

A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES

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The Hound of the Baskervilles

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES DATE OF THE ADVENTURE*

(Date Hound was killed.)

CLUES:

1. The story was published in serialized form from August 1901 through May 1902 which was when Holmes was presumed to be dead.
2. Holmes says "... all accounts which you (Watson) have been so good as to give of my own small achievements ..." (669)
N.B. 'accounts' is plural
3. "A Scandal in Bohemia" was published in July 1891
4. Holmes and Watson met on the moor on October 18 (732) and the hound was killed on the following day, that is, October 19.
5. The hound was killed on Friday (720)
6. October 19, 1894 and October 19, 1900 were on Friday.
7. Early in the morning, four days before the hound was killed, Watson and Sir Henry chased Selden across the moor and "... the moon was low upon the right." (726)
8. On October 15, 1900, the moon rose shortly after 11 pm.

CONCLUSIONS:

- A. 1 implies it was before August 1901
- B. 2 and 3 imply it was after July 1891
- C. 4 and 5 imply it was Friday, October 19
- D. C and 6 imply it was 1894 or 1900
- E. D, 7, and 8 imply it was 1900

The hound was killed on Friday, October 19, 1900

*The story may contain other clues to the date of the adventure. However, use only the clues shown here. Your only goal should be to use logical reasoning to find a date based on the clues shown here.

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES VOCABULARY WORDS

hearth-rug (669) – **rug laid on a floor in front of a fireplace**

Penang lawyer (669) – **walking stick made from the stem of a palm tree from Penang, an island off the west coast of Malaya**

M.R.C.S. (669, 672) – **Member of the Royal College of Surgeons**

ferrule (669) – **metal cap on the end of a walking stick to prevent the stick from splitting**

piqued (670) – **had a feeling of wounded pride**

settee (670) – **sofa**

frock-coat (671, 690) – **close fitting, double-breasted, knee-length coat**

dolichocephalic (672) – **long headed; a skull whose breadth is less than 4/5ths of its length**

supra-orbital (672, 686) – **situated above the orbit of the eye**

parietal fissure (672) – **line running down the center of the skull from front to back**

fulsome (672) – **insincere**

Bertillon (672) – **Alphonse Bertillon (1853 – 1914), French criminal expert, who developed a system for identifying criminals through body measurements**

Great Rebellion (674) – **English civil wars between the years 1641 and 1652**

gainsaid (674) – **denied**

wanton (674, 701) – **immoral**

yeoman (674) – **small farmer who pays a fee for the right to farm the land**

Michaelmas (674) – **September 29, day of the Archangel Michael; autumn term in school**

league (674) – **three miles**

flagons (674) – **large bottles for use on a table**

trenchers (674) – **a flat piece of wood on which meat is carved**

grooms (674, 699) – **men employed to take care of horses**

- agape (674) – **in a state of wonder**
goyal (675) – **deep gully**
roysterers (675, 750) – **swaggering bullies**
twain (675) – **two**
nouveaux riches (676) – **those who have recently become rich
and who flaunt their newly acquired
wealth**
yew (677, 679, 680, 684, 702, 706, 714) – **slow growing ever-
green of moderate height**
nocturnal (677) – **nightly**
dyspnoea (677) – **difficulty in breathing**
kin (677, 715) – **relative**
Bushman (678) – **nomadic people from South Africa**
Hottentot (678) – **light skinned race native to South Africa**
gig (678) – **light, one-horse, two-wheeled carriage**
chimerical (678) – **unreal; fanciful**
wicket-gate (680) – **small gate at the entrance to a field**
farrier (681) – **blacksmith**
parish (682, 714) – **a division of an English county that gov-
erns education and sanitation**
vestry (682) – **residents of a church parish**
shag (682) – **strong, coarsely cut tobacco**
Ordnance map (683) – **map showing everything in great detail,
including buildings, houses, etc.**
surmise (684, 745, 747) – **to infer something without suffi-
ciently conclusive evidence**
hypotheses (684, 695) – **tentative explanations that account for
a set of facts**
singular (684, 688, 739) – **beyond what is ordinary or usual;
remarkable**
baronet (684, 688, 706, 713, 717, 719, 720, etc.) – **hereditary
title next below a baron**
pugnacious (684) – **belligerent**
foolscap (685, 688) – **13” x 16” writing paper, with a fool's cap
and bell as a watermark**

