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with
NEW ACTIVITIES



HOLMES'S

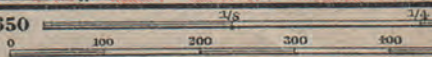
Although Arthur Conan Doyle lived only a few months in the capital before moving to a residential area far from the centre, he loved the dark, foggy, mysterious streets of Victorian London, where most of the Sherlock Holmes stories are set. The detective himself often repeats that he is familiar with all of the city, not only the rich and elegant areas, but also the poor and dangerous ones.

The stories often highlight the problems of urban life and how the city itself seems to encourage crime, or at least make it possible. The city of London interferes constantly with the stories of the famous detective and plays such an active role that it can count as another, albeit silent, character.

The stories take us across London, and many places have gained an almost iconic status because of their narrative importance. The most famous one is Sherlock Holmes's office at 221b Baker Street, where this story begins. This address did not actually exist when Conan Doyle wrote his stories; it was

GLOSSARY

- **albeit:** although
- **are set:** take place
- **dissociate from:** remove the connection with
- **highlight:** point out; talk about a lot
- **iconic:** great cultural importance
- **residential:** that people live in
- **to a certain extent:** (here) for a large part
- **urban:** of the city



LONDON

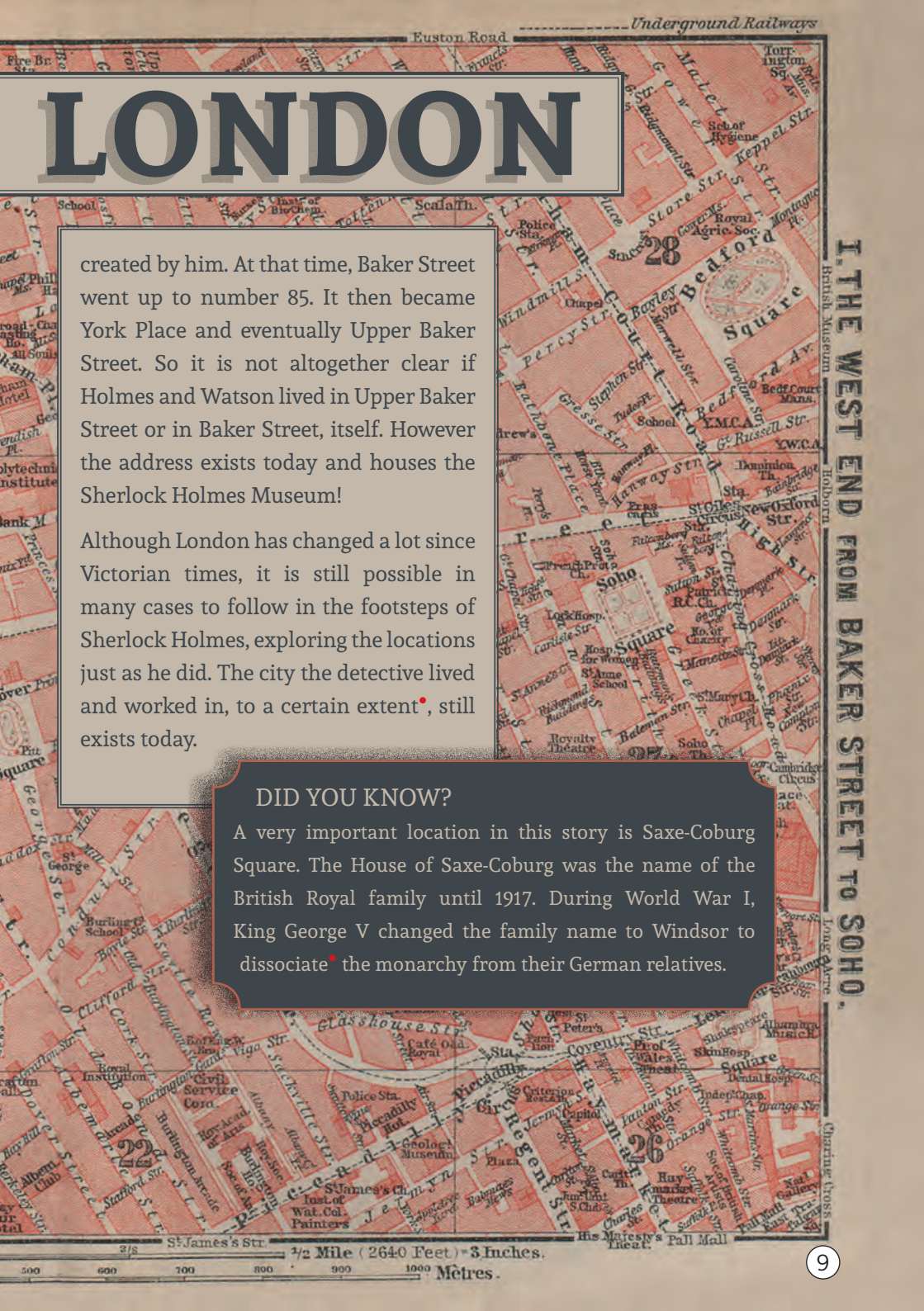
created by him. At that time, Baker Street went up to number 85. It then became York Place and eventually Upper Baker Street. So it is not altogether clear if Holmes and Watson lived in Upper Baker Street or in Baker Street, itself. However the address exists today and houses the Sherlock Holmes Museum!

