221 CLUES SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLES

CRYPTICS, CODES,
CONNECTIONS,
CYPHERS,
QUIZZES,
CODENAMES,
PASSWORDS
AND MUCH
MORE TO SOLVE



PAUL ELGOOD

THE BEST OF THE WEEKLY 'THANK HOLMES IT'S FRIDAY' PUZZLES FOR MX PUBLISHING AND THE SOCIAL MEDIA PUZZLES AT #SHERLOCKPUZZLE



Sherlock Holmes Cryptics, Codes, Connections, Cyphers, Quizzes, Codenames, Passwords and much more to solve from SHURDLE author Paul Elgood.

The best of the weekly 'Thank Holmes It's Friday' puzzles for MX Publishing and the social media puzzles at #SherlockPuzzle.

Updated in 2025 with 100 more Clues to solve.

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Shurdle: Sherlock Holmes Puzzles Vols 1&2 by Paul Elgood out now, available at: www.shurdle.co.uk

Enjoy the 22 sets of Sherlock Holmes puzzles first published for MX Publishing's 'Thank Holmes It's Friday' and on social media at #SherlockPuzzle during 2024, with a further 10 sets of puzzles added in 2025. All original content, specially written for these places and brought together here for the first time. Thanks and acknowledgement made for formats and ideas. All rights reserved.

1. Connections

Work out what connects the four words listed.

- 1. Valley, Hound, Four, Study
- 2. Moore, Cushing, Baker, Cavill
- 3. Scandal, Dancing, Naval, Solitary
- 4. House, Lodge, Place, Grange
- 5. Marion-Crawford, Freeman, Stock, Law
- 6. Baker, Wigmore, Montague, Godophin
- 7. Handl, Stephens, Blakely, Lee
- 8. Lip, Thumb, Foot, Face
- 9. London, New York, Toronto, Welshpool
- 10. Miller, Liu, Quinn, Hill

- 1. Words from the titles of the long stories
- 2. Sherlock Holmes actors
- 3. Words from the titles of the first four 1984 Granada TV episodes
- 4. Places from the titles of the short stories
- 5. Dr Watson actors
- 6. London street names associated with Sherlock Holmes
- 7. Actors in the 1970 Billy Wilder film 'The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes'
- 8. Body parts from the titles of the short stories
- 9. Places associated with Sherlock Holmes societies
- 10. Actors in the 2012-20 US TV series 'Elementary'

2. A Little Bit Cryptic

Work out the Sherlockian references. No crossword grid, just looking for the answers.

- 1. Dreadful ravine hides secret (3,6,2,4)
- 2. Where detective can find bread (5,6)
- 3. Pursue a dog (5)
- 4. Actor, possibly including jetty or beer, right? (6,5)
- 5. Conclusion of last case, for now (3,5,7)
- 6. Place for ancient Greek philosopher's society (8,4)
- 7. Cyclist's name in Scarlet and Four (7)
- 8. Final stage for retiring hero (3,4,3)
- 9. Resident Doctor (2,5,9)
- 10. Arrow heath (8)

- 1. The Valley of Fear
- 2. Baker Street
- 3. Hound
- 4. Jeremy Brett
- 5. The Final Problem
- 6. Diogenes Club
- 7. Wiggins
- 8. His Last Bow
- 9. Dr Percy Trevelyan
- 10. Dartmoor

3. Answers Are In The Clue

Find the Sherlockian anagram in the clue, to help the words and letters to untangle are in bold.

- 1. Sherlock Holmes novel that can forge hint of us.
- 2. Scotland Yard Inspector who isn't always discreet and personal.
- 3. A star of the books, who isn't down to Sherlock.
- 4. Un-tarnishable Sherlock Holmes actor, but you'll need to add a **b** to start it.
- 5. **Intolerable** chase across Europe to halfheartedly escape from **PM**.
- 6. Bank robber who later saw gang tensions.
- 7. **Helms**man at a **comfy** London club helps Sherlock Holmes fight **rot**ters.
- Recapturing those burton documents is the story.
- 9. **Expansions** of emperor collection, but you'll need to add I to finish it.
- 10. **Dreaded** villains exploit the work of coloured hair club.

- 1. The Sign of Four
- 2. Inspector Lestrade
- 3. Dr Watson
- 4. Basil Rathbone
- 5. The Final Problem
- 6. Blessington
- 7. Mycroft Holmes
- 8. Bruce-Partington
- 9. Six Napoleons
- 10. Redheaded

4. Sherlock Who?

Find the Sherlockian link to Dr Who.

- 1. Both Sherlock Holmes and Dr Who. Easy start, Tom who?
- 2. Same question, but it's Peter who and where?
- 3. And a third, Matt who and where?
- 4. Three writers on both Dr Who and the BBC's Sherlock?
- 5. Which Lestrade actor in the BBC's Sherlock also appeared in Dr Who?
- 6. Which famous Sherlock Holmes actor appeared in Dr Who and the Daleks in 1965?
- 7. And more recently, which other former Dr Who did a stint in the UK stage production of The Hound of the Baskervilles in 2024?
- 8. Toby Jones was in both the BBC's Sherlock and Dr Who, but what are the notable Sherlock Holmes links to his actor father Freddie Jones?
- 9. Both Dr Who and Sherlock Holmes were famous for doing what?
- 10. Which is better, Sherlock Holmes or Dr Who?

