

The Hound of the Baskervilles

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1 The moon was shining on the Great Grimpen Marsh, and a fog was rising from it. Holmes watched the fog and began to look worried. The fog was creeping up from the marsh towards the house. We were hidden near the path, which was on the far side of the house from the marsh.

'The fog is moving towards us, Watson, and that is very serious,' said Holmes. 'It is the one thing that could make my plans go wrong.'

As we watched, the fog, which had crept as far as the house, began to flow round it. Angrily Holmes hit the rock in front of us with his open hand.

'If Sir Henry doesn't come out in the next quarter of an hour, the path will be covered by the fog. In half an hour we shall not be able to see our hands in front of our faces. We must move back to higher ground above the fog.'

We moved away from the house and out of the fog, which was creeping slowly along the ground and hiding the path from our view.

'We must not go too far,' said Holmes. 'If we do, Sir Henry may be caught before he reaches us.'

Holmes went down on one knee, and put his ear to the ground. 'Thank heaven, I think I hear him coming.'

Then we heard quick footsteps on the path. After a few moments, Sir Henry appeared out of the fog and walked on in the clear moonlight. He came quickly along the path, passed close to where we were hidden, and began to walk up the hill behind us. As he walked, he looked over his shoulder again and again, like a man who is worried that something is following him.

'Listen!' said Holmes sharply. 'Look out! It's coming!'

I heard him make his revolver ready to fire, and I did the same.

There was a sound of quick, light footsteps from inside the curtain of fog. The cloud had crept to within fifty metres of where we were hidden. We tried to see into it, and wondered what horrible thing would appear. I looked at Holmes. His eyes were fixed on the place where the path disappeared into the fog. He was pale, but his eyes were bright. He looked like a man who was going to win the most important game of his life. Then suddenly his eyes nearly jumped out of his head, and his mouth opened in frightened surprise. I looked away from him to see what his eyes were fixed on. When I saw the awful shape that was coming towards us out of the fog, my blood turned cold. The revolver nearly fell from my hands, and my whole body froze with fear.

I saw a hound, an enormous black hound. It was bigger than any dog I had ever seen. But it was something else that filled us with terror. No human eye had ever seen a hound like this one. Fire came from its open mouth. Its eyes were burning. Flames covered its head and body. It was a more horrible sight than anyone could imagine – a hell-hound sent by the devil. It was not a creature of the natural world.

The huge, black, burning hound ran quickly and silently after Sir Henry. Far away along the path we saw him turn and look back at the hound. His face was white in the moonlight and his hands were lifted in horror. He watched helplessly as the terrible creature got closer to him. We were so frozen by the ghostly and unnatural sight that we let the hound go past us, and we could not move. Our friend was near to death, and we were helpless with fear.

Understanding the story

1 Answer the questions.

- 1 Why is Holmes worried about the fog?
- 2 Why are Holmes and Watson hiding as they wait for Sir Henry?
- 3 How does Sir Henry feel as he walks along the path?
- 4 How do Holmes and Watson react when they see the hound? Why?
- 5 Why does Watson describe the dog as a 'hell-hound'?
- 6 Do you think the hound is a real dog or an evil spirit?
- 7 Why do they not shoot the dog?

Vocabulary

2 Match the highlighted words in the text with these meanings:

- 1 moving quietly and carefully
- 2 the most powerful evil being
- 3 a thick cloud close to the land that is difficult to see through
- 4 looking like the spirit of a dead person
- 5 the home of the devil
- 6 a hunting dog
- 7 soft, wet, low land
- 8 a small, quick-firing gun
- 9 having less colour than usual

Talking about your reactions

- 1 What do you think happens next?
- 2 Sherlock Holmes is very famous. What other detectives from books or TV do you know? What are they famous for?

Grammar

1 Complete the sentences using one verb each in the past perfect, the past simple, and the past continuous.

Example

When the fire alarm went (go) off I was lying (lie) in bed trying to have an early night because I had had (have) a tiring day.

- While I _____ (walk) along the path, I suddenly _____ (notice) a coin that someone _____ (drop).
- He _____ (show) her the ring that he _____ (buy) while they _____ (have) dinner.
- I _____ (not / pay) attention, so I was a bit surprised when they _____ (tell) me that my train _____ (already / leave).
- I first _____ (meet) Anna when we _____ (both / live) in London, and she reminded me of someone I _____ (know) many years before.
- While I _____ (put) the cases into the car, John suddenly _____ (get) very worried because he _____ (lose) his wallet.
- I suddenly _____ (realise), while we _____ (drive) home from the airport, that I _____ (leave) my house keys on the plane.
- While Emily _____ (walk) through the woods, she _____ (see) the tiger that _____ (escape) from the zoo.
- While I _____ (wait) for the bus, I suddenly _____ (remember) that I _____ (forget) to post John's birthday card.
- While Peter _____ (check) his work, he _____ (notice) some careless mistakes that he _____ (make).
- While Sam _____ (put) the children to bed, Jack _____ (look) at the football results to see who _____ (win) the match.

