

ФЕДЕРАЛЬНОЕ АГЕНТСТВО ПО ОБРАЗОВАНИЮ
ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ ОБРАЗОВАТЕЛЬНОЕ
УЧРЕЖДЕНИЕ
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АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

Часть I

Учебное пособие

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Учебное пособие подготовлено на кафедре английского языка гуманитарных факультетов факультетата РГФ Воронежского государственного университета.

Предназначено для студентов 2–3 курсов филологического факультета. Знакомит с образцами оригинальных текстов по специальности «Филология», в частности с текстами литературоведческого характера, освещающими жизнь и творческую деятельность ряда английских и американских писателей XIX века.

В состав учебного пособия входят ключи-ответы к упражнениям.

Для специальности 031001 – Филология

Part I

In Part I you are going to read the text about the life of a famous person whose name is *Charles Dickens*.

Lead-in

Work in a small group. Ask your partners the following questions and give detailed answers.

1. Are you already familiar with the name of *Charles Dickens*?
2. What does it bring to mind? Is he a person who has only recently risen to public prominence?
3. Which narrative, prose or poetic, did Dickens excel in?
4. Why do you think Charles Dickens ranks as one of the most popular writers in the history of world literature?
5. Were you delivered a lecture on Dickens's literary career? Have you ever closely examined his literary works in your literature class?
6. Dickens's unforgettable characters have fascinated generations of readers. Do you remember their names?
7. Are you completely satisfied with your present knowledge of Dickens's life and writings or do you find it superficial and limited? Do you want to gain more extensive and profound knowledge?
8. Why do writers often reflect their personal experiences in their fiction?
9. Which of Dickens's books have you read? Have you found Dickens's books personally interesting and exciting to read?
10. They say that reading Dickens today is a real challenge even for native speakers of English because many of the words he used, and the things those words described, have fallen out of common use. Can having a good reference book handy ensure that reading Dickens today will be just as entertaining as it was 150 years ago?
11. What problems are foreign students of English expected to encounter with reading Dickens's novels in the original?
12. Have you read the books in the original or in translation?
13. Have you just thumbed through the pages or have you read the books in detail to make an effective judgment?
14. Many of Dickens' books have been adapted as films. Have you ever seen a screen version of Dickens's writings? What are your impressions?
15. Would you recommend Dickens's books? Why or why not? Give reasons for your answers.

In the text, you will find the following words (1 – 15). Match the words with their definitions (a – o).

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. abundant | a. taken away, isolated, separated from, excluded |
| 2. adventurous | b. difficulty, trouble, problems |
| 3. engraving | c. disgrace, disrespect, dreadful conditions, public shaming, degradation |
| 4. focus | d. leaving behind, neglect, refusal, rejection |
| 5. coherent | e. to recur constantly, keep returning to one's mind so that one cannot forget it |
| 6. congenial | f. change for the better, perfection, enhanced value or excellence |
| 7. humiliation | g. picture made by cutting a design on a piece of metal and then printing the design on paper |
| 8. celebrity | h. to concentrate upon, give attention to |
| 9. haunt | i. logical, consistent, coordinated |
| 10. readership | j. the act of spending more money than you can afford, wastefulness, over-spending, prodigality |
| 11. withdrawn | k. existing in large quantities, more than enough, plentiful, numerous |
| 12. embarrassment | l. disposed to seek adventure or to cope with the new and unknown, innovative, inventive, creative |
| 13. extravagance | m. the mass or a particular group of readers |
| 14. abandonment | n. a widely known and popularly esteemed person, public figure |
| 15. improvement | o. acceptable, satisfying, appropriate, pleasant |

Reading

The text that follows allows you to become familiar with the face behind the name *Charles Dickens*.

Read the text. The following sentences (1-10) have been taken out of the text. Fill in the gaps (A-J) with the appropriate sentence.

1. All these successes, however, were shadowed by domestic unhappiness.
2. But despite many developments, the fiction still contained many stylistic and narrative features continuous with the earlier work.
3. The same month, he was invited to write the text for a series of comic engravings by a well-known artist.
4. He was buried in Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey.
5. Dickens's enormous body of works includes novels, stories, essays, speeches and thousands of pages of letters.