Although London has changed a lot since Victorian times, it is still possible in many cases to follow in the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes, exploring the locations just as he did. The city the detective lived and worked in, to a certain extent, still exists today.

DID YOU KNOW?

A very important location in this story is Saxe-Coburg Square. The House of Saxe-Coburg was the name of the British Royal family until 1917. During World War I, King George V changed the family name to Windsor to dissociate the monarchy from their German relatives.

I. THE WEST END FROM BAKER STREET TO SOHO.



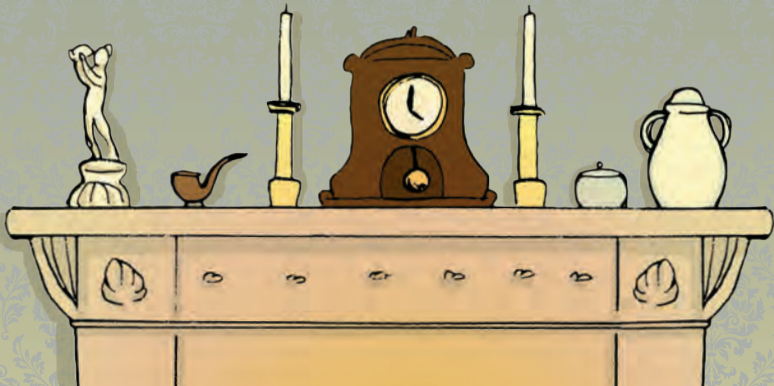
The Red-headed League



Dr. Watson



Sherlock Holmes





Jabez Wilson



Peter Jones



Duncan Ross



Vincent Spaulding



Mr. Merryweather



Ezekiah Hopkins



BEFORE READING

1  The title of the story is 'The Red-headed League'. What kind of story do you think it is? Why? Ask and answer with a partner.

