

Year 8 Home Learning – English – The Hound of the Baskervilles – Autumn 1

- You are expected to spend between 15-30 minutes per week to complete your home learning tasks.
- Your English teacher will set your due date each week.
- Home Learning must be bought in on the due date to be checked by your teacher.

Page	Week	Task	Due	Completed
2	1	Capital letters and homophones		
3-4	2	Context		
5-6	3	Apostrophes		
7	4	Vocabulary		
8-9	5	Commas		
10	6	Plot		

Week 1 – SPAG Skills

Task 1 – Capital Letters

1. sherlock holmes noticed that dr mortimer had left his walking stick at baker street.
2. travelling from devon, dr mortimer seeks help from the detective.
3. james mortimer brought an old manuscript about the baskerville family.
4. the story told of sir hugo baskerville and a terrifying hound.
5. sir charles baskerville had recently died near baskerville hall.
6. sir henry had arrived in london from canada to claim the estate.

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Task 2 – Homophones: There/Their/They're

1. Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson left _____ breakfast on the table while discussing the case.
2. Dr Mortimer was surprised when Holmes guessed details about _____ visitor.
3. _____ was an old manuscript that told the story of the Baskerville curse.
4. The Baskervilles believed _____ was a terrible hound haunting the family.
5. Holmes thought _____ observations would help solve the mystery.
6. Dr Mortimer explained that _____ worried about Sir Henry's safety.
7. When Sir Charles died, _____ were many questions about what had happened.
8. Holmes and Watson knew _____ going to investigate the case further.

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Task 3 – Homophones: Your/you're

1. _____ going to learn more about the mystery in today's lesson.
2. Make sure _____ notes include details about Dr Mortimer.
3. Holmes thinks _____ observations could help solve the case.
4. Don't forget to check _____ punctuation before handing in your work.
5. _____ doing a great job analysing *The Hound of the Baskervilles* so far.

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Week 2 - Context

Task 1 – Read the following information about the historical/social context of the novel.

The Victorian Era

When Victoria came to the throne in 1837, England was going through a period of vast change known as the Industrial Revolution. The population doubled from 16.8 million to over 30 million when Victoria died in 1901, with many moving from the countryside to towns and cities to access new jobs in factories.

Scientific Developments

These changes were sparked by scientific and technological advances like the steam engine which led to railway engines, steamboats motorised road vehicles. Scientists explored new fields, with discoveries like germs causing disease, x-rays seeing inside the body and fingerprinting at crime scenes inspiring others to see that science still had far more to reveal about the world.

Class and Society

Despite this time of great change, overpopulation and living conditions made it a difficult time to live. The differences between the lives of the rich and poor were intensified. The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 allowed the poor to receive public assistance only if they went to the workhouse which were so appalling that the poor often preferred to beg on the streets than go there.

Task 2: Writing in full sentences and using correct capital letters and full stops, answer the following comprehension questions:

1. Who became queen in 1837, and what major period of change was England experiencing at the time?
2. How did England's population change between 1837 and 1901?
3. Why did many people move from the countryside to towns and cities during the Victorian era?
4. Name two scientific or technological developments mentioned in the text and explain how they changed people's lives.
5. What was the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, and what did poor people have to do to receive public assistance?
6. Why did many poor people choose to beg on the streets rather than go to a workhouse?

Challenge Question:

How do the scientific advances and the treatment of poor people show that Victorian Britain was a time of both progress and hardship?

Task 3 – Read the following information about the author

Arthur Conan Doyle: A Short Biography

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was born on 22 May 1859 in Edinburgh, Scotland. He grew up in a large family and loved reading and storytelling from a young age. After attending school in England and Austria, he studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh. One of his professors, Dr Joseph Bell, was famous for his ability to observe people closely and make accurate deductions. Bell later inspired Doyle's most famous character, Sherlock Holmes.

After qualifying as a doctor, Doyle worked as a physician in Portsmouth. During quiet periods at his surgery, he began writing stories. In 1887, he published *A Study in Scarlet*, the first novel to feature Sherlock Holmes and his friend Dr Watson. Holmes became extremely popular because of his intelligence, logical thinking and ability to solve difficult mysteries.

Although Doyle wrote many other books, including historical adventures, science fiction and plays, he is best remembered for the Sherlock Holmes stories. He became frustrated that Holmes overshadowed his other work and even killed the character off in 1893. However, due to public demand, Doyle later brought Holmes back.

Doyle was also interested in sport, politics and campaigning for justice. He was knighted in 1902 and became known as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He died in 1930, but his books remain popular around the world today.

Task 4: Writing in full sentences and using correct capital letters and full stops, answer the following comprehension questions:

1. Where and when was Arthur Conan Doyle born?
2. What did Arthur Conan Doyle study at university, and what job did he have before becoming a famous writer?
3. How did Dr Joseph Bell influence the creation of Sherlock Holmes?
4. What was the name of the first Sherlock Holmes novel, and when was it published?
5. Why did Doyle decide to kill off Sherlock Holmes, and why did he later bring him back?
6. Besides writing, what other interests and activities did Arthur Conan Doyle have during his life?

Challenge Question: Why do you think Sherlock Holmes remains one of the most famous fictional characters in the world today? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Week 3 – SPAG Skills

Task 1 – Apostrophes for omission

An **apostrophe for omission** shows that one or more letters have been left out when two words are shortened and joined together. These shortened words are called **contractions**.

How to use them:

1. Find the missing letter(s).
2. Replace the missing letter(s) with an apostrophe (').
3. Check that the shortened word still makes sense.

Examples:

- do not → **don't**
- cannot → **can't**
- I am → **I'm**

Practice:

Rewrite these contractions correctly.