6. A man of enormous energy and wide talents, Charles Dickens engaged not only in novel writing but also in many other activities.
7. Thus, for the most part, Charles Dickens was self-educated being an avid reader of numerous books.
8. In 1845, Dickens's amateur theatrical company made its debut.
9. In 1824, the time of prosperity came to an abrupt end and the family reached bottom.
10. Dickens subsequently maintained his fame with a constant stream of novels.

Charles Dickens, in full Charles John Huffam Dickens (1812-1870), is the most famous and most talented of all the British Victorian novelists.

Dickens was born February 7, 1812, in Portsmouth, pre-eminent naval base on England's southern coast. Charles left his place of birth in infancy and spent most of his childhood in London and Kent, both of which appear frequently in his novels. His father was a minor civil servant in the British Navy pay office. He was well-paid and the family was moderately wealthy. However, his extravagance often brought the family to financial embarrassment. **A** _____. Dickens's father was imprisoned for debt. Charles was withdrawn from school and was forced to support his family by working in a shoe-polish factory. These shocks deeply affected Charles. Much in his character and art stems from this period. A sense of humiliation and abandonment haunted him for life. Though abhorring this brief descent into the working class, he began to gain that sympathetic knowledge of their life and privations that informed his writings. After a while, his father's release from prison and an improvement in the family's fortunes made the boy's return to school possible. When Charles was 15 years old, his formal schooling, interrupted and unimpressive, ended. **B** _____.

In 1827, Dickens took a job as a legal clerk in a solicitor's office. After learning shorthand, he began working as a freelance reporter in the law courts and Parliament thus gaining a good knowledge of the legal world often used in the novels. These years left him with a lasting affection for journalism and contempt both for the law and for Parliament. Being a parliamentary and newspaper reporter, young Dickens developed the power of precise description that made his creative writing so remarkable.

Charles Dickens first attracted attention of the reading public when he began contributing stories and descriptive essays to magazines and newspapers. In December 1833, Dickens published the first of a series of sketches focusing on London daily life under the pseudonym *Boz* (rhymes with "rose"). The success of this volume, eventually published under the title *Sketches by Boz* in February 1836, was great. **C** _____. The unexpected result was *The Pickwick Papers* (1836–1837), one of the funniest novels in English literature. By July 1837, sales of the monthly instalments exceeded 40,000 copies. Serial publication encouraged the use of multiple plot and required that each episode be individually shaped. At the same time it produced an unprecedentedly close relationship between author

and reader. Dickens was rapidly developing his craft as a novelist and soon became the most popular author of the day. Descriptive power, analytical perception of character, fancy, pathos, humour and charm of style are the qualities of Dickens's early novels that deeply impressed the reading world. On the strength of this success, Dickens received numerous proposals from London publishers. The following years were highly prolific and made him a literary celebrity. Finding serialization congenial and profitable, Dickens influenced the publishing industry in Great Britain because this method of publication quickly became popular among Dickens's contemporaries.

In 1836, a fruitful year for Dickens, the success permitted him to marry Catherine Hogarth, the eldest daughter of a respected Scottish journalist and man of letters, George Hogarth who edited *Sketches by Boz*.

D____. During the 1840s his social criticism became more radical, his characters more realistic and versatile and his comedy more savage. The novels *Oliver Twist*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *The Old Curiosity Shop*, *Dombey and Son*, *David Copperfield* increased his fame and enlarged his readership.

The mature novels of the 1850s (*Bleak House*, *Hard Times*, *Little Dorrit*) present an increasingly sombre picture of contemporary society. The novelist is politically more despondent, emotionally more tragic. The satire is harsher, the humour less genial and abundant, the "happy endings" more subdued than in the early fiction. Technically, the later novels are more coherent, plots being more fully related to themes, and themes being often expressed through a more insistent use of imagery and symbols. Dickens is presenting characters of greater complexity that provoke more complex responses in the reader. **E**____.

In his final novels of the 1860s (*A Tale of Two Cities*, *Great Expectations*, *Our Mutual Friend*) Dickens remained inventive, adventurous and experimenting. These works of great social relevance continue his critical approach to problems of contemporary society. How Dickens's final unfinished novel *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* ((published posthumously, 1870) would have developed is uncertain. It was left tantalizingly uncompleted at the time of his death.

