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# Scholars Tutorial

English Comprehension Test

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

## Instructions

- There are **31** questions in this test.
- Read the passage carefully.
- Answer all questions.
- Provide a tick (✓) next to the correct answer.
- You have 30 minutes to complete the test.
- Registered users can download answer keys for all free PDF worksheets from [www.scholarstutorial.co.uk](http://www.scholarstutorial.co.uk)

## Passage

My father's family name being Pirrip, and my Christian name Philip, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Pip. So, I called myself Pip, and came to be called Pip.

I give Pirrip as my father's family name, on the authority of his tombstone and my sister,—Mrs. Joe Gargery, who married the blacksmith. As I never saw my father or my mother, and never saw any likeness of either of them (for their days were long before the days of photographs), my first fancies regarding what they were like were unreasonably derived from their tombstones. The shape of the letters on my father's, gave me an odd idea that he was a square, stout, dark man, with curly black hair. From the character and turn of the inscription, “\_Also Georgiana Wife of the Above\_,” I drew a childish conclusion that my mother was freckled and sickly. To five little stone lozenges, each about a foot and a half long, which were arranged in a neat row beside their grave, and were sacred to the memory of five little brothers of mine,—who gave up trying to get a living, exceedingly early in that universal struggle,—I am indebted for a belief I religiously entertained that they had all been born on their backs with their hands in their trousers-pockets, and had never taken them out in this state of existence.

Ours was the marsh country, down by the river, within, as the river wound, twenty miles of the sea. My first most vivid and broad impression of the identity of things seems to me to have been gained on a memorable raw afternoon towards evening. At such a time I found out for certain that this bleak place overgrown with nettles was the churchyard; and that Philip Pirrip, late of this parish, and also Georgiana wife of the above, were dead and buried; and that Alexander, Bartholomew, Abraham, Tobias, and Roger, infant children of the aforesaid, were also dead and buried; and that the dark flat wilderness beyond the churchyard, intersected with dikes and mounds and gates, with scattered cattle feeding on it, was the marshes; and that the low leaden line beyond was the river; and that the distant savage lair from which the wind was rushing was the sea; and that the small bundle of shivers growing afraid of it all and beginning to cry, was Pip.

“Hold your noise!” cried a terrible voice, as a man started up from among the graves at the side of the church porch. “Keep still, you little devil, or I’ll cut your throat!”

A fearful man, all in coarse grey, with a great iron on his leg. A man with no hat, and with broken shoes, and with an old rag tied round his head. A man who had been soaked in water, and smothered in mud, and lamed by stones, and cut by flints, and stung by nettles, and torn by briars; who limped, and shivered, and glared, and growled; and whose teeth chattered in his head as he seized me by the chin.

“Oh! Don’t cut my throat, sir,” I pleaded in terror. “Pray don’t do it, sir.”

“Tell us your name!” said the man. “Quick!”

“Pip, sir.”

“Once more,” said the man, staring at me. “Give it mouth!”

“Pip. Pip, sir.”

“Show us where you live,” said the man. “Point out the place!”

I pointed to where our village lay, on the flat in-shore among the alder-trees and pollards, a mile or more from the church.

**1:** What name did the narrator choose for himself as a child?

- (A) Philip
- (B) Pirrip
- (C) Pip
- (D) Joe
- (E) Peter

**2:** How did the narrator know his parents' names?

- (A) From family stories
- (B) From church records
- (C) From his sister
- (D) From their tombstones
- (E) From old photographs

**3:** What impression did Pip have of his father based on the tombstone?

- (A) He was tall and thin
- (B) He had blonde hair
- (C) He was cheerful
- (D) He was short and bald
- (E) He was dark and stout

**4:** Why did Pip think his mother was freckled and sickly?

- (A) Because of a family portrait
- (B) Because of his sister's description
- (C) Because of the tombstone inscription
- (D) Because of old letters
- (E) Because of her name

**5:** What did Pip believe about his five deceased brothers?

- (A) They were all older than him
- (B) They were soldiers
- (C) They had never moved in life
- (D) They lived in London
- (E) They had become ghosts

**6:** Where did the story take place?

- (A) On a mountain
- (B) In the city
- (C) In a forest
- (D) In a marsh country by the river
- (E) On a beach

**7:** What was Pip doing when he discovered the identities of the graves?

- (A) Reading a book
- (B) Walking through a forest
- (C) Crying in the churchyard
- (D) Talking to his sister
- (E) Listening to a sermon

**8:** Who interrupted Pip in the churchyard?

- (A) His uncle
- (B) His sister
- (C) A terrible man
- (D) A policeman
- (E) A ghost

**9:** What did the man threaten to do to Pip?

- (A) Throw him into the river
- (B) Kidnap him
- (C) Steal his food
- (D) Cut his throat
- (E) Lock him up

**10:** What was the man wearing?

- (A) A fancy coat
- (B) A police uniform
- (C) Coarse grey clothes with a leg iron
- (D) A black robe
- (E) A sailor's jacket

