

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Hound of the Baskervilles



Audio CD



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The **Hound** of the Baskervilles



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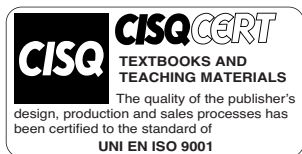
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PET Cambridge Preliminary English Test-style exercises

T: GRADE 6 Trinity-style exercises (Grade 6)

This story is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the chapters and exercises featured on the accompanying CD.





Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
(1927) by Henry L. Gates.

Sir Arthur *Conan Doyle* (1859-1930)

Today most people know Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the creator of one of the best-known fictional characters in the world, Sherlock Holmes. But Conan Doyle was also one of the most remarkable personalities of his time.

Conan Doyle was born in 1859 in Edinburgh. His mother, Mary Foley, inspired her son's passion for literature. His father, Charles Doyle, came from an artistic family, but suffered from alcoholism and epilepsy.

When Conan Doyle was 17, his father was sent to a mental hospital. Perhaps Conan Doyle decided to study medicine at Edinburgh University and not follow his artistic interests because of this sad event.

At Edinburgh University he also worked for Dr Joseph Bell. Dr Bell amazed ¹ his students with his ability to guess many things about his patients by just looking at them. Dr Bell later became the model for Sherlock Holmes.

After graduating, ² Conan Doyle set up a medical practice.³ He had few patients so he had a lot of time to write. One of the stories he wrote was *A Study in Scarlet*. This was the first Sherlock Holmes story.

From the beginning Conan Doyle wrote the Sherlock Holmes stories to make money. His real passion was writing historical novels, and his historical novel *Micah Clarke* (1889) was a big success.

In 1891, a monthly magazine, the *Strand*, commissioned him to write six Sherlock Holmes stories. This magazine had a circulation of 500,000. Further commissions for additional stories followed and Holmes's popularity rapidly grew.

However, Conan Doyle was thinking of 'killing' Holmes because he took time away from his historic novels. So, in 1893, in the story 'The Final Problem', Holmes dies. Conan Doyle's readers were horrified, and 20,000 people cancelled their subscription to the *Strand*.

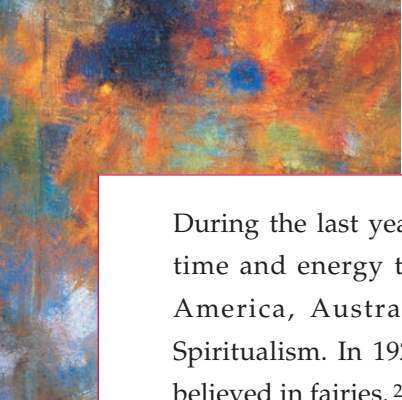
In 1901, Conan Doyle was finally convinced to bring Holmes back to life. Three collections of stories followed, along with two novels, one of which is *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1902).

1. **amazed** : greatly surprised.

2. **graduating** : finishing university.

3. **practice** : (here) place where a doctor works.





During the last years of his life, Conan Doyle devoted most of his time and energy to Spiritualism. ¹ He went on tours in Europe, America, Australia and Africa to talk about and promote Spiritualism. In 1922, Conan Doyle even declared publicly that he believed in fairies. ²

After one of these lecture tours in 1929, Conan Doyle returned home exhausted. He then had a heart attack and was ill for several months. He died at his home on 7th July 1930.

1 Answer the following questions

- a. Who inspired Conan Doyle's passion for literature?
- b. What were his father's medical problems?
- c. How did Dr Bell amaze his students?
- d. Why did Conan Doyle write Sherlock Holmes stories?
- e. Why did Conan Doyle want to 'kill' Sherlock Holmes?
- f. How did readers of the *Strand* react when Conan Doyle killed Holmes?
- g. What was Conan Doyle's main interest during the last years of his life?

1. **Spiritualism** : belief that it is possible to communicate with the spirits of the dead.



2. **fairies** :

Characters



Sherlock Holmes



Dr Watson



Henry Baskerville



Mrs Stapleton



Mr Stapleton



Laura Lyons



Mrs Barrymore



Mr Barrymore



Dr Mortimer



CHAPTER ONE

The Legend of the Hound¹ of the Baskervilles



One morning, Sherlock Holmes and I were in his flat² at 221B Baker Street in London. He was smoking his pipe while we waited for a visitor to arrive. The visitor had come to see us the previous evening, but we had not been there.

Suddenly we heard the doorbell ring: our visitor was here.

‘Good morning, Mr Holmes,’ the visitor said politely. ‘I am Dr Mortimer.’ They shook hands.

‘This is my friend Dr Watson,’ Sherlock Holmes explained. ‘He often helps me with my cases.’