F____. He edited the weekly periodicals, administered charitable organizations, pressed for many social reforms, lectured in the United States in favour of an international copyright agreement and in opposition to slavery.

Charles Dickens was a theatre enthusiast. **G**____. He directed and acted in amateur theatricals. In collaboration with Wilkie Collins he wrote a play *The Frozen Deep* which was performed for Queen Victoria.

Throughout his life, Dickens travelled widely visiting Canada, France, Italy, Switzerland and the United States of America.

Dickens's extraliterary activities also included giving phenomenally successful public readings of his own works in Britain and America.

H____. The married couple had been for many years "temperamentally unsuited" to each other. Dickens, although charming and brilliant, was emotionally insecure (probably due to his childhood), and therefore was extremely hard to

live with. Incompatibility and Dickens's relations with a young actress, Ellen Ternan, led to his permanent separation from his wife Catherine in 1858, after the marriage had produced ten children.

Dickens died very suddenly, dropping from his chair at the dinner table, in the year 1870 at the comparatively early age of fifty-eight. **I** ____.

Charles Dickens made an outstanding contribution to classical English literature. The greatness of Dickens's talent cannot be overestimated. It is evident that his literary genius is inexhaustible. **J** ____ . Scholars and critics are unanimous that Charles Dickens is the most popular and widely known British writer the world over. The superior quality of Dickens's work made him both one of the great forces in literature and an influential spokesman of the conscience of his age.

Note:

Wilkie Collins (1824–1889) is one of the first and greatest masters of the mystery story and the first English novelist to write in this genre. In 1851, he began an association with Dickens that exerted a formative influence on his career. Their admiration was mutual. Under Dickens's influence, Collins developed a talent for characterization, humour, and popular success, while the older writer's debt to Collins is evident in the more skilful and suspenseful plot structures of such novels as *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Great Expectations*. Collins contributed serials to Dickens's periodicals. His most successful books are *The Woman in White* (1860), and *The Moonstone* (1868). Collins was a much-imitated writer. The motifs of his books were repeated countless times.

Comprehension Check

Work with a partner. Read the following statements and decide whether they are true or false according to the text. Correct the false ones.

1. Charles Dickens came from a wealthy aristocratic background.
2. In addition to his regular schoolwork Charles Dickens had instruction at home, from private tutors.
3. The family's increasing poverty forced Dickens out of school to work in a shoe-polish factory.
4. The beginning of Dickens's literary career was a complete failure.
5. Charles Dickens turned to novel writing after a successful period as a dramatist.
6. Dickens established the method of publishing novels in serial instalments in monthly magazines.
7. After the publication of *The Pickwick Papers* Dickens failed to produce another work of comparable literary quality.
8. Dickens incorporated autobiographical elements in his fiction.

9. Dickens's sharp social criticism is directed to the improvement of the contemporary society.
10. Dickens's once happy family life proved unsuccessful and disappointing.
11. Charles Dickens was a person who led a secluded life in his private estate and hated travelling.
12. Dickens abstained from journalism not willing to demonstrate his indignation at social ills.
13. The only thing Charles Dickens failed in was his desire to become a public recitalist.
14. The stage was the love of Dickens's life and he performed in amateur theatricals.
15. Literary critics state that Dickens's novels retain their place among the great novels in the English language

Read the following passages presenting additional information about Charles Dickens's life and writings. Fill in the gaps with the missing pieces of information that you can infer from the text or guess from the context.

1. Dickens began his writing career as a (1) _____. His own father became a reporter and Charles followed his example. He worked for different (2) _____. With new contacts in the press, he was able to (3) _____ a series of sketches under the (4) _____ *Boz*. In 1836, his articles were compiled and published as (5) _____.
2. Dickens successfully used the system of publishing a (6) _____ in journals serially in monthly (7) _____. Most of Dickens's major novels were first (8) _____ in cheap monthly or weekly instalments. Dickens found a readership who eagerly anticipated his next (9) _____. It has been estimated that one out of every ten persons in Victorian (10) _____ was a Dickens (11) _____.
3. Dickens created 989 named (12) _____ during his career. He often gives his characters (13) _____ which provide the (14) _____ with a hint as to the roles played in advancing the storyline, such as Mr Murdstone in the novel *David Copperfield*, which is clearly a combination of "murder" and stony coldness.
4. Dickens's works were also (15) _____ in America, sometimes simultaneously with the British edition and often with little or no compensation to the (16) _____ or his publishers due to the lack of an international (17) _____ law. Dickens campaigned unsuccessfully for international copyright during his first American visit in 1842. An English-American copyright law would not be enacted until 1891.
5. In 1869, Dickens began his last serialized (18) _____ *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* inspired by Wilkie Collins. The protagonist of the novel is the choir-master of the cathedral, John Jaspers, who lives a double life, as an opium addict and a respected member of society. His ward, Edwin Drood, disappears after the murder is committed and a disguised detective arrives to in-