- 1. Tom Baker
- 2. Peter Capaldi, on the Alexei Sayle Show
- 3. Matt Smith, actually as Dr Who
- 4. Steven Moffat, Mark Gatiss and Stephen Thompson
- 5. Rupert Graves
- 6. Peter Cushing
- 7. Colin Baker
- 8. Appeared in the film Young Sherlock Holmes and two episodes of the Granada series
- 9. Faking their own deaths
- 10. You decide!

5. Codenames

Decode the following character names from the Sherlock Holmes stories. The code is a substitution cypher - number for letter - so to crack it 1 is A, 2 is B through to Z is 26.

- 1. Prof 13 15 18 9 1 18 20 25
- 2. Irene 1 4 12 5 18
- 3. Mary 13 15 18 19 20 1 14
- 4. 2 9 12 12 25
- 5. Mrs 8 21 4 19 15 14
- 6. 13 25 3 18 15 6 20 Holmes
- 7. Inspector 12 5 19 20 18 1 4 5
- 8. Charles Augustus 13 9 12 22 5 18 20 15 14
- 9. 23 9 7 7 9 14 19
- 10. Inspector 2 18 1 4 19 20 18 5 5 20

- 1. Moriarty
- 2. Adler
- 3. Morstan
- 4. Billy
- 5. Hudson
- 6. Mycroft
- 7. Lestrade
- 8. Milverton
- 9. Wiggins
- 10. Bradstreet

6. Passwords

Workout the Sherlockian password (word and year) from the clues using the format example Doyle1930.

Ouestions

- 1. Hindhead house and year of ACD's move there
- 2. Surname of antagonist in Hound of the Baskervilles and year first published
- 3. Surname of Granada's first Dr Watson and year of Edward Hardwicke's first Granada outing as Dr Watson
- 4. Place and year that the Baker Street Irregulars society were formed
- 5. Basil Rathbone's place of birth and the year of the start of his Sherlock Holmes film series
- 6. First name of the Watson character in CBS's Elementary and year the series first released
- 7. Sisters' surname in Speckled Band and year of publication
- 8. First name of the Headmaster in Priory School and year of publication
- 9. Setting in the Devil's Foot and year first published
- 10. Sniffer dog in the Sign of Four and release year of the Granada episode

- 1. Undershaw1897
- 2. Stapleton1902
- 3. Burke1986
- 4. NewYork1934
- 5. Johannesburg1939
- 6. Joan2012
- 7. Stoner1892
- 8. Thorneycroft1904
- 9. Poldhu1910
- 10. Toby1987

7. Word Lists

Workout the Sherlock Holmes or Dr Watson actor from the four clues given.

- 1. New York, Saint, Octopus, 1976
- 2. Tudors, Witcher, Superman, Brother
- 3. 1970, Lear, Ness, Toby
- 4. New York, 2012, McBeal, Angels
- 5. Cushing, Young, Escape, 1964
- 6. Higgins, Lady, Clapham, Secret
- 7. Co, Abba, 2023, Waggott
- 8. Midsomer, Mr Holmes, 1985, Waxflatter
- 9. Shoscombe, Ripley, 2009, Oscar
- 10. 1954, Leslie, Cunningham, Crawford

- Roger Moore Holmes in Sherlock Holmes in New York, 1976 and was both the Saint and James Bond
- 2. Henry Carvill Enola Holmes's brother as well as in Superman, The Witchers and The Tudors
- Robert Stephens Holmes in The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes,1970 which included Loch Ness, played King Lear and was the father of actor Toby
- 4. Lucy Liu, Watson in CBS's 2012 series Elementary set in New York also appeared in Ally McBeal and Charlie's Angels
- 5. Nigel Stock Watson to Peter Cushing from 1964 to 1968, also appeared in Young Sherlock Holmes and The Great Escape
- 6. Jeremy Brett Surname at birth Huggins, appeared in My Fair Lady, has a memorial bench on Clapham Common and starred in the stage play The Secret of Sherlock Holmes
- 7. Harry Attwell Holmes in the current Sherlock & Co podcast with Paul Waggott as Watson and he's an Abba fan!
- 8. Nicholas Rowe Appeared in the 1985 Young Sherlock Holmes, where Waxflatter was his mentor and Mr Holmes as well as Midsomer Murders

- 9. Jude Law Appeared in the Granada episode of Shoscombe Old Place, The Talented Mr Ripley, Watson in the Guy Ritchie Sherlock Holmes films and appeared in Wilde.
- 10. Ronald Howard Sherlock Holmes in the 1954 tv series with H Marion-Crawford. First case in the series was called the Case of the Cunningham Heritage. Son of actor Leslie Howard.

8. Scrambled

Unscramble the following set of letters to find a Sherlockian word, name or phrase, eg LOHESKC SMHOEL is Sherlock Holmes.

