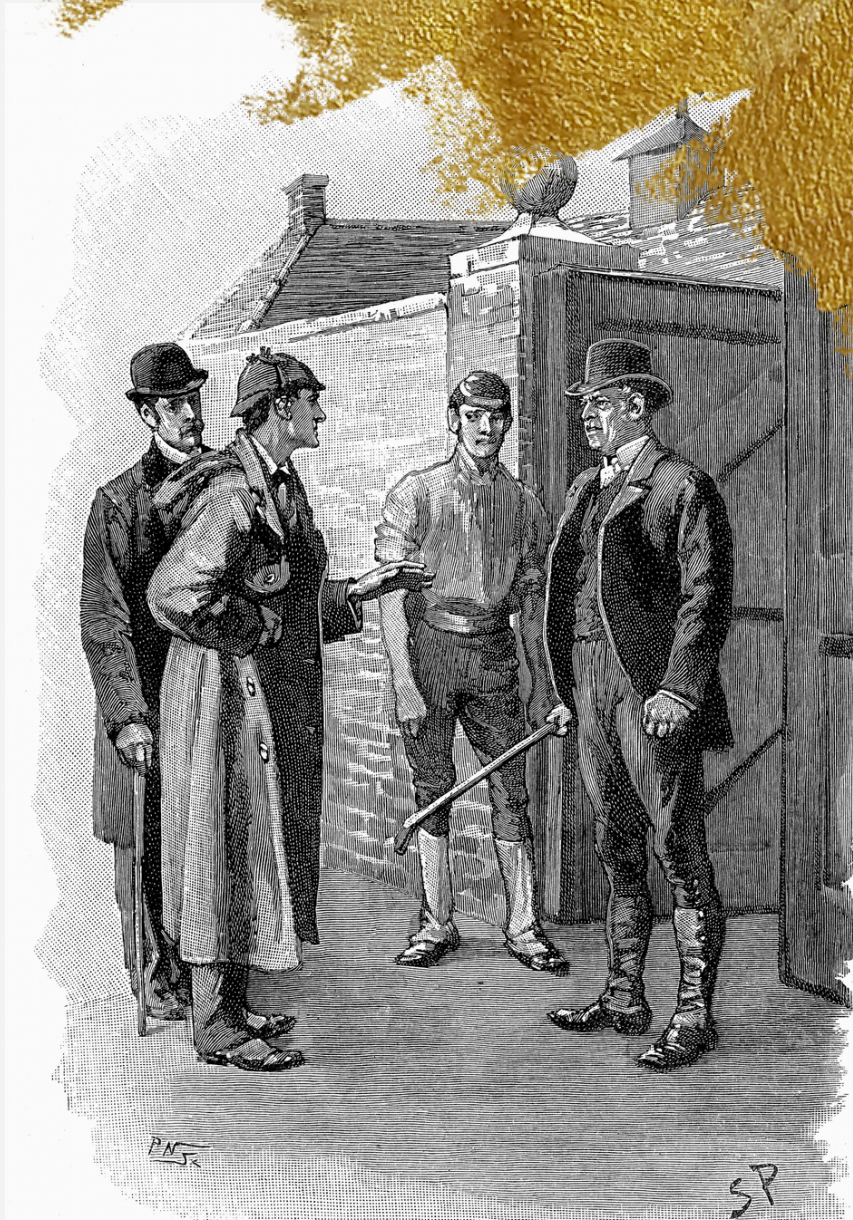


**“It is quite a three pipe problem, and I beg that  
you won't speak to me for fifty minutes.”**

**“The Red-Headed League” a Sherlock Holmes  
Short Story**



# **Sherlock Holmes: The Very First Case**

**STUDENTS' PACK  
2025/2026**

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## ACTIVITY 1: WHO IS SHERLOCK HOLMES?

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**Sherlock Holmes is...**

**Sherlock Holmes does...**

**Sherlock Holmes usually...**

**Sherlock Holmes never...**

**What makes Sherlock Holmes unique as a detective?**

**Why do you think his stories are still popular today?**

**What do you expect from a modern stage adaptation?**



## ACTIVITY 2: HOLMES & DOYLE

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SHERLOCK HOLMES IS A FICTIONAL DETECTIVE [REDACTED] BY SCOTTISH AUTHOR AND PHYSICIAN SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE. A [REDACTED] LONDON-BASED "CONSULTING DETECTIVE", HOLMES IS FAMOUS [REDACTED] HIS ASTUTE LOGICAL REASONING, HIS ABILITY [REDACTED] TAKE ALMOST ANY DISGUISE, AND [REDACTED] FORENSIC SCIENCE SKILLS TO SOLVE DIFFICULT CASES.