investigate the case. Dickens did not manage to (19) ___ his mystery novel. He planned to produce it in twelve (20) ___ parts, but (21) ___ only six numbers. Thus, the identity of the murderer was left unknown.

6. Dickens wished to be buried in a small cemetery, without fanfare, but the Nation would not allow it. He is (22) ___ in Poet's Corner of (23) ___, London. The (24) ___ on his tomb reads: "He was a sympathizer to the poor, the suffering, and the oppressed; and by his death, one of England's greatest writers is lost to the world." He was mourned by all his (25) ___.

Vocabulary Practice

In the text, find synonyms for the following words and expressions:

- 1.babyhood, early years; 2.mouthpiece, herald; 3.influence, have an effect on; 4.enthusiastic, eager; 5.undisputed, common, accepted, unquestionable; 6.matrimonial, marital; 7.creative, imaginative, original; 8.sense of right and wrong, principles, values, beliefs; 9.partnership, cooperation; 10.fan, supporter, backer; 11.allow, give opportunity; 12.response, reaction; 13.literary property, exclusive rights; 14.pessimistic, hopeless, desperate; 15.permanent, stable

In the text, find antonyms for the following words and expressions:

- 1.professional; 2.major, chief; 3.constant, stable, unbroken; 4.adore; 5.ascent, rise; 6.hatred, extreme dislike; 7.poor; 8.despised, hated; 9.failure, fiasco; 10.scarce, insufficient; 11.gentle; 12.slowly, unhurriedly; 13.preceding, previous; 14.sad, boring; 15.set free, released

Here is a list of words. What are these words associated with? Explain the meaning of the given words and use them in sentences of your own.

e.g. author - a person who writes books or the person who wrote a particular book

He is the author of three books on art.

author / character / copy / episode / essay / fiction / literature / novel / plot / pseudonym / publisher / serial / shorthand / theme / volume /

Put the appropriate word from the list above into the gaps in the following sentences.

1. The novel is propelled through its hundred or thousand pages by a device known as the story or ___.

2. Users of the library are expected to know the names of the ___ whose works they wish to consult.
3. The ___ *Anna Karenina* begins with Tolstoy's most famous sentence "All happy families resemble each other; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way."
4. Some of the best-known ___ in Britain today, *Longman* among them, trace their origins back to the 18th century.
5. In the 1850s, A.K.Tolstoy, in collaboration with two cousins, began to publish comic verse under the joint ___ *Kozma Prutkov*, who is portrayed as a clerk in the Ministry of Finance.
6. *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the oldest and largest English-language general encyclopaedia, was first published in 1768 in three ___.
7. Gorky's ___ are a curious, endearing mixture of Marxist doctrine (with a utopian slant) and quite standard Western humanistic ideas.
8. In the 19th - 20th century Russia politics and ___ were intimately connected, and a writer or critic was often called upon to be a political prophet.
9. A ___ of every book printed in England is delivered to the famous library of the British Museum.
10. ___, also called stenography, is a system for rapid writing that uses symbols or abbreviations for letters, words, or phrases.
11. Jonathan Swift, the greatest prose satirist in the English language, is known for his power of inventing imaginary ___ and all their accompanying details.
12. Around the middle of the 19th century ___ publication was the rule, with novels published month-by-month in magazines before being issued in book form.
13. Jules Verne, a French author, who is regarded as the father of science ___, forecast with remarkable accuracy many scientific achievements of the 20th century.
14. A Scottish sailor Alexander Selkirk was the prototype of the main ___ in Daniel Defoe's novel *Robinson Crusoe*.
15. The ___ of the "superfluous man", first introduced by A. Pushkin in *Eugene Onegin*, finds recurrent rendition in Russian novels and plays throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Grammar