- 1. ADEDEERHD GEUALE
- 2. FTMCYOR SEMHLO
- 3. PPRECO EEBCHES
- 4. AINDCNG NEM
- 5. L'SION EMNA
- 6. SRM UDHNOS
- 7. EVIF RAONEG PPIS
- 8. LPEDCKES NBAD
- 9. VILRES ELABZ
- 10. DRCOKEO AMN

- 1. Redheaded League
- 2. Mycroft Holmes
- 3. Copper Beeches
- 4. Dancing Men
- 5. Lion's Mane
- 6. Mrs Hudson
- 7. Five Orange Pips
- 8. Speckled Band
- 9. Silver Blaze
- 10. Crooked Man

9. A Little More Cryptic

Try this quick cryptic style puzzle. Simply work out the Sherlockian references. Looking for the main words in a story title - so an answer would be Musgrave Ritual not the full title - and the number of letters are shown. No crossword grid, just looking for the answers.

- 1. End puzzle solved in waterfall (5,7)
- 2. Holmes returns to investigate vacant dwelling (5,5)
- 3. Fierce creature's hair featured in case (5,4)
- 4. Hellenic involved in unravelling mystery (5,11)
- 5. Sailor involved in dark Holmes case (5,5)
- 6. Another mark uncovered in investigation (6,5)
- 7. Cheating scholar involved in Holmes mystery (5,8)
- 8. Truth behind identity theft (4,2,8)
- 9. Moving figures in ciphered message (7,3)
- 10. Fading sleuth solves critical case (5,8)

- 1. Final Problem
- 2. Empty House
- 3. Lion's Mane
- 4. Greek Interpreter
- 5. Black Peter
- 6. Second Stain
- 7. Three Students
- 8. Case of Identity
- 9. Dancing Men
- 10. Dying Detective

10. Answer-Smash

Can you combine two answers to make one phrase? Just looking for the main part of a title (ie 'The Adventures of' - have been taken out). Then combine both answers to make a Sherlock Holmes phrase, name, story or film.

- 1. Sherlock Holmes Telegram delivery boy
- 2. Sherlock Holmes actor location of 221B
- 3. Peter Cushing's Watson story from the Memoirs
- 4. First of the Return Basil Rathbone film
- 5. Rathbone's Watson story from His Last Bow
- 6. Ronald Howard episode story from the Adventures
- 7. John Neville film Basil Rathbone film
- 8. Cumberbatch's Watson story from the Adventures
- 9. Sherlock's sister Will Ferrell film
- 10. Ronald Howard episode story from the Adventures

- 1. Sherlock Holmessenger
- 2. Tom Baker Street
- 3. Nigel Stockbroker's Clerk
- 4. Empty House of Fear
- 5. Nigel Bruce-Partington Plans
- 6. Shoeless Engineer's Thumb
- 7. Study in Terror by Night
- 8. Martin Freeman with the Twisted Lip
- 9. Enola Holmes and Watson
- 10. Lady Beryl Coronet

11. American Connections

Simple quiz finding the link between Sherlock Holmes and North America.

- 1. Hartford, Connecticut was the birthplace of which notable Sherlock Holmes actor?
- 2. CBS's Elementary series is set in which US city?
- 3. Sherlock Holmes in Washington starred which Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson actors?
- 4. Vermissa Valley appears in which Sherlock Holmes story?
- 5. Who founded the Baker Street Irregulars?
- 6. Who stars as Dr Watson in CBS's new Watson series?
- 7. Which author wrote the original Enola Holmes books?
- 8. Which silent era slapstick comic played Sherlock Jr?
- 9. Sherlock Holmes actor Robert Downey Jr once played which other star of the silent era?
- 10. Which Canadian library houses the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection?

- 1. William Gillette
- 2. New York
- 3. Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce
- 4. The Valley of Fear
- 5. Christopher Morley
- 6. Morris Chestnut
- 7. Nancy Springer
- 8. Buster Keaton
- 9. Charlie Chaplin
- 10. Toronto

12. Even More Cryptic

Simply work out the Sherlockian story No crossword grid, just looking for the main words of the answers.

- 1. Oracle (6,5,3)
- 2. Sinister Vines (8,5)
- 3. Scarlet Ring (3,6)
- 4. Disappearance (4,7,6)
- 5. Orange Messages (4,6,4)
- 6. Cornwall Hoof (6,4)
- 7. Festive Foul Play (4,9)
- 8. Permanent Case (8,7)
- 9. Military Reunion (7,3)
- 10. Family Murder in Rural Valley (8,6,7)

- 1. Golden Pince Nez
- 2. Wisteria Lodge
- 3. Red Circle
- 4. Lady Frances Carfax
- 5. Five Orange Pips
- 6. Devil's Foot
- 7. Blue Carbuncle
- 8. Resident Patient
- 9. Crooked Man
- 10. Boscombe Valley Mystery

13. Incorrect Answers

Identify and change the incorrect word in each sentence.