- a Horror
- b Detective
- c Love
- d Adventure
- e Science fiction

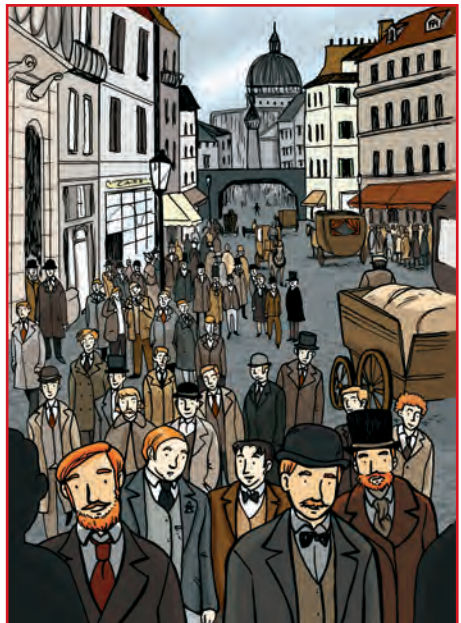
2 Think about the title. The Red-headed League is a:

- a football team
- b club for men with red hair
- c shop selling wigs
- d cruise ship

3 Look at cover illustration and answer.

The story is set in:

- a modern times
- b the eighteenth century
- c the future
- d the nineteenth century





4 The pictures below show two important characters in the story. Match each picture with the description.




- 1 Jabez Wilson is a fat gentleman with red hair.
- 2 Sherlock Holmes is a famous detective. He often smokes a pipe.

5 Find the following words in the story. Match them to the pictures.

- a coins b crate c earrings d stone steps e gypsy
f Irish setter g labyrinth h pavement i stick j gate



Part 1

 When I called on my friend, Mr. Sherlock Holmes, one day in the autumn of last year I found him in deep conversation with a fat, red-faced gentleman with bright red hair•.

‘You come at a good time, my dear Watson,’ he said.

‘I was afraid that you were busy.’

‘I am. Very busy.’

‘Then I can wait in the next room.’

‘Not at all•. Meet Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson, Dr. Watson is my partner and helper. He helps me in many of my cases•, and I have no doubt that he can help me in yours also.’

‘Sit down,’ said Holmes.

‘Your cases are always of the greatest interest to me,’ I said.

‘Do you remember what I said the other day? That for strange events we must go to life itself. Because life is always much stranger than the imagination.’

‘Yes, and I remember I disagreed with you.’

GLOSSARY

- **bright red hair:** hair of an orange-red colour
- **cases:** strange events or crimes that policemen solve
- **not at all:** (here) no, don't do that



‘You did, Doctor. Listen to Mr. Jabez Wilson’s story and see if you change your mind. Mr. Wilson, can you start your story once more? That way Dr. Watson can hear the opening part and I can hear the details again.’

Mr. Wilson puffed out his chest and pulled a dirty and wrinkled newspaper from the pocket of his coat. He looked through the advertisements in the newspaper. I studied his appearance.

I did not learn very much from my inspection. Our visitor looked like an average British working man, fat, arrogant, and slow. He wore baggy grey trousers, a black coat, unbuttoned in the front, and a drab waistcoat with a heavy watch-chain. An old top hat and a brown overcoat were on the chair beside him. The only remarkable thing about the man was his red head, and the expression of extreme discontent on his face.



GLOSSARY

- **baggy:** wide; not fitting well
- **drab:** not smart, dull in colour
- **inspection:** careful examination
- **puffed out:** made bigger
- **top hat:** tall hat
- **wrinkled:** with lots of folds and lines

Sherlock Holmes started:

‘Obviously he did manual labour•, he is a Freemason•, he was in China, and he did a lot of writing.’

‘How do you know all that, Mr. Holmes?’ asked Mr. Wilson. ‘How did you know that I did manual labour? It’s true, of course.’

‘Your hands, my dear sir. Your right hand is much larger than your left hand. You worked hard with it, and the muscles are more developed.’

‘And the Freemasonry?’

‘Elementary, against the rules of the Freemasons, you wear an arc-and-compass breastpin.’

‘Ah, of course, I forgot that. But the writing?’

‘The right cuff• of your coat is very shiny, and the left arm has a smooth• patch near the elbow where you rested it on a desk.’

‘And China?’

‘The fish tattoo• above your right wrist can only come from China. I study tattoos and the delicate pink colour of the fishes’ scales• is unique to China. And I can see a Chinese coin hanging from your watch-chain. Once more, elementary.’