In the text, find and study adverbs used to describe verbs and adjectives.

e.g. travelled widely, extraordinarily difficult, deeply impressed

Rewrite the sentences (1-15) putting the following adverbs in the correct place.

comparatively / emotionally / eventually / frequently / fundamentally / increasingly / individually / moderately / phenomenally / politically / rapidly / subsequently / technically / unprecedentedly / tantalizingly

1. The original interview notes were lost.
2. The two sides reached an uneasy compromise.
3. The teacher decided to test each member of the group.
4. The high food prices were the cause of popular unrest.
5. The world is becoming interdependent.
6. It is recommended to bake cakes in a hot oven.
7. He found all the information he needed on the browsed site of the Internet.
8. The performance was so exciting that the audience became involved.
9. Journalists are supposed to be neutral.
10. As a musician, she is accomplished.
11. Henry Ford sold his Model T cars at a low price that ordinary people could afford.
12. Though the author's arguments seem convincing, they are flawed.
13. Mozart, being a gifted child, wrote his first music at the age of six.
14. Unfortunately, the doctor was called too late and the disease was progressing.
15. The prisoner was constantly thinking about pleasant things that were out of reach.

In the following sentences, choose the appropriate linking words showing the logical relationship between sentences and within sentences.

1. *In spite of / Even* Dickens's will, which stipulates that no memorial be erected to honour him, there is a life-size bronze statue of Charles Dickens in the USA.
2. *Owing to / In case* the books about the adventures of Sherlock Holmes, detective-story writer Conan Doyle became internationally famous.
3. Many talented people were born in Voronezh, *among / thanks to* them a Russian poet and novelist, Nobel laureate Ivan Bunin.
4. *Whereas / For this reason* Pushkin's lyric poetry is delightful to the Russian ear, it is considered to be untranslatable into foreign languages.
5. *Therefore / Along with* his famous short stories, Anton Chekhov also became known for his dramatic work, including such pillars of the world theatrical repertoire as *Uncle Vanya* (1897) and *The Cherry Orchard* (1903).
6. *Although / So that* Mikhail Lermontov was only 26 years old when he died, he had proved his worth as a brilliant successor of Pushkin and an exponent of the best traditions of Russian literature.
7. *Instead of / Because of* literary conventions against women writers, Emily Dickinson, now recognized as a unique genius, published no more than a handful of poems during her lifetime.

8. *As a result of / Hence* severe official attacks, Boris Pasternak declined the Nobel Prize in literature which he was awarded in 1958.
9. *In addition to / Unless* her mystery stories and plays, numerous television series and films, most centring on her characters Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple, help confirm Agatha Christie's success.
10. Charles Dickens successfully completed all his books, *in particular / apart from* his final novel, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, which was published unfinished after his death.
11. *Like many others / In conclusion*, a great American writer Ernest Hemingway began his literary career as a newspaper reporter.
12. *Providing / Since* an American writer Ambrose Bierce was a master of sharp sarcasm and bitter humour, he earned the nickname *Bitter Bierce*.
13. *While / Whenever* recognizing the virtues of Dickens's early books, literary critics rank more highly his later mature works.
14. *So that / As well as* novels, Dickens published his own magazines and distinguished himself as an essayist.
15. For many years Jane Austen's novels were rejected by publishers, *nevertheless / in order to* she continued writing and polishing her works.

Word Formation

Use negative prefixes (*dis - , il - , im - , in - , ir - , un -*) to form the opposite of the following words:

honest / literacy / moderate / different / regular / popular / connect / liberal / proper / correct / relevant / pleasant / ability / legal / patient / active / rational / sophisticated / advantage / legality / perfect / appropriate / resolute / educated

Put the appropriate words with the negative prefix from the previous exercise into the gaps in the following sentences.

1. ___ eating and drinking habits undermine one's health.
2. The advantages of the scheme far outweighed the ___.
3. Elderly people are easy prey for ___ salesmen.
4. The government cannot afford to be ___ to public opinion.
5. The education reforms are ___ with the mass of teachers and parents.
6. Her ___ understanding of English was the reason of her failure.
7. The teacher tested her class on ___ verbs.
8. My computer crashes every time I ___ from the Internet.
9. It is ___ to give critical comments in connection with this tragic situation.
10. ___ is a major problem in some developing countries.
11. His approach to life is too naïve and ___.
12. What you say is ___ to the subject.