- Out of respect, Irene Adler was referred to as 'the snake' by Sherlock Holmes in A Scandal in Bohemia
- 2. In the same story, Adler was set to marry her soon to be husband, Carlton.
- 3. In The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual, the butler Burton was found dead in the cellar of the house.
- 4. In the same story, maid Rachel Hawells is thought by Holmes to be involved in the plot.
- 5. At their first meeting in A Study in Scarlet, Holmes perceived that Watson had recently been in Basingstoke.
- 6. In the same story, the word Rach was found on a wall at a murder scene.
- 7. The Adventure of the Red-headed League centred around a plot to rob the City and Country Bank.
- 8. In the same story, the Bank's chairman, Mr Merrydown, revealed to Holmes that the bank's vault was holding a large shipment of gold coins borrowed from a bank in France.

- 9. In The Adventure of the Priory School, the son of the Duke of Huddersness has gone missing.
- 10. In the same story, the Duke's secretary Jake Wilder is found by Holmes to be behind the disappearance.

- 1. Change snake for woman
- 2. Change Carlton for Norton
- 3. Change Burton for Brunton
- 4. Change Hawells for Howells
- 5. Change Basingstoke for Afghanistan
- 6. Change Rach for Rache
- 7. Change Country for Suburban
- 8. Change Merrydown for Merryweather
- 9. Change Hudderness for Holdernesse
- 10. Change Jake for James

14. Only Vowels

Edited names of Sherlock Holmes characters with just the vowels remaining, each with the number of letters to find and a clue, if you need it.

- 1. eo oe (8,6) starts with S
- 2. ao (2,6) starts with D
- 3. uo (3,6) starts with M
- 4. oeo oia (9,8) starts with P
- 5. Ieo eae (9,8) starts with I
- 6. i e aeie (3,5,11) starts with S
- 7. a oa (4,7) starts with M
- 8. ae Auuu ieo (7,8,9) starts with C
- 9. Iee Ae (5,5) starts with I
- 10. i (5) starts with B

- 1. Sherlock Holmes
- 2. Dr Watson
- 3. Mrs Hudson
- 4. Professor Moriarty
- 5. Inspector Lestrade
- 6. Sir Henry Baskerville
- 7. Mary Morstan
- 8. Charles Augustus Milverton
- 9. Irene Adler
- 10. Billy

15. Yet More Cryptic

Simply work out the Sherlockian story. No crossword grid, just looking for the main words of the answers.

- 1. Early Story at Sea (6,5)
- 2. Fictional Blackmailer (7,8,8)
- 3. Metal Trees (6,7)
- 4. Puzzle in Surrey Location, Sir (7,6)
- 5. Dotty Killer (8,4)
- 6. Unicycle (8,7)
- 7. Coloured Hair Club (9,6)
- 8. Trade Runner (12,5)
- 9. Trouble Over Water (4,6)
- 10. Sniffer story (4,2,4)

- 1. Gloria Scott
- 2. Charles Augustus Milverton
- 3. Copper Beeches
- 4. Reigate Squire
- 5. Speckled Band
- 6. Solitary Cyclist
- 7. Red-headed League
- 8. Stockbroker's Clerk
- 9. Thor Bridge
- 10. Sign of Four

16. Acting Connections

Work out the Sherlockian actor/actress who connects the four films/tv shows listed.

- 1. The Mummy, Masks of Death, Star Wars, Dracula
- 2. Moonraker, Sherlock Holmes in New York, Ivanhoe, The Saint
- 3. The Hound of the Baskervilles (1978), Arthur, Crazy People, Love Sick
- 4. Godzilla, Enola Holmes, Stranger Things, NCIS
- 5. Wilde, The Holiday, Sherlock Holmes (2009), The Talented Mr Ripley
- 6. Shadowlands, The Return of Sherlock Holmes (1986), Love Actually, Oliver Twist
- 7. Oscar Wilde, The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes, A Study in Terror, Star Trek
- 8. Enola Holmes, A Room With A View, Suffragette, King's Speech
- 9. The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie, The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes, Henry V, The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes
- 10. Kong Fu Panda, Elementary, Beverly Hills 90210, ER

- 1. Peter Cushing
- 2. Roger Moore
- 3. Dudley Moore
- 4. Millie Bobby Brown
- 5. Jude Law
- 6. Edward Hardwicke
- 7. John Neville
- 8. Helena Bonham-Carter
- 9. Robert Stephens
- 10. Lucy Lui

17. Taskmaster

You probably know the TV show, so undertake the following tasks.

- 1. Decode the long story title: Gsv Ezoovb lu Uvzi. Clue use the backwards alphabet code A is Z, B is Y and so on.
- 2. Put the following Basil Rathbone films in release date order Terror by Night, Woman in Green, Voice of Terror, Scarlet Claw
- 3. Recite from memory the first seven words of the Musgrave Ritual legend (half points if you have to look it up first!)
- Put the following Jeremy Brett Granada episodes in broadcast date order - Silver Blaze, The Illustrious Client, The Naval Treaty, The Priory School
- 5. Find the references in a Sherlock Holmes story to a Gladstone Bag
- 6. Name the members of the Worthingdon Bank Gang (Resident Patient), simply by surname
- 7. Recite from memory the first eleven words of the Hound of the Baskervilles book (half points if you have to look it up first!)
- 8. Name the 3 students from the story of the same name, again by surname