Mr. Jabez Wilson laughed loudly.



‘Well, well!’ he said. ‘Elementary.’

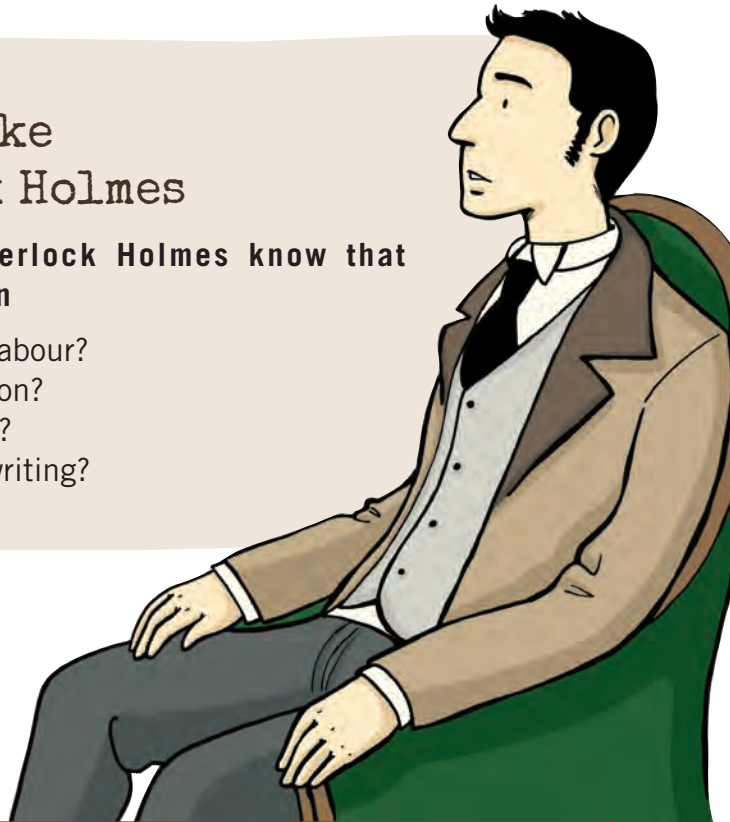
‘I begin to think, Watson,’ said Holmes, ‘that I made a mistake in explaining things. “*Unknown things seem important.*” Can you not find the advertisement, Mr. Wilson?’

‘Yes, I have got it now,’ he answered with his big red finger pointing halfway down the column. ‘Here it is. This is what began it all. Read it, sir.’

Think like Sherlock Holmes

How does Sherlock Holmes know that
Mr. Jabez Wilson

- a** did manual labour?
- b** is a Freemason?
- c** was in China?
- d** did a lot of writing?



GLOSSARY

- **cuff:** lower end of a sleeve
- **Freemason:** member of a secret club for men (the Freemasons)
- **manual labour:** low-paid work with the hands (e.g. digging or building, but not surgery or programming)
- **scales:** (here) small, hard, light pieces of skin on a fish's body
- **smooth:** flat
- **tattoo:** picture or design on someone's skin, made by using needles and inks

I took the paper from him and read as follows:

TO THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE: Thanks to the inheritance of the late Ezekiah Hopkins, of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, U. S. A., there is now another vacancy open for a new member of the Red-headed League. Each member of the League receives a salary of £4 a week for minimum services. All red-headed men who are healthy in body and mind and above the age of twenty-one years, can apply.

Apply in person on Monday, at eleven o'clock, to *Duncan Ross*, at the offices of the League, *7 Pope's Court, Fleet Street*.



‘What on earth does this mean?’ I exclaimed after I read the extraordinary advertisement.

Holmes laughed and wriggled in his chair. ‘It is a little strange, isn’t it?’ he said. ‘And now, Mr. Wilson, tell us about yourself, your household, and the effect that this advertisement had on your life. First make a note, Doctor, of the paper and the date.’