13. She has an ___ dread of hospitals.
14. She had the courage and determination to rise above her physical ____.
15. It is ___ to discriminate on grounds of race, sex or religion.

Follow-up Activities

Read the following text and use the word given in capitals to form a word that fits in the space. There is an example at the beginning.

The very last phase of Dickens's life was a new phase. It was almost entirely filled with his new (1) activity ACT in giving public readings from his works. Dickens had been toying with the idea of turning paid reader since 1853, when he began giving occasional readings in aid of charity. The paid series began in April 1858. Dickens's immediate impulse was to find some energetic distraction from his marital (2) ___ HAPPY. A short time previously, a dramatic (3) ___ SEPARATE of Dickens and his wife by agreement took place. Dickens valued his public's affection, not only as a (4) ___ STIMULATE to his creativity and a condition for his commercial success but also as a substitute for the love he could not find at home.

The readings revealed his (5) ___ REMARK histrionic talents, his love of theatricals and of seeing and delighting an audience. Concurrently, the eminently performable nature of his fiction became obvious. Dickens was charming his audiences with (6) ___ EVIDENCE skill and gusto. He was a magnificent performer, and important elements and (7) ___ DRAMA qualities of his art were demonstrated in these renderings. His insight and skill revealed nuances in the narration and (8) ___ CHARACTER that few readers had noticed. Without a single prop or bit of costume, merely by changes of voice, by gesture, by vocal expression the author-actor peopled his stage with a throng of characters. A critic, after attending one of the readings, remarked that Dickens was like an entire theatre company ... under one hat.

A (9) ___ PERFORM usually consisted of two items suitable for a two-hour entertainment. His initial repertoire included entirely Christmas books but it was soon amplified by episodes from the novels. Comedy predominated, though pathos was (10) ___ IMPORTANCE in the repertoire. A dramatic reading called *Sikes and Nancy* was introduced in the last reading he devised with which he petrified his audiences and half killed himself. However, his mature novels, marked by the finest artistry and greatest (11) ___ DEEP, were underrepresented.

Dickens gave seasons of readings in London and in British provinces. American reading tour began in November of 1867. Dickens was greatly in demand and performed with great success. His campaign was (12) ___ TRUTH American in its scope and scale. Holding his audiences spellbound, Dickens was lauded and applauded. He manifestly enjoyed the experience. He gloried in his

audiences' (13) ___ ADMIRE and love. Meanwhile the readings exhausted his energies. Dickens was ill and full of desperate fatigue. He was playing a very (14) ___ DANGER game for a man approaching sixty. Nevertheless, he did not (15) ___ RELAXATION his laborious habits. Altogether, he performed about 471 times.

Read the following questions (1-5) and choose the correct answer (a, b or c).

1. What was Dickens chiefly preoccupied with in his later years?

- a) he published newspaper articles
- b) he delivered university lectures
- c) he was engaged in public readings

2. What kind of extracts did he mainly choose to perform in public?

- a) pieces of prose criticizing the injustices of the modern society
- b) excerpts from numerous Christmas stories
- c) fragments of historical fiction

3. Why was the public so enthusiastic about Dickens's readings?

- a) because he demonstrated his great artistic talent
- b) because they were eager to get acquainted with his new works
- c) because the readings were free of charge

4. Where did Dickens conduct his paid public readings?

- a) in both Britain and the USA
- b) in many locations throughout Britain
- c) exclusively in London

5. What was the impact of public readings on Dickens's health?

- a) he regained his health
- b) he ruined his mental health
- c) he undermined his health

Orally summarize the information about Dickens's public readings.

Read the following text. Some of the lines are correct and some have an extra word. Indicate the number of the line and the extra word. There is an example at the beginning.

line 2 – yet, line 4 – even, etc.