- 9. Put the following Benedict Cumberbatch Sherlock episodes in broadcast date order - The Empty Hearse, The Blind Banker, The Lying Detective, A Scandal in Belgravia
- 10. Decode the following long story title, using the same code as before: Z Hgfwb rm Hxziovg

- 1. The Valley of Fear
- 2. Voice of Terror (1942), Scarlet Claw (1944) Woman in Green (1945), Terror by Night (1946)
- 3. Whose was it? His who is gone
- 4. The Naval Treaty (1984), The Priory School (1986), Silver Blaze (1988), The Illustrious Client (1991)
- 5. The Man With The Twisted Lip
- 6. Cartwright, Biddle, Hayward, Moffat, Sutton
- 7. Mr. Sherlock Holmes who was usually very late in the mornings
- 8. Gilchrist, Ras, McLaren
- 9. The Blind Banker (2010), A Scandal in Belgravia (2012), The Empty Hearse (2014), The Lying Detective (2017)
- 10. A Study in Scarlet

18. Distinctly Average

Answer the questions and find the average between the numbers in the two answers. So if the answer is The Second Stain and The Sign of Four - the average is 3.

- Number of short stories in The Return of Sherlock Holmes book & number of Granada TV Sherlock Holmes episodes/specials
- 2. Number of Sherlock Holmes long stories & year of Basil Rathbone's first Sherlock Holmes film
- 3. Number of marriages of Doctor Watson & number of Granada TV episodes with David Burke as Watson
- 4. Year of Arthur Conan Doyle's birth & year of William Gillette's first performance of Sherlock Holmes
- 5. Number of sisters in the Speckled Band & year of Buster Keaton's Sherlock Jr film release
- 6. Age of Sherlock Holmes in the Mr Holmes film & year in which the film is set
- 7. Number of District Messenger (SH Society of London newsletter) editions (as of Nov 2024) & year of first appearance of A Study in Scarlet
- 8. Number of Garridebs & number of episodes of the BBC radio Sherlock Holmes series which started in 1989 and finished in 2010

- Number of Enola Holmes adaptations by Netflix & number of years CBS's Elementary tv series ran
- 10. Number of Jude law Sherlock Holmes-related film/tv credits & number of years between the publication of the Final Problem and the Empty House

- 1. 13 & 41 27
- 2. 4 & 1939 971.5
- 3. 2 & 13 7.5
- 4. 1859 & 1899 1878.5
- 5. 2 & 1924 963
- 6. 93 & 1947 1020
- 7. 448 & 1887 1167.5
- 8. 3 & 80 41.5
- 9. 2 & 7 4.5
- 10.3 & 10 6.5

19. Where in the World

Questions

You might be able to answer the question, but can you plot the location on a map? (Map not supplied!)

- 1. Where Watson had been prior (A Study In Scarlet)
- 2. Holmes reports he had travelled to (Empty House)
- 3. Sir Henry's homeland (Hound of the Baskervilles)
- 4. Where Watson researched pottery (Illustrious Client)
- 5. Dr. Leon Sterndale had reached, before turning back on hearing the news (Devil's Foot)
- 6. Holmes visited on cracking the case (Bruce Partington Plans)
- 7. Where the King had travelled from, incognito (Scandal in Bohemia)
- 8. The headquarters of the Red-headed League
- 9. Colonel Ross's training stables (Silver Blaze)
- 10. An entry about Vampires in Holmes's commonplace book (Sussex Vampire)

- 1. Afghanistan
- 2. Khartoum
- 3. Canada
- 4. St James's Square, London
- 5. Plymouth
- 6. Windsor
- 7. Prague
- 8. Pope's Court, Fleet Street, London
- 9. King's Pyland, Dartmoor
- 10. Transylvania

20. Two Clues In One

Guess the Sherlock Holmes character, the clues have the same initials as the answer.

- 1. Storied Hero
- 2. Investigative Londoner
- 3. In Awe
- 4. Devious Redhead
- 5. Soon Heir Baskerville
- 6. Crooked Sniper Man
- 7. Monied Helper
- 8. Brother Sholto
- 9. Sherlock's Jackal
- 10. Marriage Material

- Sherlock Holmes
- 2. Inspector Lestrade
- 3. Irene Adler
- 4. Duncan Ross
- 5. Sir Henry Baskerville
- 6. Colonel Sebastian Moran
- 7. Mycroft Holmes
- 8. Bartholomew Sholto
- 9. Shinwell Johnson
- 10. Mary Morstan

21. ACD Quiz

Questions

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle quiz questions.

- 1. What was the name of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's house in Hindhead, Surrey?
- 2. Where was ACD born?
- 3. And where is he buried?
- 4. In what year did ACD graduate in medicine from the University of Edinburgh?
- 5. How many children did he have?
- 6. Which famous escapologist befriended ACD?
- 7. In which year was he knighted?
- 8. By which monarch?
- 9. And why?
- 10. In what year did ACD become embroiled with fairies?

