson Brass, *Accountant/Lawyer*,' and another sign in the window which read, '*First/Second*-floor room available to rent to a single *gentleman/lady*.'

Miss/Mrs Sally Brass, the lawyer's sister/wife, also spent her life working in this office. She was a lady of about thirty-five/forty-five, who was very short/tall and fat/thin and looked almost exactly the same as her brother/husband. She had the same black/red hair and the same ugly mouth/nose.

Her voice was deep/high and serious/warm, and once you heard it you never forgot it. She was funny/serious and hard-working/lazy and took pleasure in amusing/annoying her brother/husband. It was a surprise, with all these attractive/unattractive qualities, that a/no man had ever asked to marry her. In addition/Instead, she had spent her life studying law.

- 12 Listen to Chapter 12 (from 'The single gentleman ...' to '... beautiful, sweet Nell.'). List all the expressions of time you hear. Check your answers in the answer key.

At unusual times, _____

- 13 Listen to Chapter 13 (from 'Poor Nell did not know what to do.' to 'She did not like the town.'). Count the number of times you hear 'money'. Check your answers on p. 51 of the book or in the answer key.

_____ times

- 14 Listen to Chapter 14 (from 'Now we must return to Kit's mother.' to '... both shook hands with Mr Quilp.'). Underline the sounds and words you hear stressed in these sentences. Check your answers in the answer key.

1 This is the place!

2 We have met before.

3 That shop legally belongs to me.

4 You didn't help me when I came to you, and now you are following me. Why?

5 I'm not following you!

6 That horrible boy Kit keeps getting in my way.

7 You are my good friends, aren't you?

8 Let's shake hands on it.

- 15 Listen to Chapter 15 (from 'When Mr Marton, Nell and her grandfather arrived ...' to '... very worried about her.'). Choose the correct answers. Check your answers on pp. 57–58 of the book or in the answer key.

1 Which keys did Mr Marton go to get?

a) the church keys

b) his house keys

c) the school keys

2 What was his surprise for Nell and her grandfather?

a) a new house

b) new neighbours

c) old friends

- 19 Listen to Chapter 18 again (from 'This is what the letter said.' to 'Quilp was shocked and angry.'). Write the letter you hear from Sally Brass to Quilp. Check your answers on p. 70 of the book or in the answer key.

Sampson _____

- 20 Listen to Chapter 19 (from 'Kit was now happier than he had ever been.' to '... we will find them.'). Answer the questions. Check your answers on pp. 71–74 of the book or in the answer key.

Why was Kit happier than he had ever been? *Because he was free.*

- 1 Who came to take Kit home? _____
- 2 What did Kit receive when he returned home? _____
- 3 What happened when Kit kissed Barbara? _____
- 4 Where did Mr Garland want Kit to go with him? _____
- 5 How had Mr Garland found Nell and her grandfather? _____
- 6 Why did Kit find it difficult to sleep that night? _____
- 7 Why did the younger brother in the story leave the country? _____
- 8 Who had the older brother lost? _____
- 9 How were the two grandchildren different? _____
- 10 Why did the younger brother return to London? _____

- 21 Listen to Chapter 20 (from 'The carriage travelled on ...' to '... just as he had wanted.'). Circle the words you hear. Check your answers on pp. 75–78 of the book or in the answer key.

shopping/stopping

sleeping/slipping

seating/sitting

asking/answering

showing/snowing

saying/staying

signing/singing

drying/trying

crying/climbing

mourning/moving

burning/burying

waiting/weighing

taking/talking

laying/lying

- 22 Listen to Chapter 21 (from 'The story of Nell and her poor grandfather ...' to '... that has been told.'). Match the names (1–10) with what happened to them (a–j). Check your answers on pp. 79–80 of the book or in the answer key.

1 Mr Brass	a body was found several days after he had fallen into the river. There was an inquest, but there was no funeral and no one cared that he was dead.
2 Sally Brass	b carried on their lives as before, but with fewer people in their house.
3 Daniel Quilp's	c just disappeared, and nobody knew where she was.
4 Mr and Mrs Garland	d set out on a long journey to find and thank every person who had helped his brother and granddaughter on their way.
5 Abel	e slowly recovered from his illness and received the money that his rich aunt had left to him, which he used to look after the Marchioness.
6 Richard Swiveller	f was offered an excellent job, and he got married to Barbara. They were happy together and had two children.
7 The Marchioness	g was no longer there. It had been pulled down a long time ago.
8 The single gentleman	h was sent to quite a nice prison for a few years and he never worked as a lawyer again.
9 Kit	i went to a dance where he met a very quiet lady and fell in love. He was happily married and in a few years he had a quiet family too.
10 The Old Curiosity Shop	j went to school, was very clever and became an excellent student.