**11:** How did Pip respond to the man's threats?

- (A) He ran away
- (B) He pleaded with him
- (C) He called for help
- (D) He attacked him
- (E) He fainted

**12:** What did the man ask Pip to do after telling his name?

- (A) Find food
- (B) Show where he lived
- (C) Bring clothes
- (D) Fetch help
- (E) Dig a hole

**13:** How far was the village from the churchyard?

- (A) Right next to it
- (B) Less than half a mile
- (C) A mile or more
- (D) Ten miles
- (E) He didn't say

**14:** What was the landscape like beyond the churchyard?

- (A) Forests and mountains
- (B) A bustling town
- (C) Fields with flowers
- (D) A dark flat wilderness
- (E) Snowy hills

**15:** How does Pip describe himself at the end of the passage?

- (A) A brave child
- (B) A tiny soldier
- (C) A bundle of shivers
- (D) A lost boy
- (E) A naughty pupil

**16:** What part of speech is 'infant' in the sentence: 'My infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Pip'?

- (A) Noun
- (B) Adjective
- (C) Verb
- (D) Adverb
- (E) Preposition

**17:** What kind of word is 'fancies' in the sentence: 'My first fancies regarding what they were like were unreasonably derived from their tombstones'?

- (A) Verb
- (B) Adjective
- (C) Noun
- (D) Adverb
- (E) Conjunction

**18:** Which word class does 'glared' belong to in the sentence: 'He limped, and shivered, and glared, and growled'?

- (A) Noun
- (B) Verb
- (C) Adjective
- (D) Adverb
- (E) Preposition

**19:** In the sentence 'As the river wound, we could see the sea,' what type of clause is 'As the river wound'?

- (A) Main clause
- (B) Noun clause
- (C) Relative clause
- (D) Adverbial clause
- (E) Conditional clause

**20:** In the sentence 'Five little brothers of mine — who gave up trying to get a living — were buried,' what type of clause is 'who gave up trying to get a living'?

- (A) Noun clause
- (B) Main clause
- (C) Relative clause
- (D) Adverbial clause
- (E) Exclamatory clause

**21:** In the sentence 'As a man started up from among the graves, I froze in fear,' what type of clause is 'As a man started up from among the graves'?

- (A) Main clause
- (B) Relative clause
- (C) Adverbial clause
- (D) Noun clause
- (E) Parenthetical clause

**22:** In the sentence 'My first fancies regarding what they were like were unreasonably derived from their tombstones,' what does the word 'fancies' mean?

- (A) Facts
- (B) Images
- (C) Dreams
- (D) Imaginative thoughts
- (E) Memories

**23:** In the sentence 'I drew a childish conclusion that my mother was freckled and sickly,' what does the word 'conclusion' mean?

- (A) Ending
- (B) Decision
- (C) Judgement
- (D) Guess
- (E) Understanding

**24:** In the sentence 'The dark flat wilderness beyond the churchyard, intersected with dikes and mounds,' what does 'intersected' mean?

- (A) Decorated
- (B) Divided by
- (C) Surrounded by
- (D) Overgrown with
- (E) Crossed through

**25:** In the sentence 'A small bundle of shivers growing afraid of it all and beginning to cry, was Pip,' what does 'shivers' suggest?

- (A) Movements
- (B) Blankets
- (C) Cold and fear
- (D) Waves
- (E) Excitement

**26:** What type of sentence is this: 'I called myself Pip, and came to be called Pip'?

- (A) Simple
- (B) Compound
- (C) Complex
- (D) Exclamatory
- (E) Interrogative

**27:** In the sentence 'He limped, and shivered, and glared, and growled,' what is the effect of the repeated use of 'and'?

- (A) It slows the pace of the sentence
- (B) It adds humour
- (C) It emphasises the number of actions
- (D) It makes the sentence longer
- (E) It introduces a list

**28:** What type of sentence is this: 'The marshes stretched out, flat and grey, beneath the heavy sky'?

- (A) Simple
- (B) Complex
- (C) Compound
- (D) Exclamatory
- (E) Interrogative

**29:** What is the effect of the repeated use of commas in the sentence: 'He was soaked in water, smothered in mud, and stung by nettles'?

- (A) To show excitement
- (B) To confuse the reader
- (C) To slow the pace
- (D) To emphasise each hardship
- (E) To summarise quickly

**30:** In the sentence 'The small bundle of shivers growing afraid of it all and beginning to cry, was Pip,' what language feature is used to describe Pip?

- (A) Simile
- (B) Metaphor
- (C) Personification
- (D) Alliteration
- (E) Irony

**31:** In the sentence 'Whose teeth chattered in his head as he seized me by the chin,' what language device is used?

- (A) Alliteration
- (B) Metaphor
- (C) Personification
- (D) Hyperbole
- (E) Onomatopoeia

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