‘It is *The Morning Chronicle* of April 27, 1890. Just two months ago.’

‘Very good. Now, Mr. Wilson?’

The Red-headed League

What is strange about the advertisement?

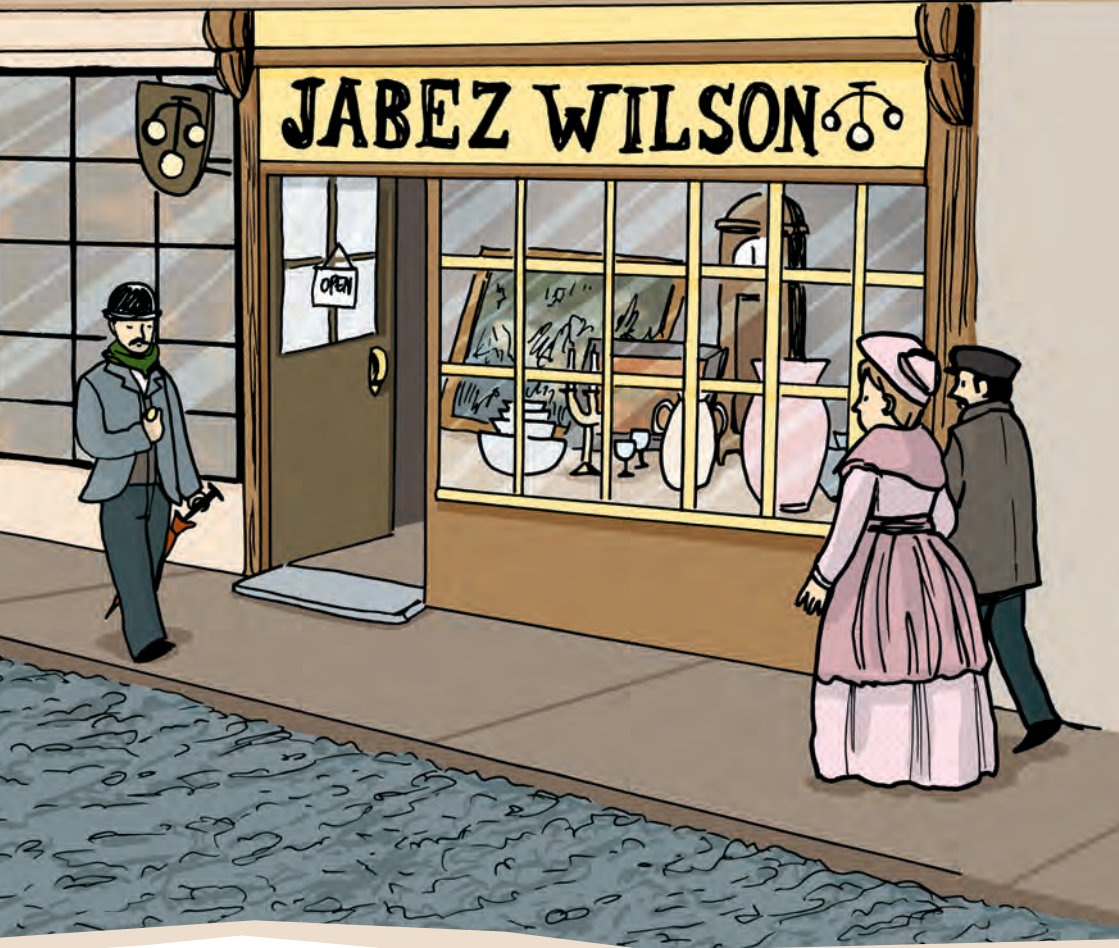
Invent another league. Who can join it?



Tell a friend.

