

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Such a bustle 0. (ensue) ensued that you might have thought a goose the rarest of all birds, a feathered phenomenon, and in truth it 1. (be) _____ something very like it in that house. Mrs Cratchit 2. (make) _____ the gravy (ready beforehand in a little saucepan) hissing hot; Master Peter mashed the potatoes with incredible vigour; Miss Belinda 3. (sweeten up) _____ the apple sauce; Martha dusted the hot plates; Bob 4. (take) _____ Tiny Tim beside him in a tiny corner at the table; the two young Cratchits 5. (set) _____ chairs for everybody, not forgetting themselves, and mounting guard upon their posts, crammed spoons into their mouths, lest they should shriek for goose before their turn 6. (come) _____ to be helped. At last the dishes were set on, and grace was said. It 7. (be succeeded) _____ by a breathless pause, as Mrs Cratchit, looking slowly all along the carving-knife, prepared to plunge it into the breast; but when she 8. (do) _____, and when the long-expected gush of stuffing issued forth, one murmur of delight 9. (arise) _____ all around, and even Tiny Tim, excited by the two young Cratchits, 10. (beat) _____ on the table with the handle of his knife, and feebly cried Hurrah!

There never was such a goose. Bob said he 11. (not believe) _____ there ever was such a goose cooked; its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, 12 (be) _____ the themes of universal admiration.

KEY

1. was (*simple past, 3rd person singular*)
2. made (*simple past, irregular*)
3. sweetened up (*simple past*)
4. took (*simple past, irregular*)
5. set (*simple past, irregular*)
6. came (*simple past, irregular*)
7. was succeeded (*simple past, 3rd person singular*)
8. did (*simple past, irregular*)
9. arose (*simple past, irregular*)
10. beat (*simple past, irregular*)
11. didn't believe (*simple past*)
12. were (*simple past, 3rd person plural*)