1. do not → _____
2. she is → _____
3. we are → _____
4. could not → _____
5. it is → _____
6. they have → _____

Rewrite each sentence, adding the apostrophe where it is needed.

1. Sir Henry doesnt know who has been following him in London.
2. Theyre surprised to find that one of Sir Henrys boots has gone missing.
3. Weve learned that someone may be watching Sir Henry.
4. Holmes isnt convinced that the case involves anything supernatural.
5. Youre going to discover more clues as the mystery develops.
6. Dr Mortimer cant explain how the missing boot disappeared.
7. I didnt expect the warning letter to be so mysterious.
8. Theyve decided to travel to Baskerville Hall despite the dangers.

Task 2 – Apostrophes for possession

An **apostrophe for possession** shows that something belongs to someone or something.

How to use them:

For one person or thing, add 's

- Sherlock Holmes's pipe
- Sir Henry's boot
- the hound's tracks

For more than one person (plural) ending in s, add '

- the villagers' stories
- the detectives' notes

Examples:

- The notebook belonging to Dr Mortimer = **Dr Mortimer's notebook**
- The cane belonging to Sherlock Holmes = **Sherlock Holmes's cane**
- The stories belonging to the villagers = **the villagers' stories**

Top Tip:

Ask yourself: "**Who does it belong to?**" If something belongs to a person, place, or thing, you probably need an apostrophe for possession.

Practice

Add the apostrophe in the correct place.

1. Sir Henrys boot was missing.
2. Dr Mortimers story interested Holmes.
3. The hounds tracks frightened the villagers.
4. The detectives notes contained important clues.
5. Sir Charles death remained a mystery.

Write 2 sentences of your own which use correct apostrophes for possession.

Write 2 sentences of your own which use correct apostrophes for omission.

Week 4 – Vocabulary

Task 1 - Match the correct term with the definition.

	The process of reaching a decision by looking at the facts that are known.
	Something that shocks people because they think it is morally wrong.
	The action or process of closely monitoring something
	The development of events outside a person's control that are predetermined.
	A novel written as a series of letters.
	Refers to having two parts, often with opposite meaning e.g. good and evil.
	Writing characterised by horror, death and fear as well as romantic elements.
	Where the nature and setting in the story mirrors the emotion of the scene.
	A phrase used to describe something as if it were something else
	Describes something by comparing it to something else, using 'like' or 'as'.

Scandal	Simile	Fate	Duality	Gothic	Pathetic fallacy
Observation		Metaphor	Deduction	Epistolary	

Task 2 – Write a sentence using each of these key words.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

Week 5 – Commas

Using Commas in a List

A **comma** is used to separate items in a list so that your writing is clear and easy to read.

How to use them:

1. Write the items in your list.
2. Put a comma after each item.
3. Do **not** put a comma before the final item if you are using **and**.

Examples:

- Holmes examined a **boot, a walking stick and a letter**.
- The suspects included **Dr Mortimer, Sir Henry and Barrymore**.
- We need **a pen, a ruler, a book and a worksheet**.

Top Tip:

If you are listing **three or more things**, you will usually need commas.

Practice

Add commas where they are needed.

1. Holmes found a boot a cane and a clue.
2. The moor was dark misty and quiet.
3. We read Chapters 1 2 3 and 4 of the novel.
4. Sir Henry Holmes and Watson discussed the case.
5. The hound was large fierce and frightening.

Write 3 sentences of your own using commas for lists.

- _____

- _____

- _____

Using Commas to Separate Clauses

A **clause** is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb.

Use a **comma** to separate two clauses when:

- the subordinate clause gives extra information, and
- the main clause would still make sense without it.

Examples

- When Holmes examined the boot, he noticed something unusual.
- Although Sir Henry was worried, he agreed to travel to Baskerville Hall.
- After Dr Mortimer told his story, Holmes began to investigate.

Top Tip:

If your sentence starts with words such as **when, after, before, although, because, while** or **if**, you will often need a comma before the main part of the sentence.

Practice

Add the missing commas.

1. When Sir Henry arrived in London he received a mysterious warning.
2. Although Holmes was interested in the case he remained calm.
3. After Watson heard the legend he understood the family's fears.
4. Before they left for Baskerville Hall Holmes gave Watson some advice.
5. While Dr Mortimer explained the mystery Holmes listened carefully.

Write 3 sentences of your own starting with a subordinate clause and using commas correctly.

Start your sentence with: **when, after, before, although, because, while** or **if**.

- _____

- _____

- _____

Week 6 – Plot

Task 1 – Complete the gap fill exercise on chapters 1-6 of the novel.

Dr _____ visits Sherlock Holmes and Dr _____ at Baker Street. He tells them about the _____ family curse and shares the legend of a terrifying _____ that is said to haunt the family.

Dr Mortimer explains that Sir Charles Baskerville has recently _ near Baskerville Hall. Although some people believe the _____ is responsible, Sherlock _____ wants to investigate the case logically.

Soon, Sir _____ Baskerville arrives in _____ after inheriting the family estate. Before he can travel to Dartmoor, he receives a mysterious _____ telling him to stay away from the moor.

Strange events begin to occur when one of Sir Henry's _____ goes missing. Holmes believes that somebody is secretly following Sir Henry and decides to investigate further.

Although Holmes stays in London, Dr Watson accompanies Sir Henry to Baskerville _____. There, they meet members of the household, including Mr and Mrs _____.

As Watson begins to explore the area, he discovers that the moor is full of secrets and danger. The _____ surrounding the Baskerville family is far from solved.

Word Bank

Holmes, curse, Watson, Mortimer, Baskerville, Henry, hound, London, boots, letter, Barrymore, Hall, mystery, died

Task 2 – flow map the events of the novel so far.