The Novels

- cajoled (686) – **urged with gentle and repeated appeals**
Esquimau (686, 687) – **eskimo**
maxillary (686) – **jawbone**
leaded bourgeois (687) – **small printers' type with strips of metal used to separate lines**
leader (687) – **leading editorial in a newspaper**
varnished (688) – **polished**
squire (688) – **courtesy title of a chief land owner, usually the lord of the manor**
languid (689) – **listless**
hansom (690, 696) – **two-wheeled, one horse carriage seating two with the driver mounted behind and reins going over the roof of the hood; invented by J. A. Hansom, a Yorkshire architect who patented the cab in 1834**
outside porter (691) – **gatekeeper**
shilling (698, 692) – **one-twentieth of a pound**
patent leathers (693) – **shoes made of black leather finished to a hard, glossy surface**
venerable (695) – **worthy of reverence**
entailed (695) – **limited to a specified succession of heirs**
sovereign (697, 698) – **gold coin worth 1 £**
foil (697) – **fencing sword with a circular guard and a thin, flexible blade**
guinea (697, 698) – **1 £ plus 1 shilling**
toff (698) – **a man with a very fancy manner and dress**
conjectures (698, 745, 747) – **judgments based on inconclusive or incomplete evidence**
audacious (698, 745) – **recklessly daring; bold**
first-class carriage (699) – **railway car that offers the best available accommodations**
imprudent (699) – **unwise**
Celt (700) – **a person who lived in ancient times in what is now Wales, Ireland, or Scotland**

Gaelic (700) – **Scottish Celt**

Inverness (700) – **from Inverness, Scotland**

prosaic (700) – **dull; matter of fact**

pair of cobs (700) – **two short-legged, strong horses**

hart's-tongue fern (700) – **fern with long, fleshy fronds (leaves)**

bracken (700) – **weedy fern with large, triangular fronds (leaves)**

mottled (700, 758, 760) – **spotted or blotched with different colors**

brambles (700, 707) – **prickly shrubs or bushes**

heath-clad (701) – **covered with low growing vegetation especially heather**

warders (701) – **prison guards**

craggy cairns (701, 725, 730) – **heaps of stones used as markers**

tor (701, 726, 727, 730, 736) – **rocky outcropping**

russet (701, 730, 760) – **reddish-brown**

lichens (701) – **branching growth of a fungus on rocks or tree trunks**

Swan and Edison (702) – **English manufacturer of electric light devices**

crenellated (702) – **having low protective walls**

mullioned (702, 704) – **having vertical strips dividing the panes**

baulks (702, 758) – **beams of timber that are roughly squared**

balustraded (703) – **having a horizontal rail and a row of posts that support the rail**

dais (703) – **raised platform**

buck (703) – **fashionable man; a dandy**

copses (703) – **thicket of small trees or bushes**

efface (704) – **erase**

pallid (704) – **abnormally pale**

scullery-maid (704) – **servant who takes care of and washes the dishes and other kitchen utensils**

flaxen (706) – **pale grayish-yellow color**

surgery (706) – **doctor's office**

undulating (707) – **appearing wave-like**

The Novels

- sedges (708) – **coarse rush-like plants growing in wet places**
bittern (708) – **heron-like marsh bird, formerly in north of England**
wigwams (709) – **Native American dwelling having a conical framework covered with hides**
Cyclopides (709, 710) – **black and white butterfly now called Hesperia**
mare's tail (709) – **plant resembling a horse's tail**
grazier (710) – **person who grazes cattle for market**
Lepidoptera (711) – **butterfly with four membranous wings covered with small scales**
monoliths (712) – **large blocks of stone**
antiquarian (713) – **someone who studies ancient times**
fortnight (713) – **two weeks**
approbation (713) – **expression of warm approval; praise**
cotton grass (713) – **perennial grasslike plants with conspicuous tufts of cottony bristles**
disapprobation (714) – **disapproval; condemnation**
tête-à-tête (714) – **two persons in intimate conversation**
barrow (714, 715) – **burial ground**
choleric (714) – **easily angered; bad-tempered**
neolithic (715, 739) – **dating to the cultural period beginning around 10,000 B.C.**
box-room (715) – **storage room for luggage and boxes**
puritanical (715) – **marked by stern morality**
circumspectly (716) – **heedful of the circumstances and their potential consequences**
budget (716) – **collection of information**
clandestine (717) – **done in secret to conceal an improper purpose**
peremptory (719) – **not allowing contradiction or refusal**
brusquely (720) – **in a discourteously blunt way**
gallery (721) – **narrow balcony**
guttering (725) – **burning low and unsteadily; flickering**
distract (727, 755) – **inattentive or preoccupied due to anxiety**