- 1. Undershaw
- 2. Edinburgh
- 3. Minstead
- 4. 1881
- 5. 5
- 6. Houdini
- 7. 1902
- 8. King Edward VII
- 9. Support for the Boer War
- 10. 1920

22. Mastermind

The 11 questions on the BBC's Mastermind in November 2024, how many can you get right?

- 1. Scandal in Bohemia was first published in which magazine?
- 2. In the Red-headed League Holmes deduces that Jabez Wilson has spent time in China because of the delicate pink in his tattoo of what creature?
- 3. In Silver Blaze, Holmes refers to Inspector Gregory as an extremely competent officer who might rise to great heights in his profession, were he but gifted with what quality?
- 4. What's the single-word name of the Italian piece-work man whose photograph is found in the pocket of a murder victim and who becomes the chief suspect in Six Napoleons?
- 5. What national daily paper is mentioned in a number of stories, lying across Holmes's knee in Norwood Builder and being tossed aside in the Copper Beeches?
- 6. Watson travels from London to Lausanne to pick up the trail of which missing aristocrat?
- 7. In what very quiet thoroughfare does Henry Wood, the Crooked Man, reencounter his former love Nancy Barclay?

- 8. What's the name of the man described in the Dancing Men as the most dangerous crook in Chicago?
- 9. In Shoscombe Old Place a servant raking through the ashes of a central heating furnace uncovers the charred upper condyle of what bone?
- 10. Holmes survived Reichenbach Falls thanks to what Japanese wrestling method?
- 11. Where does Holmes keep his cigarettes?

- 1. Strand
- 2. Fish
- 3. Imagination
- 4. Beppo
- 5. Daily Telegraph
- 6. Lady Frances Carfax
- 7. Hudson Street
- 8. Abe Stanley
- 9. Femur
- 10. Baritsu
- 11. Persian slipper



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The best of the weekly 'Thank Holmes It's Friday' puzzles for MX Publishing and the social media puzzles at #SherlockPuzzle.

Updated in 2025 with 100 more Clues to solve.

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1. 100% Sherlock

With a hat tip to the tv show The 1% Club, try answering the following questions. Don't forget to allow 30 seconds for each question, no cheating!

- What is the word pattern that links these Sherlock Holmes story titles? A Scandal in Bohemia, The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet, The Adventure of the Resident Patient, The Adventure of the Gloria Scott and The Adventure of the Devil's Foot
- 2. Who do you get if you remove the wrong letters from this sequence? G M W O R R I A N R T Y O
- 3. Which Sherlock Holmes story comes next in the sequence of Abbey Grange, Blue Carbuncle, Cardboard Box? ... Speckled Band, Dying Detective or Yellow Face? 'The Adventures of the...' taken out for brevity and yes that's a clue.
- 4. Professor Moriarty is planning his next murder and has decided that it will take place on the third Thursday of July. What is the earliest date in July that it could take place?
- 5. Sherlock doesn't not not dislike Moriarty. Does he like Moriarty?
- 6. What Sherlockian character appears in the sentence when is the son at home?
- 7. What letter can replace the question mark in this sequence? SS SF HB V?

- 8. What word logically completes the sentence? After Baskerville came down, everybody finally grasped his... Fear, Concern, Insecurity or Anger?
- 9. What word completes this sequence? QRS FGH CDE PQR JKL MNO ABC IJK
- 10. Which number is next in the sequence Sherlock? 5 6 2 4 2 3 8

- 1. All start and end with the same letter
- 2. Moriarty
- 3. Dying Detective sequence of words is first word alphabetically
- 4. 15th
- 5. No.
- 6. Watson
- 7. F long story title initials
- 8. Insecurity words are alphabetically sequenced
- 9. Every third letter spells Sherlock
- 10. 8 sequence is the number of letters in each word

2. 100% Sherlock Again

With a hat tip to the tv show The 1% Club, try answering the following questions. Don't forget to allow 30 seconds for each question, no cheating!

- 1. If the KEY to the code is 11 5 25, unlock this secret word: 23 1 20 19 15 14
- 2. Moriarty hid a stolen banknote inside a book, between which pages? 12-13 13-14 15-16
- 3. Sherlock is interrogating three suspects. Which one is telling the truth? Suspect 1: Suspect 3 is a liar; Suspect 2: I always tell the truth; Suspect 3: Suspect 2 always tells the truth
- 4. Sherlock receives a clue of where a crime is about to occur. Which place would join this list of Chingford, Shipton, Washington, Manchester? Portsmouth, Newcastle or Bristol?
- 5. Which of these four coins marked Queen Victoria I, King George II, King Edward VII or King George III is a forgery?
- Sherlock has received a clue about a foreign city, once London is removed which is it? N R L E O I N D O L B N
- 7. Which tube station comes next after the following: Mornington Crescent, Oval, Charing Cross? Victoria, Russell Square or Baker Street?
- 8. Moriarty is planning his latest heist, in the following coded message can you tell what type of vehicle he is

- intending to use for the getaway? I'll be at the gazebo at the end of the road at 2pm
- 9. Which one is the wrong one Moriarty, Watson, Hudson or Holme?
- 10. Mr Henry Baker is returning home with his Christmas goose, and has had a little too much good cheer. As he walks he staggers 2 steps back after taking 5 steps forward. After a total of 15 steps, how many steps has he moved from his starting position?