HOLMES, [REDACTED] FIRST APPEARED IN PUBLICATION IN 1887, [REDACTED] FEATURED IN FOUR NOVELS AND 56 SHORT STORIES. THE FIRST STORY, A STUDY IN SCARLET, APPEARED [REDACTED] *BEETON'S CHRISTMAS ANNUAL* IN 1887. THE CHARACTER GREW [REDACTED] IN POPULARITY WITH THE BEGINNING OF [REDACTED] FIRST SERIES OF SHORT STORIES IN *STRAND MAGAZINE* IN 1891. THE STORIES COVER A PERIOD FROM [REDACTED] 1880 UP TO 1914.

ALL BUT FOUR STORIES ARE NARRATED [REDACTED] HOLMES'S FRIEND AND BIOGRAPHER, DR. JOHN H. WATSON.

WHO	TREMENDOUSLY	CREATED	HIS
WAS	THE	BRILLIANT	BY
TO	IN	FOR	AROUND

## ACTIVITY 3: ARE THESE RIGHT?

---

Have your students decide if the following questions are true or not, individually or in pairs.

### QUESTIONS

- 1. Sherlock Holmes' first novel was a huge success and was printed in a magazine called The Strand.**
- 2. There would be no Sherlock Holmes books if Oscar Wilde hadn't been a fan and encouraged Doyle to continue with him.**
- 3. Sherlock Holmes even made the ridiculous hat, the Deerstalker", popular.**
- 4. He is the most filmed fictional character in the world.**
- 5. Holmes didn't deduct, he observed.**
- 6. The Sherlock Holmes Museum is at his fictional address in 221B Baker Street in London.**
- 7. There probably wouldn't have been the Jurassic Park films without Conan Doyle.**

## ACTIVITY 4: THE MAIN CHARACTERS.

HERE YOU HAVE: 1) THE NAME OF THE MAIN CHARACTERS. 2) A SENTENCE THAT THEY SAY IN THE PLAY. 3) A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF WHO THEY ARE.

**Put the the description and the speech with the right character.**

MAIN CHARACTER	WHO THEY ARE	WHAT THEY SAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sherlock Holmes</li><li>• Dr. John Watson</li><li>• Angus McMackenzie</li><li>• Moriarty</li><li>• Mw Van Damned</li><li>• Mrs Hudson</li><li>• Mw Goossens</li><li>• Eilidh McMackenzie</li><li>• Mary Hardy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Scottish co-owner of the McMackenzie and Todd Hotel – Restaurant – Butchers shop</li><li>• Sherlock Holmes' dangerous antagonist who is as intelligent as Sherlock is.</li><li>• A socialite from Belgium who is Holmes first real case.</li><li>• The landlady of Sherlock and Watson; an opinionated but loyal friend.</li><li>• A major threat to Sherlock Holmes who reminds him of someone else.</li><li>• The world's first consulting detective: great powers of observation.</li><li>• The Scottish co-owner of the McMackenzie and Todd Hotel – Restaurant – Butchers shop.</li><li>• Mw Van Damned's partner in the incident.</li><li>• The friend and colleague of Sherlock Holmes. He writes about their adventures for a magazine.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Restaurant isn't open yet. I've brought you a wee whisky. Just need to mix in our...special herbs".</li><li>• "I'm not their servant...who do they think they are? Tea. They want it, they don't ..."</li><li>• "Well, it all started a month ago. We were at our house in the country. It was a beautiful evening; I was wearing my new spring outfit; it had some gorgeous, green ribbands with two bows...here..."</li><li>• "I'm just a simple Belfast girl at bottom".</li><li>• "Not quite yet, Sherlock. Remind me. What are we looking for again?"</li><li>• "You! Who are you looking at? Well? What? Want me to do something really clever? A deduction?"</li><li>• "Of course. It's been years and years now since we had...an overnight visitor. Now it's just the restaurant and the shop...and our special pies. You should try a pie. Really... tasty they are".</li><li>• "We must strike quickly. There is no time to lose. We must go and find this brewery. And the house. That's where our adventure begins."</li><li>• "No, it isn't fair. Thing is I don't want to play. I want to win. So, bye - bye Sherlock. So sorry. Such a pity"</li><li>• "Mevrouw Goossens, I'm Godelieve's sister. Her twin sister. You can probably see the resemblance".</li></ul>