felony (728) – **a crime in early English law that was punishable by forfeiture of land or goods or by loss of life or a bodily part**

inquest (729) – **judicial inquiry into the cause of a death**

waterproof (730, 738) – **raincoat**

dog-cart (730) – **a cart with two seats placed back-to-back; the name is derived from a box that is under rear seat and was originally used to carry dogs**

pittance (731) – **meager allowance**

equivocal (731) – **open to more than one interpretation**

écarté (731) – **card game for two players**

sitting-room (733) – **living room**

almoner (734) – **person who distributed alms (charity) on behalf of another**

incessant (735) – **continuing without interruption**

trap (735, 751) – **one-horse, two-wheeled, open carriage**

reticent (735) – **reluctant; unwilling**

unwonted (736) – **unusual**

magnates (736) – **powerful or influential persons**

warren (736) – **enclosure for small game animals**

effigy (736, 738) – **crude figure or dummy representing a hated person**

decanter (738) – **decorative bottle used for serving wine**

curlew (738) – **bird related to the woodcock**

cleft (738) – **crack or crevice**

pannikin (739) – **tin cup**

spirits (739) – **liquor**

curt (739) – **rudely brief or abrupt**

Spartan (739) – **simple, frugal, or austere**

immutable (739) – **not susceptible to change**

incisive (740) – **penetrating, clear, and sharp**

ironical (740) – **marked by a deliberate contrast between apparent and intended meaning**

lintel (740) – **horizontal beam forming upper part of a door frame**

The Novels

tenacity (740) – **tendency to persistently hold on to something**
girt (742) – **surrounded**

gorse bushes (743) – **low shrub growing on barren land**

precipitous (745) – **extremely steep**

beetling (745) – **jutting out; overhanging**

paroxysm (745) – **sudden outburst of emotion**

stolid (747) – **sensible and impassive**

Kneller (749) – **Sir Godfrey Kneller (1646 – 1723) German-
English portrait painter**

Reynolds (749) – **Sir Joshua Reynolds (1723 – 1792) English
portrait painter, principal portrait painter of
George III**

Cavalier (749) – **man who fought for Charles I against the
Roundheads; a 17th century Royalist**

love-locks (750) – **long, flowing locks of a man's hair that
are allowed to hang down in front of the
shoulder**

betimes (750) – **early**

rueful (752) – **inspiring pity or compassion**

warrant (752) – **document authorizing an officer to make a
search or seizure**

out-house (755, 760, 766) – **small building adjacent to the
main house**

serrated (756) – **saw-toothed**

hackles (757) – **erectile hairs along the back of the neck**

dewlap (757) – **fold of loose skin hanging from the neck**

gaunt (757) – **lean**

swathed (758) – **wrapped up; bound**

defiled (759) – **polluted; desecrated**

quagmire (759) – **land with a soft, muddy surface**

miasmatic (759) – **thick and noxious; poisonous**

tenacious (760) – **holding on persistently**

morass (760) – **area of low-lying, soggy ground**

- bog-girt (760) – **surrounded by soft, naturally waterlogged ground**
- barrister (761) – **an attorney who can plead cases in the superior courts**
- infamous (761) – **having an exceedingly bad reputation; notorious**
- purloined (761) – **stolen in a violation of trust**
- consumptive (762) – **suffering from tuberculosis**
- infamy (762) – **with an evil reputation**
- entomology (762) – **scientific study of insects**
- specious (763) – **having the ring of truth but actually fallacious**
- audacity (764) – **fearless daring**
- outré* (764) – **unusual, weird**
- Les Huguenots (766) – **opera written by the German composer Giacomo Meyerbeer (1791 – 1864)**
- De Reszkes (766) – **Jean De Reszke (1850 – 1925) celebrated Polish operatic tenor**
- Marcini's (766) – **fictional London restaurant**

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

OPEN QUESTIONS

1. Stapleton certainly knew the name of the hotel at which Dr. Mortimer and Sir Henry Baskerville were staying. After all, his wife sent a message to Sir Henry there. Stapleton also must have known that Sir Henry and Dr. Mortimer had not checked out of the hotel. Why then was Stapleton shadowing them?

He wanted to divert Holmes.

2. Stapleton was a stranger in London so he could not have known the hotel porter personally. How then did he get the porter to steal Sir Henry's boot? A bribe is possible, but Stapleton could not have afforded much of a bribe, and it is unlikely that the porter would have taken a chance on losing his position for a small bribe.