1. Charles Dickens, ranking as one of the most popular writers in the history of
2. world literature, is especially yet renowned for his delineation of literary

3. characters. The characters Dickens created, drawn from an immense well of
4. imagination and personal experience, remain unique in even English
5. literature. They are often so well known and so memorable that it can be
6. believed they live a life of their own outside the author's books. Literally
7. hundreds of Dickens's characters assume the illusion of reality, many of
8. them only being minor characters. The novelist's good, else bad, and comic
9. characters, such as the cruel miser Scrooge, the aspiring novelist David
10. Copperfield, or the trusting and innocent Mr. Pickwick have fascinated
11. generations less of readers. Often these characters are based on people that
12. Dickens knew: Wilkins Micawber and William Dorrit (his father), Mrs
13. Nickleby (his mother). In a few instances, Dickens based the character too
14. closely on the original and got into trouble. Dickens's sharp ear which for
15. conversation helped him to create colourful characters through their own
16. words. John Forster, Dickens's friend and biographer, said when that
17. Dickens made "characters real existences, not by describing them but by
18. letting them describe themselves." While some of his characters are
19. grotesques, their eccentricities do not usually overshadow thus the stories.
20. Names of Dickens's characters are some of the most unique in world fiction.
21. Characters what such as Honeythunder, Bumble and Pumblechook are
22. recognizable as Dickensian even by those unfamiliar some with the stories.
23. The words *Scrooge*, *Pickwickian*, *Pecksniffian* entered dictionaries and
24. became defining terms in everyday vernacular due to Dickens's original once
25. portraits of such characters who were miserly, quixotic and hypocritical.
26. Dickens, on the one hand, possesses the outstanding ability to describe
27. inanimate objects, enlivening them with human for wisdom, heroics, and
28. shortcomings. On the other hand, Dickens demonstrates his flights of fancy
29. comparing orphans to stocks and shares, people to tug boats or dinner-party
30. guests to furniture. One "character" most vividly drawn many throughout his
31. novels is London itself. From his time as a reporter, Dickens acquired an
32. intimate knowledge of the streets, parks, alleys, mews, gardens, markets
33. from and lanes of London, which provide him with much useful background
34. material for his writings. All aspects of the capital are described over the
35. course of his corpus, from the coaching inns on the outskirts of the city to the
36. lower reaches of the Thames. Dickens's incredible command like of the
37. English language allows him to describe characters and events so vividly that
38. the readers become witnesses to the story unfolding in his imagination. His
39. advice to aspiring writers was "make me see", and no one did it better than
40. with Dickens.

Work with a partner. Read the following statements and decide whether they are true or false according to the text. Correct the false ones.

1. Charles Dickens is known for creating unforgettable literary characters.

2. Dickens's characters are mostly heroes of battlefields and palaces.
3. Characters of well-known fables and myths are skilfully imitated in Dickens's books.
4. In his writings, Dickens is preoccupied with plot structuring and ignores character portrayal.
5. Due to Dickens's talent, imaginary persons exist to the reader as if lifelike.
6. Dickens's characters hardly produce in the reader highly emotional response.
7. Major and minor characters of Dickens's books are equally impressive.
8. Dickens depicts exclusively the characters of actual persons.
9. The novelist rarely presents his literary creatures in action and through direct speech.
10. Dickens's fictitious characters are frequently given fanciful proper names.
11. Dickens draws numerous character types personifying human virtues and vices.
12. In Dickens's books, nonhuman entities are often characterized as personages.
13. Dickens is criticized for his sophisticated wit and deep insight into human failings.
14. Charles Dickens considers London, the major scene of his novels, worthy of detailed graphic descriptions.
15. Dickens's genius allows him to people the pages of his books with numerous striking characters.

Orally summarize the information about the peculiarities of Dickens's literary characters.

Use the following plan to reproduce the information about Dickens's biography and writings presented in Part I:

1. Early years
2. Journalism
3. First books
4. Mature works
5. Social activities
6. Public readings
7. Dickens's literary achievement and reputation

Write a short paragraph summarizing all the information about Dickens's life and literary career.

Imagine one of you is Charles Dickens and the rest of the group are book-club members. Dickens is a celebrity you have invited today to take part in a literary soiree. According to the programme Mr Dickens is, first, to speak in short about his books and, second, to answer questions about his creative work.

In writing, comment in detail upon the words of one of the critics who, speaking about Charles Dickens, once remarked: “his lifelong love-affair with his reading public ... is by far the most interesting love-affair of his life.”