## ACTIVITY 5: OUT OF CURIOSITY.

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### THAT WAS THE YEAR THAT WAS 1908 A FEW THINGS THAT WERE GOING ON AT THE TIME THE PLAY'S OPENING SCENE IS SET

**Jan 12th** - A long-distance radio message is sent from the Eiffel Tower for the first time.

**Jan 13th** - French pilot Henry Farman is 1st European to fly roundtrip

**Jan 21st** - New York City regulation makes it illegal for a woman to smoke in public

**Jan 24th** - General Baden-Powell starts Boy-Scouts

**Feb 1st** - King Carlos I of Portugal and his son, Prince Luis Filipe are killed in Terreiro do Paco, Lisbon.

**Feb 12th** - New York to Paris car race (via Alaska & Siberia) begins in New York City. George Schuster wins after 88 days behind the wheel

**Feb 27th** - Oklahoma became the 46th star on the USA flag

**Feb 29th** - Dutch scientists produce solid helium

**Mar 9th** - Inter Milan is founded.

**Apr 20th** - 12th Boston Marathon won by Tom Morrissey of NY in 2:25:43.2

**Apr 24th** - Mr & Mrs Jacob Murdock become 1st to travel across US by car, they leave Los Angeles in a Packard & arrive in New York City in 32days -5hours -25minutes

**Apr 27th** - 4th modern Olympic games opens in London

**May 10th** - 1st Mother's Day observed (Philadelphia)

**May 12th** - Wireless Radio Broadcasting is patented by Nathan B. Stubblefield

**May 14th** - 1st passenger flight in an airplane

**May 21st** - 1st horror movie (Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde) premieres in Chicago

**May 31st** - Miss Pottelsberghe de la Pottery is 1st airplane passenger (Belgium)

**Jun 10th** - 1st flying club, Aeronautical Society of New York, opens

**Jun 12th** - Lusitania crosses Atlantic in record 4 days 15 hours

**Jun 15th** - World congress for Woman's rights opens in Amsterdam

**Jul 9th** - CHU (Christian Historic Union) Dutch political party forms

**Jul 10th** - H Kamerlingh Onnes makes helium liquid (-269°C)

**Jul 19th** - Feyenoord soccer team forms in Rotterdam

**Jul 26th** - Predecessor of the FBI is created by the Department of Justice

**Jul 30th** - Around the World Automobile Race ends in Paris

**Aug 12th** - Ford builds the first Model T.

**Aug 14th** - The first beauty contest is held in Folkestone, England.

**Aug 17th** - Projection in Paris of the very first cartoon, Fantasmagorie realized by Émile Cohl.

**Aug 22nd** - Henri Cartier-Bresson, France, photographer born.

**Sep 16th** - Carriage-maker, William Durant, founded General Motors Corp

**Sep 19th** - Gustav Mahler's 7th Symphony, premieres in Prague

**Oct 1st** - 1st Dutch electric railway in use (Rotterdam-The Hague)

**Oct 3rd** - The Pravda newspaper founded by Leon Trotsky, Adolph Joffe, Matvey Skobelev in Vienna.

**Oct 6th** - Austria annexes Bosnia & Herzegovina

**Oct 18th** - Belgium annexes Congo Free State

**Oct 20th** - King Leopold II sells Congo to Belgium

**Nov 14th** - Albert Einstein presents quantum theory of light

**Dec 5th** - 1st football uniform numerals used (University of Pittsburgh)

**Dec 28th** - Earthquake strikes Messina, Italy (nearly 80,000 died)

**Dec 29th** - Patent granted for a 4-wheel automobile brake, Clintonville, Wisconsin



**WHICH EVENT SURPRISES YOU MOST? WHY?**

**WHAT WERE THE 3 MAIN NEWS STORIES IN YOUR COUNTRY; AREA; TOWN IN 1908?**

## ACTIVITY 6: SHERLOCK AND WATSON HAVE “LOST” SOME OF THEIR LINES.

---

Look at the sentences that are missing from this conversation between Holmes and Watson taken from the play.

Can you see where they go in the conversation?

Listen to the conversation and make any changes. Go through the answers in class.

**Sherlock**

**1**

I didn't even solve it. It wasn't interesting.  
Why?

**Watson**

**2**

**Sherlock**

Do you think I want to be popular?

**Watson**

**3**

Don't deny it!

**Sherlock**

And this?

**Watson**

Now I didn't do that.

**4**

**Sherlock**

Once!

I put it on one time because it was so cold.  
And now there are drawings in every single story!