‘I’m pleased to meet you, Sir,’ Dr Mortimer said.

1. **hound** : large dog used for hunting.

2. **flat** : apartment.

The Legend of the Hound of the Baskervilles



Dr Mortimer was a tall man and he was thin. His clothes were smart ¹ and he wore glasses. He was a young man but looked older because he was worried.

‘I need your advice, Mr Holmes,’ he said very seriously.

‘Tell us all about it,’ Sherlock Holmes said kindly. ‘We’ll help you if we can.’

Dr Mortimer took some papers out of his pocket.

‘A man named Sir Charles Baskerville died about three months ago,’ he began. ‘He died in a horrible way, as perhaps you know from the newspapers. Before he died he gave me these papers. They tell the story of the Baskerville family. I want to read them to you, if I may?’

‘Please go ahead,’ Sherlock Holmes agreed. ‘We’ll listen carefully.’

Dr Mortimer put the papers in front of him and began to read:

I am Hugo Baskerville, and I am writing this in the year 1742. My father told me about the Hound of the Baskervilles, and I believe what he told me. I want you, my sons, to read these words. Remember that God punishes the wicked ² and forgives the innocent.

The head of the Baskerville family in 1640 was a cruel and bad man. His name was Sir Hugo Baskerville. Sir Hugo fell in love with the daughter of a farmer. She was frightened of him. She always tried to avoid ³ him. One day Sir Hugo learnt that her family were away from the farm.

1. **smart** : elegant.
2. **wicked** : evil, extremely bad.
3. **avoid** : stay away from.







The **Hound** of the Baskervilles

He rode¹ to the farm with some friends of his and they carried the girl to Baskerville Hall. They locked her in a room upstairs. Then they went downstairs and started to eat and drink. The girl was terrified. She jumped out of the window and tried to run back to her home.

Sir Hugo was furious when he realised her room was empty. He was also very drunk by now. His friends told him to let out the hounds and he agreed to do this. Then he jumped on his horse and rode after the hounds.

Some of his friends also decided to ride after him.

After a while Sir Hugo's friends saw an old man in the darkness. They wanted to know where Sir Hugo was. The old man seemed very frightened and could hardly² speak.

'I saw Sir Hugo on his horse,' the old man told them. 'But I also saw a huge hound. It was running silently beside Sir Hugo.'

Sir Hugo's friends laughed at the old man's words, but their laughter did not last long. Soon they saw Sir Hugo's horse. It was coming towards them, but it was alone.

The men now rode deeper into the moor³ in order to find their friend. They found the hounds at the edge of a deep valley. Baskerville hounds are usually very courageous, but these ones seemed terrified. They did not want to go further into the valley.

1. **rode** : (ride, rode, ridden) travelled by horse.
2. **hardly** : only just.
3. **moor** : wide open area covered with short grass.

The Legend of the Hound of the Baskervilles



A few of Sir Hugo's friends went into the valley. They saw two great stones on the ground there. The farmer's daughter lay near one of these stones — she was dead. Sir Hugo was on the ground next to her. The men were frightened now, because there was an enormous hound standing over Sir Hugo. The hound moved forward and tore out ¹ Sir Hugo's throat. ² Then it turned slowly towards the men. It was the biggest hound they had ever seen. Its eyes and body shone ³ in the darkness.

The men galloped away. One of them died of fright when they reached Baskerville Hall. The other two went mad because of what they had seen that night.

That was the first time that the hound appeared. Other Baskervilles have died in strange ways because of that hound. That is why you, my sons, must never cross the moors at night.

Dr Mortimer stopped reading and looked at Sherlock Holmes. 'What do you think?' Dr Mortimer asked anxiously.

'It's a good story to frighten children,' Sherlock Holmes replied.

'There's more,' Dr Mortimer told him.

He took a newspaper article out of his pocket and began to read to us again.

1. **tore out** : (tear, tore, torn) removed with great violence.

2. **throat** :



3. **shone** : (shine, shone, shone) gave out light.



The **Hound** of the Baskervilles

Sir Charles Baskerville died very suddenly. He spent only two years at Baskerville because he lived most of his life abroad. He was a good man and he behaved very generously to the poor. We will all miss him.

People are saying strange things about Sir Charles's death. These strange things are not true. Sir Charles died because he had a weak heart. Dr Mortimer says that his heart had been weak for a long time.

The facts of the death are simple. Every evening Sir Charles walked in the gardens around the house. His favourite walk was along the Yew Alley ¹ near the house. He went there, as usual, on the evening of the 4th of June to smoke a cigar.