- 1. Watson
- 2. 12-13 books have even on the left, odd on the right
- 3. Suspect 1 if only one is telling the truth 2 and 3 are saying the same
- 4. Portsmouth, the clue is the words in the list have body parts contained in them
- 5. Victoria I, coins never use I
- 6. Berlin
- 7. Russell Square as others have shapes in them
- 8. Boat written across 2 words
- 9. Holme, Holmes is spelt wrong
- 10. 7

3. First Lines

Questions

Can you identify the Sherlock Holmes story these first lines come from?

- Sherlock Holmes took his bottle from the corner of the mantel-piece and his hypodermic syringe from its neat morocco case.
- 2. I had intended "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange" to be the last of those exploits of my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, which I should ever communicate to the public...
- 3. Mr. Sherlock Holmes, who was usually very late in the mornings, save upon those not infrequent occasions when he was up all night, was seated at the breakfast table.
- 4. To Sherlock Holmes she is always the woman. I have seldom heard him mention her under any other name. In his eyes she eclipses and predominates the whole of her sex
- 5. In the year 1878 I took my degree of Doctor of Medicine of the University of London, and proceeded to Netley to go through the course prescribed for surgeons in the army.
- 6. "I am inclined to think—" said I.
- Holmes had been seated for some hours in silence with his long, thin back curved over a chemical vessel in which he was brewing a particularly malodorous product.

- 8. It is with a heavy heart that I take up my pen to write these the last words in which I shall ever record the singular gifts by which my friend Mr. Sherlock Holmes was distinguished.
- 9. "I am afraid, Watson, that I shall have to go," said Holmes, as we sat down together to our breakfast one morning.
- 10. During my long and intimate acquaintance with Mr. Sherlock Holmes I had never heard him refer to his relations, and hardly ever to his own early life.

- 1. Sign of Four
- 2. The Adventure of the Second Stain
- 3. The Hound of the Baskervilles
- 4. A Scandal in Bohemia
- 5. A Study in Scarlet
- 6. The Valley of Fear
- 7. The Adventure of the Dancing Men
- 8. The Final Problem
- 9. The Adventure of the Silver Blaze
- 10. The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter

4. Last Lines

Can you identify the Sherlock Holmes story these last lines come from?

- "Might I trouble you then to be ready in half an hour, and we can stop at Marcini's for a little dinner on the way?"
- 2. And when he speaks of Irene Adler, or when he refers to her photograph, it is always under the honourable title of *the* woman.
- 3. I shall ever regard as the best and the wisest man whom I have ever known.
- 4. Mr. Sherlock Holmes is free to devote his life to examining those interesting little problems which the complex life of London so plentifully presents.
- 5. "We also have our diplomatic secrets," said he, and picking up his hat he turned to the door.
- 6. Of Mrs. Hilton Cubitt I only know that I have heard she recovered entirely, and that she still remains a widow, devoting her whole life to the care of the poor and to the administration of her husband's estate
- 7. The proceedings against the page broke down for want of evidence, and the Brook Street Mystery,

- as it was called, has never until now been fully dealt with in any public print.
- 8. Of the woman nothing was ever heard, and the probability is that she got away out of England and carried herself and the memory of her crime to some land beyond the seas."
- 9. Holmes folded up his cheque and placed it carefully in his note-book. "I am a poor man," said he, as he patted it affectionately and thrust it into the depths of his inner pocket.
- 10. I think, Watson, that if we drive to Baker Street we shall be just in time for breakfast."

- 1. Hound of the Baskervilles
- 2. A Scandal in Bohemia
- 3. The Adventure of the Final Problem
- 4. The Adventure of the Empty House
- 5. The Adventure of the Second Stain
- 6. The Adventure of the Dancing Men
- 7. The Adventure of the Resident Patient
- 8. The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual
- 9. The Adventure of the Priory School
- 10. The Adventure of the Man with the Twisted Lip

5. Countdown

Do the maths and figure out what the Sherlockian number represents. No calculators!

- 1. 5 x 44.2
- 2. 200 13
- 3. $92 \div 23$
- 4. 473.75 x 4
- 5. 482.5 x 4
- 6. 8.6 x 5
- 7. 9 ÷ 3
- 8. 10 x 6
- 9. 12 ÷ 2
- 10.1900 + 1

- 1. 221 Baker Street address
- 2. 1887 publication of A Study in Scarlet
- 3. 4 long stories
- 4. 1895 generic Vincent Starrett year for Sherlock Holmes stories
- 5. 1930 death of ACD
- 6. 43 Granada episodes
- 7. 3 Garridebs
- 8. 60 published stories
- 9. 6 Napoleons
- 10. 1901 The Hound of the Baskervilles published

6. Truth or Lie

Simply decide if the following statements are true or false.