GLOSSARY

- **household:** house and the people who live in it
- **inheritance:** money left to other people when someone dies
- **late:** dead
- **salary:** money paid for work done (‘professional’ work)
- **wriggled:** made small, quick movements
- **vacancy:** place



‘Well, as I told you, Mr. Sherlock Holmes,’ said Jabez Wilson, touching his forehead, ‘I have a small shop at Saxe-Coburg Square, near the City•. It’s not very large and in recent years it is not very successful. In the past I had two assistants•, now I have one, and I can only pay him because he is willing to• work for half wages• in order to learn the business.’

‘What is the name of this young man?’ asked Sherlock Holmes.

‘His name is Vincent Spaulding, and he’s not so young, either. It’s hard to say his age. I could not have a smarter assistant, Mr. Holmes. I know very well that he could get a better job and earn twice what I give him. But, he is satisfied.’

‘You are most fortunate in having this employee. It is not a common experience among employers•. Your assistant is as remarkable as your advertisement.’

‘Oh, he has his faults, too,’ said Mr. Wilson. ‘Photography... taking pictures with his camera then going down into the cellar• like a rabbit into its hole to develop• them. That is his main fault, but he’s a good worker. There’s no badness in him.’

‘He is still with you, I presume?’

‘Yes, sir. He and a girl of fourteen, who does some cooking and cleaning. That’s everyone in the house, because my wife is dead and we didn’t have any children. We live very quietly, sir, the three of us.’



GLOSSARY

- **assistants:** helpers
- **cellar:** room under a house
- **City:** the business centre of London
- **develop:** (here) make a photograph
- **employers:** people that pay others to work for them
- **is willing to:** wants to
- **wages:** money paid for work done (manual labour)



- 1 Choose the correct prepositions from the box to complete the advertisement. Some prepositions are used more than once.**

of above to in on at for

Thanks (1) the inheritance (2) the late Ezekiah Hopkins, of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, there is now another vacancy open (3) a new member of the Red-headed League. Each member (4) the League receives a salary (5) £4 a week (6) minimum services. All red-headed men who are healthy (7) body and mind and (8) the age of twenty-one years, can apply. Apply in person (9) Monday, at eleven o'clock, to Duncan Ross, (10) the offices of the League, 7 Pope's Court, Fleet Street.

- 2 Read the quotes below. Change the present tense of the verbs into the past simple.**

- a** 'I am not more stupid than other people but when I work with Sherlock Holmes I always feel immensely stupid.'
- b** 'Dr. Watson is my partner and helper. He helps me in many of my cases, and I have no doubt that he can help me in yours also.'
- c** 'His name is Vincent Spaulding, and he's not so young, either. It's hard to say his age.'
- d** 'There's another vacancy at the League. It's worth a fortune to the man who gets it, and I understand that there are more vacancies than there are men.'
- e** 'I do most of my business in the evening, so it is good for me to earn a little in the mornings. Besides, I know that my assistant is a good man.'

K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

1 Read the sentences and choose the best word (A, B, or C) for each space.

- 1 'Suddenly the whole business to an end.'
A came **B** went **C** arrived
- 2 'We travelled by the Underground as as Aldersgate.'
A far **B** long **C** well
- 3 'Let's have a sandwich and a cup of coffee, and then
to our concert.'
A up **B** off **C** going
- 4 'Watson covered his lantern and left us the dark.'
A in **B** with **C** on
- 5 'I begin to think that I a mistake in explaining things.'
A did **B** had **C** made
- 6 'Tell us about the effect that this advertisement on
your life.'
A did **B** had **C** made
- 7 'We cannot refuse a man with hair like '
A yours **B** red **C** head
- 8 'I most of my business in the evening.'
A make **B** work **C** do
- 9 'Let me congratulate you more.'
A for **B** once **C** much
- 10 'The table was ready and Mr. Ross was there greet
me.'
A to **B** for **C** and
- 11 'Spaulding has no hair on his face, though he's at
thirty.'
A least **B** age **C** his