His butler, ² Barrymore, was upstairs in Sir Charles's room. Sir

Charles wanted to go to London the next day. When Sir Charles did not come back to the house Barrymore went into the garden to look for him. He followed his master's footprints ³ in the wet earth. They went from the house, along the Yew Alley, to a gate which opens onto the moors. The footprints stopped at the gate. Barrymore found Sir Charles's body near there.

Barrymore said that his master's footprints were complete until he reached the gate. Then they were not complete. Barrymore thought that Sir Charles was walking on his toes.

The new head of the Baskerville family is Sir Henry Baskerville. He is living in America at present, but the lawyers ⁴ hope that he will come back to England when he hears the news.

1. **Yew Alley** : long path with yew trees at the side of it.
2. **butler** : male servant.
3. **footprints** : marks left on the ground by the feet.
4. **lawyers** : people who give advice about legal questions.

Go back to the text

PET 1 For each question, mark the letter next to the correct answer — A, B, C or D.

- 1 Where did Dr Mortimer get Hugo Baskerville's papers?
A ☐ Hugo Baskerville gave them to him before he died.
B ☐ Sir Charles Baskerville gave them to him before he died.
C ☐ Hugo Baskerville's sons gave them to him.
D ☐ Sir Henry Baskerville gave them to him.
- 2 Sir Hugo carried away the daughter of the farmer because
A ☐ he wanted her to work for him.
B ☐ he wanted to frighten her father.
C ☐ he was in love with her.
D ☐ his friend was in love with her.
- 3 The old man on the moors was very frightened because
A ☐ he knew Sir Hugo was very cruel and wicked.
B ☐ he saw a giant hound running next to Sir Hugo.
C ☐ he saw Sir Hugo's drunken friends.
D ☐ he saw the hounds running after the girl.
- 4 Sir Hugo's friends began to believe what the old man said when
A ☐ they saw Sir Hugo's horse without Sir Hugo on it.
B ☐ they arrived at the edge of a deep valley.
C ☐ they saw the girl lying on the ground.
D ☐ they saw the hound tear out Sir Hugo's throat.
- 5 Sir Hugo Baskerville wrote to his sons to tell them
A ☐ a good story.
B ☐ something about local history.
C ☐ why they should not kidnap farm girls.
D ☐ why they should not walk across the moors at night.
- 6 According to the newspaper article Sir Charles died because
A ☐ he had a weak heart.
B ☐ he had walked out on the moor late at night.
C ☐ he was a wicked man.
D ☐ he smoked too many cigars.

'The men now rode deeper into the moor in order to find their friend'

The **infinitive with 'to'** can be used to show purpose.

- *He called Sarah **to wish** her a merry Christmas.* =
He called Sarah because he wanted to wish her a merry Christmas.
- *He bought a newspaper **to discover** how Sir Charles died.* = He bought the newspaper because he wanted to discover how Sir Charles died.

It is also possible to use '**in order to**' with the infinitive.

- *He called Sarah **in order to wish** her a merry Christmas.*
- *The men now rode deeper into the moor **in order to find** their friend.*

- 2** Complete the following sentences with *in order to* and one of the infinitives from the box, like the example.

avoid read take find smoke escape ask

- a. Dr Mortimer came to 221B Baker Street *in order to ask* Holmes for some advice.
- b. Dr Mortimer pulled the papers out of his pocket them to Holmes.
- c. The daughter of the farmer jumped out of the window from Sir Hugo.
- d. Sir Hugo went to the girl's farm when her family were away her away.
- e. Sir Hugo rode out into the moor the girl.
- f. The Baskervilles never cross the moors at night the huge hound.
- g. Sir Charles took a walk along the Yew Alley a cigar.

- PET 3** Pretend that you live near Baskerville Hall. You have read the article in the newspaper about Sir Charles's death, but you do not agree: you think that the strange things people are saying about Sir Charles's death are true. Write a short letter of about 100 words to the newspaper saying how you think Sir Charles died. You can begin like this.

Dear Sir,

Like everyone who knew Sir Charles, I am deeply sad about his death. Still, I must say that I do not agree with the newspaper which says

.....

Before you read

PET 1 Listen to Chapter Two.



Choose the correct picture and put a tick (✓) in the box below it.

1 What kind of animal did Dr Mortimer think he saw among the trees?



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐

2 How high is the Yew hedge?



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐

3 When is Holmes going to meet Sir Henry?



A ☐

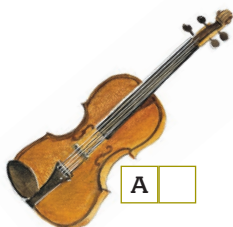


B ☐



C ☐

4 What did Holmes do to help him prepare to think?



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