2 Complete the sentences using *may*, *might* or *could* and your own ideas.

Example

A You haven't seen my keys, have you?

B No, but Sarah *might be able to help you*.

- Will you go to the party?
Yes, _____.
- What will the weather be like?
I'm not sure, but I think _____.
- Did Jenny phone yesterday?
No, but _____.
- How do you think the team will do in the competition?
They're playing quite well, so I think _____.
- Do you think we'll get to school on time?
I'm not sure with all this traffic. We _____.

3 Match 1-6 to a-f to make first conditional sentences.

- If I don't get any homework tonight,
 - If it rains tomorrow,
 - I'll phone you tonight
 - We'll go for a pizza after school
 - If I can find the video you want to see,
 - If I have enough money,
- if we have enough money.
 - I'll lend it to you.
 - I'll go for a walk.
 - I'll wear my boots.
 - I'll buy that new CD.
 - if I have time.

4 Complete the sentences using the second conditional form of the verbs in brackets.


- If I _____ (can) dance and sing, I _____ (be) famous!
- If I _____ (know) how to do this Maths question, I _____ (help) you.
- If I _____ (have) enough money, I _____ (buy) a car.
- I _____ (be) happier if I _____ (be) a bit taller.
- _____ (you / marry) me if I _____ (ask) you?
- If I _____ (win) a lot of money, it _____ (not / make) me happy.

5 Complete using *should*, *ought to* or *shouldn't*.

- You _____ see a doctor about your headaches.
- You _____ try to do a little homework each night instead of leaving it all until the weekend.
- I don't think you _____ stay up so late every night.
- You _____ go to bed earlier at your age!
- _____ I do this Saturday job or not?
- You _____ cross the road here. It's too dangerous.
- You _____ never drive a car without wearing a seat belt.
- You _____ eat so much chocolate. It's bad for you!



Listening

- 6  Listen to a legend connected with the Yosemite Valley in the USA. As you listen, complete the sentences.
- Yosemite Valley is a _____ for visitors.
 - Tesaiyak was very sad and crying when she _____ down the mountain to Mono Lake.
 - Tesaiyak and her husband were turned into _____ by the powerful spirits of the Yosemite Valley.
 - The Yosemite's Half Dome is well known by _____ all over the world.
- 7 Decide if these statements are true or false. Then listen again and check. Correct the false statements.
- The Yosemite Valley is mountainous.
 - The legend is from the Mono people.
 - Powerful spirits turned the people into two lakes.
 - 'Half Dome' is the name of a mountain.

Speaking

- 8 Write questions to find out the following information.
- hobbies / interests
 - favourite sport
 - reasons for liking / disliking sport
 - starting date at this school
 - length of time in this class
- 9 Number the sentences in the correct order to make a conversation.
- What? _____
 - What did you do? Keep the money? _____
 - Guess what happened to me yesterday? _____
 - Of course not. I took the purse and the money to the nearest police station. _____
 - Was it empty? _____
 - I was walking home last night when I saw a purse lying on the pavement. _____
 - No. When I picked it up, it was full of money. _____

Writing

- 10 Match the punctuation marks in A to the words in B.
- | | |
|-----|------------------|
| A | B |
| ? | comma |
| , | question mark |
| ! | exclamation mark |
| ‘ ’ | hyphen |
| — | inverted commas |
| ! | full stop |

Checking for mistakes

- 11 Read this letter to a friend, which has ten mistakes in it. Find and correct the mistakes.

Dear Jane

Thanks so much for your letter. It was lovely to hearing from you again. I'm sorry it has taken me so long to replied, but I've been very busy here.

Anyway, I'm just writing for to see if we can meet up again some time. My parents are away in the 1st and 2⁰th, and they said I could have the friends over if I wanted. It shall be great if you could come over that weekend.

There are many of things we could do - there's a really good film on with the cinema, and if the weather are good, we could go for a picnic.

Anyway, do let me to know if you can make it. Hope to hear from you soon,

Love
Hans

- 12 Read through this passage. Rewrite it with the correct punctuation.

Jan was getting some bread from the village shop when she noticed the headlines about the murderer who had escaped. horrible business isn't it said the shopkeeper. and a bit too close for my liking. yes its very scary replied Jan. he could even be in the village. I don't think so joked the shopkeeper. I reckon people would notice a man with his arm hanging off. Jan paid for the bread and the paper and walked back home. as she turned off the road to her house door, she suddenly went as cold as ice. there on the garden path were marks of blood leading to her front door.