**5**

**Watson**

The people like the coat.

**6**

It's...dashing.

**Sherlock**

**7**

Oh, hang it up, John.  
Out of my sight.

## ACTIVITY 6: SHERLOCK AND WATSON HAVE “LOST” SOME OF THEIR LINES.

---

**Where do these “lines” go in the conversation?:**

*It’s hot, it’s uncomfortable, it’s ridiculous!*

*This is the most popular story yet, Holmes!*

*And anyway. It makes you look romantic.*

*Yes! Because you like all the work it brings with it.*

*Of me. Always in this coat!*

*And that last case you wrote about.*

*You wore it yourself!*

## ACTIVITY 7: WORD SOUPS

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### SHERLOCK HOLMES WORD SOUP – CEFR B1 (INTERMEDIATE)

Step into foggy London — can you find the clues before Holmes does? Words may go across, down, or diagonally, forwards or backwards!

Find these words: ***detective, mystery, London, Watson, clue, suspect, evidence, hat, street, solve, foggy, police, smart, case, friend***

D	E	T	E	C	T	I	V	E	R	M	Y
L	O	N	D	O	N	W	A	T	S	O	N
F	O	G	G	Y	C	L	U	E	F	R	I
S	T	R	E	E	T	P	O	L	I	C	E
S	M	A	R	T	V	S	O	L	V	E	Q
E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E	S	U	S	P
H	A	T	F	R	I	E	N	D	C	A	S

## ACTIVITY 7: WORD SOUPS

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### SHERLOCK HOLMES WORD SOUP – CEFR B2 (UPPER INTERMEDIATE)

At 221B Baker Street, the smallest clue could solve the greatest mystery. Words may go in any direction!

Find these words: ***deduction, evidence, investigation, culprit, disguise, motive, crime, genius, violin, BakerStreet, clue, logic, mystery, partner, adventure, observation***

B A K E R S T R E E T M  
D E D U C T I O N O B S  
A D V E N T U R E L O G  
V I O L I N M O T I V E  
E V I D E N C E G E N I  
S C R I M E D I S G U I  
N V E S T I G A T I O N  
P A R T N E R C L U E R



## ACTIVITY 7: WORD SOUPS

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### SHERLOCK HOLMES WORD SOUP – CEFR C1 (ADVANCED)

Only the sharpest minds can spot every clue in this grid of mystery and logic. Words may go forwards, backwards, vertically, or diagonally.

Find these words: ***deduction, observation, analysis, hypothesis, intellect, forensic, disguise, narrative, ScotlandYard, intuition, chemistry, deception, resolution, adversary, enigma, ratiocination***

R	A	T	I	O	C	I	N	A	T	I	O
D	E	D	U	C	T	I	O	N	H	Y	P
I	N	T	U	I	T	I	O	N	C	H	E
S	C	O	T	L	A	N	D	Y	A	R	D
A	N	A	L	Y	S	I	S	F	O	R	E
N	A	R	R	A	T	I	V	E	D	E	C
E	N	I	G	M	A	R	E	S	O	L	U
I	N	T	E	L	L	E	C	T	A	D	V

## ACTIVITY 8: YOU ARE ONE OF SHERLOCK'S CLIENT

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**FOR LEVEL: CEFR C1 (ADVANCED)**

### INTRODUCTION

It's London, 1895. You are standing nervously at 221B Baker Street. You have come to ask the world's greatest detective, Sherlock Holmes, to help you with a strange and worrying mystery.

You and your partner will take turns playing:

- The Client – the person with a problem.
- Sherlock Holmes – the detective who listens, questions, and deduces.

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Work in pairs.
2. First, decide who is the client and who is Holmes.
3. The client prepares their story using the table below.
4. The detective listens carefully and asks logical questions.
5. After 5–7 minutes, swap roles.
6. Be creative, dramatic, and mysterious!

Example:

**Client:** Good evening, Mr Holmes. My name is Miss Violet Green, and I work as a governess in Kensington.

**Holmes:** Please sit down, Miss Green. You seem troubled.

**Client:** Indeed, sir. Every night, I find muddy footprints leading from my window to the garden gate... but my window is on the second floor!

## ACTIVITY 8: YOU ARE ONE OF SHERLOCK'S CLIENT

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Client Preparation Sheet:

What is your name?	
What is your occupation?	
Where do you live?	
What strange or suspicious event has happened?	
What clues have you noticed?	
Who do you suspect, and why?	
What are you afraid might happen?	
What do you want Holmes to do?	



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