- In A Study in Scarlet, Holmes first met Watson at St Bartholomew's Hospital
- The crown discovered in The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual was said to have belonged to King Charles II
- 3. In The Adventure of the Red-headed League, Jabez Wilson was paid £6 a week to transcribe the Encyclopaedia Britannica
- 4. The main events in The Adventure of the Man with the Twisted Lip unfolded in London's Upper Swandam Lane
- 5. In The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle, Mrs Oakshott lived in Battersea
- 6. Ted Hunter was a stable hand in The Adventure of Silver Blaze
- 7. Victor Hatherley encountered counterfeiters in The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb, losing his thumb in the process
- 8. Henry Wood was Crooked Man, in the story of the same name

- 9. The Worthington Bank Gang make an unwelcome appearance in The Adventure of the Resident Patient
- 10. Joseph Harrison stole the Naval Treaty, in the story of the same name

- 1. True
- 2. False Charles I
- 3. False £4 per week
- 4. True
- 5. False Brixton
- 6. False Ned
- 7. True
- 8. True
- 9. False Worthingdon
- 10. True

7. Sherlock BLANK

Complete the well-known quotes from the Sherlock Holmes stories by filling in the blank

- 1. "BLANK! I cried. "Elementary," said he. (Crooked Man)
- 2. "You know my BLANK, Watson." Crooked Man
- 3. "When you have BLANK the impossible, whatever..." (The Sign of Four)
- 4. "The lowest and vilest alleys in BLANK do not present..." (Copper Beeches)
- 5. "London, that great BLANK into which all the loungers..." (A Study in Scarlet)
- 6. "To Sherlock Holmes she is always the BLANK." (A Scandal in Bohemia)
- 7. "It is the unofficial BLANK—the Baker Street irregulars." (The Sign of Four)
- 8. "The fair BLANK is your department." (Second Stain)
- 9. "...the curious incident of the BLANK in the night-time." (Silver Blaze)
- 10. "They were the footprints of a gigantic BLANK!" (The Hound of the Baskervilles)

- 1. Excellent
- 2. Methods
- 3. Eliminated
- 4. London
- 5. Cesspool
- 6. Woman
- 7. Force
- 8. Sex
- 9. Dog
- 10. Hound

8. One Question

There's only one question, but what's the answer? Who is Hudson? Eliminate the wrong answers first, leaving the correct answer to last.

- 1. Stableboy in The Adventure of Silver Blaze
- 2. Shopkeeper in The Adventure of the Six Napoleons
- 3. Inspector in A Scandal in Bohemia
- 4. Telegram boy in The Sign of Four
- 5. Carriage driver in The Hound of the Baskervilles
- 6. Private Secretary in The Adventure of the Illustrious Client
- 7. Medical student in A Study in Scarlet
- 8. A member of the Worthingdon Bank Gang in The Adventure of the Resident Patient
- 9. Clerk in The Adventure of the Bruce Partington Plans
- 10. A Baker Street Irregular

- 1. Incorrect
- 2. Yes, Morse Hudson
- 3. Incorrect
- 4. Incorrect
- 5. Incorrect
- 6. Incorrect
- 7. Incorrect
- 8. Incorrect
- 9. Incorrect
- 10. Incorrect

9. Passwords

Workout the Sherlockian password (word and number) from the clues using the format example Doyle1930.

- Surname of the new CBS series Watson actor and current edition number of the Sherlock Holmes Magazine
- 2. Creator of Granada's Sherlock Holmes series and year of final episode
- 3. Surname of brothers in Sign of Four and year first published
- 4. Surname of Inspector in Man with the Twisted Lip and year of first publication
- Surname of Granada's second Dr Watson and year of David Burke's first Granada outing as Watson
- 6. Mycroft's Club and year of Peter Cushing's birth
- 7. Nationality of Jonny Lee Miller and publication year of His Last Bow
- 8. County of Sherlock's retirement and year of Conan Doyle's birth
- 9. Surname of narrator in new BBC short story radio series and year of Conan Doyle's first marriage
- 10. Surname of hat owner in Blue Carbuncle and year first published

- 1. Chestnut20
- 2. MichaelCox1994
- 3. Sholto1890
- 4. Bradstreet1891
- 5. Hardwicke1984
- 6. Diogenes1913
- 7. English1917
- 8. Sussex1859
- 9. Bonneville1885
- 10. Baker1892

10. Cryptic Clues

Simply crack the Cryptic Clue for the name of a Sherlock Holmes story. Just looking for the main words in the title.

- 1. Hunted Emperors (3,9)
- 2. Extra Mark (6,5)
- 3. Surrey Boss (7,6)
- 4. End Game (5,7)
- 5. Pro Digit (9,5)
- 6. King's Ransom (8,6)
- 7. Quatrro Conspiracy (4,2,4)
- 8. Brown Trees (6,7)
- 9. Gigantic Hound (5,2,3,11)
- 10. Lone Rider (8,7)

- 1. Six Napoleons
- 2. Second Stain
- 3. Reigate Squire
- 4. Final Problem
- 5. Engineer's Thumb
- 6. Musgrave Ritual
- 7. Sign of Four
- 8. Copper Beeches
- 9. Hound of the Baskervilles
- 10. Solitary Cyclist

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