Perhaps Stapleton didn't bribe the porter after all. Could Dr. Mortimer have taken the boot and given it to Stapleton?

3. How was the missing boot returned to the hotel room? Dr. Mortimer and Sir Henry both said they searched the room (696), and the German waiter said that he didn't bring it back (696).

Perhaps Dr. Mortimer returned it. See 2. above.

4. Why did Dr. Mortimer try to dissuade Sir Henry from telling Holmes about the missing boot (688)?

Mortimer did not want Holmes to find that clue.

5. How did Dr. Mortimer's spaniel wander through the maze on the moor? There was no scent to follow.

Mortimer took the spaniel through the maze.

6. Dr. Mortimer was an expert on skulls and anatomy. Why then didn't he recognize the portrait of Hugo Baskerville as a likeness of Stapleton as did Holmes?

Mortimer did recognize the resemblance. He already knew who Stapleton was.

7. From the answers to the above queries, what conclusion can you draw about the relationship between Dr. Mortimer and Stapleton?

Mortimer and Stapleton were companions in crime and intended to share in the spoils.

8. What do you think about Holmes allowing Dr. Mortimer to accompany Sir Henry on a long voyage?

Not much. It would not be surprising to hear that Sir Henry had been lost overboard. See also p. 865 in *The Valley of Fear* where Douglas is lost overboard and Holmes says, "I feared as much."

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES SIMPLE QUIZ*

1. The hound belonged to
 - a. Frankland
 - b. Dr. Mortimer
 - c. Jack Stapleton
 - d. None of the above

2. When he was on the moor, Sherlock Holmes lived in
 - a. a cave
 - b. a tent
 - c. a stone hut
 - d. none of the above

3. What was Beryl Stapleton's relationship to Jack Stapleton?
 - a. She was his wife
 - b. She was his sister
 - c. She was his daughter
 - d. None of the above

* The Simple Quiz is designed to determine if the student has read the story. Anyone who has read the story through should have no trouble in completing this quiz. The Intermediate and Advanced Quizzes are more challenging.

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES INTERMEDIATE QUIZ[#]

1. Where did the Stapletons stay in London?
 - a. the Langham
 - b. the Mexborough Hotel
 - c. the Northumberland Hotel
 - d. none of the above

2. Where did Laura Lyons live?
 - a. Bovey Tracey
 - b. Coombe Tracey
 - c. Grimpen
 - d. none of the above

3. Which one of the following names did Rodger Baskerville use as an alias?
 - a. Cartwright
 - b. Franklin
 - c. Vandeleur
 - d. none of the above

4. As he entered the stone hut on the moor, Watson says, "I saw ... a pannikin and a half full bottle of spirits standing in the corner." What is the meaning of 'pannikin' in this sentence?
 - a. a cooking pot
 - b. a small plate
 - c. a tin cup
 - d. none of the above

[#] The Intermediate Quiz is designed to test whether the student has read the story with reasonable attention to detail. The Simple Quiz is an easier test while the Advanced Quiz is much more challenging.

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES ADVANCED QUIZ[&]

1. What was the name of the school in Yorkshire run by the Stapletons before they moved to Devonshire?
 - a. St. Botolph's
 - b. St. Oliver's
 - c. St. Stephen's
 - d. none of the above

2. What was the name of the tor on which Holmes was standing when Watson saw him on the moor at night?
 - a. Black Tor
 - b. High Tor
 - c. Hound Tor
 - d. none of the above

3. How often did Barrymore signal to Selden?
 - a. every night
 - b. every second night
 - c. twice a week
 - d. none of the above

4. Which one of the following was NOT in the cloth bundle left on the moor by Cartwright for Holmes?
 - a. a loaf of bread
 - b. two tins of preserved peaches
 - c. tinned tongue
 - d. a bottle of spirits

[&] The Advanced Quiz is designed for aficionados of the Canon. The questions are quite challenging. The Intermediate and Simple Quizzes are designed for the more casual reader of the stories.

ANSWERS TO QUIZZES

QUESTION	1	2	3	4
Study in Scarlet				
Simple	b	c	b	xx
Intermediate	a	b	a	b
Advanced	c	b	b	a
Sign of Four				
Simple	a	c	c	xx
Intermediate	b	c	b	a
Advanced	a	c	a	c
Hound of the Baskervilles				
Simple	c	c	a	xx
Intermediate	b	b	c	c
Advanced	b	a	b	d
Valley of Fear				
Simple	c	b	c	xx
Intermediate	b	a	b	c
Advanced	a	c	b	a