Do the project on the distinctive characteristics of Victorian literature and present its results in class.

Answer key

Lead-in

page 4

Key: 1-k, 2-l, 3-g, 4-h, 5-i, 6-o, 7-c, 8-n, 9-e, 10-m, 11-a, 12-b, 13-j, 14-d, 15-f

Reading

page 4

Key: A-9, B-7, C-3, D-10, E-2, F-6, G-8, H-1, I-4, J-5

Comprehension Check

page 7

Key: 1.F, 2.F, 3.T, 4.F, 5.F, 6.T, 7.F, 8.T, 9.T, 10.T, 11.F, 12.F, 13.F, 14.T, 15.T

page 8

Suggested answers: 1.journalist, 2.periodicals, 3.publish, 4.pseudonym, 5.*Sketches by Boz*, 6.novel, 7.parts, 8.published, 9.instalments, 10.England, 11.reader, 12.characters, 13.names, 14.reader, 15.published, 16.author, 17.copyright, 18.novel, 19.finish, 20.monthly, 21.completed, 22.buried, 23.Westminster Abbey, 24.inscription, 25.readers

Vocabulary Practice

page 9

Key: 1.infancy, 2.spokesman, 3.affect, 4.avid, 5.unanimous, 6.domestic, 7.inventive, 8.conscience, 9.collaboration, 10.enthusiast, 11.permit, 12.reception, 13.copyright, 14.despondent, 15.lasting

Key: 1.amateur, 2.minor, 3.interrupted, 4.abhor, 5.descent, 6.affection, 7.wealthy, 8.respected, 9.success, 10.abundant, 11.harsh, 12.rapidly, 13.following, 14.funny, 15.imprisoned

Key: 1.plot, 2.authors, 3.novel, 4.publishers, 5.pseudonym, 6.volumes, 7.essays, 8.literature, 9.copy, 10.Shorthand, 11.episodes, 12.serial, 13.fiction, 14.character, 15.theme

Grammar

page 10

Key: 1.subsequently lost, 2.eventually reached, 3.group individually, 4.unprecedentedly high, 5.increasingly interdependent, 6.moderately hot, 7.frequently browsed, 8.emotionally involved, 9.politically neutral, 10.technically accomplished, 11.comparatively low, 12.fundamentally flawed, 13.phenomenally gifted, 14.rapidly progressing, 15.tantalizingly pleasant

page 11

Key: 1.*In spite of*, 2.*Owing to*, 3.*among*, 4.*Whereas*, 5.*Along with*, 6.*Although*, 7.*Because of*, 8.*As a result of*, 9.*In addition to*, 10.*apart from*, 11.*Like many others*, 12.*Since*, 13.*While*, 14.*As well as*, 15.*nevertheless*

Word Formation

page 12

Key: dishonest / illiteracy / immoderate / indifferent / irregular / unpopular / disconnect / illiberal / improper / incorrect / irrelevant / unpleasant / disability / illegal / impatient / inactive / irrational / unsophisticated / disadvantage / illegality / imperfect / inappropriate / irresolute / uneducated

Key: 1.Immoderate, 2.disadvantages, 3.dishonest, 4.indifferent, 5.unpopular, 6.imperfect, 7.irregular, 8.disconnect, 9.improper, 10.Illiteracy, 11.unsophisticated, 12.irrelevant, 13.irrational, 14.disability, 15.illegal

Follow-up Activities

page 13

Key: 1.activity, 2.unhappiness, 3.separation, 4.stimulus, 5.remarkable, 6.evident, 7.dramatic, 8.characterization, 9.performance, 10.important, 11.depth, 12.truly, 13.admiration, 14.dangerous, 15.relax

page 14

Key: 1.c, 2.b, 3.a, 4.a, 5.c

Key: line 2 – yet, line 4 – even, line 8 – else, line 11 – less, line 14 – which, line 16 – when, line 19 – thus, line 21 – what, line 22 – some, line 24 – once, line 27 – for, line 30 – many, line 33 – from, line 36 – like, line 40 – with

page 15

Key: 1.T, 2.F, 3.F, 4.F, 5.T, 6.F, 7.T, 8.F, 9.F, 10.T, 11.T, 12.T, 13.F, 14.T, 15.T

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