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Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

A STUDY *in Scarlet*



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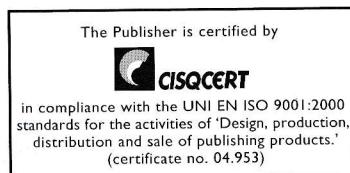
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FC First Certificate in English Examination-style exercises

T: GRADE 7 Trinity-style exercises (Grade 7)

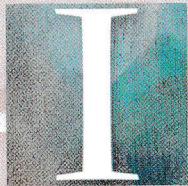


This story is recorded in full.
 These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities.



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTIONS

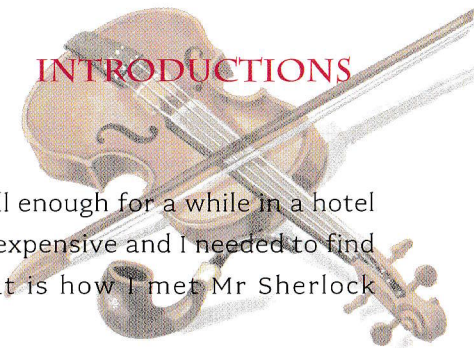


In the year 1878 I became a doctor of medicine at the University of London, and then joined the Army as a surgeon. My first job was in Afghanistan, where I was shot in the shoulder. I went to hospital and started to recover, but then I became ill with a fever. For many months I was close to death, but finally I was strong enough to make the journey back to England.

My health was very weak and I had no friends or family in England. The Government gave me a small allowance ¹ for each

1. **allowance** : amount of money given to someone regularly.

INTRODUCTIONS



day and with this money I lived well enough for a while in a hotel in London. But it soon became too expensive and I needed to find somewhere cheaper to live. That is how I met Mr Sherlock Holmes.

One day, I left the hotel and by chance I met a young man I knew called Stamford.

'Why, you're very thin and as brown as a nut, ¹ Watson. What have you been doing?'

We went to lunch together and I told him about my adventures and my current money problems.

'I may be able to help you,' said Stamford. 'I know a man who needs someone to share some nice rooms he's found. They're too expensive for him on his own.'

'I'm just the right man for him. When can I meet him?'

Stamford gave me a strange look. 'You don't know Sherlock Holmes yet,' he said. 'You might not get on with ² him.'

'But why?' I asked. I was extremely curious about him.

'He's a decent man,' said Stamford, 'but he has some strange ideas. He studies many different things; medicine, science, anatomy... but apparently with no reason.'

'I'd still like to meet him,' I said.

After lunch we went to meet Sherlock Holmes at the laboratory where he worked.

'Dr Watson, Mr Sherlock Holmes,' said Stamford, introducing us.

'How are you?' he said, shaking my hand firmly. 'You've been in Afghanistan, I perceive.'

1. **brown as a nut** : Watson's skin is brown from the sun in Afghanistan.

2. **get on with** : like or enjoy someone's company.



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injured because you held it in an unnatural way. Where could an English army doctor have been ill and wounded? Obviously in Afghanistan. All these details went quickly through my mind and led me to the correct conclusion.'

'It's very simple when you explain it,' I said, smiling. I looked out of the window.

'I wonder who that is,' I said, pointing to the street, where a man was looking at the street numbers. He had a large envelope in his hand. Sherlock Holmes looked out.

'You mean the retired sergeant of the Marines?' he said.

'Hmm, very clever,' I thought to myself. 'How do I know if he's right?' But soon I had the chance to find out; the man knocked on the door and came up the stairs.

'For Mr Sherlock Holmes,' he said, handing him the envelope.

'Can I ask,' I said to the man, 'what it is that you do?'

'I was a sergeant, sir, in the Marines. Is that all, sir? Right, sir.'

'Sherlock Holmes was right again,' I thought, as the man left the room. 'Maybe he is as clever as he thinks he is.'

Meanwhile Sherlock Holmes was reading the letter. 'Here,' he said, giving it to me. 'Look at this.'

'But this is terrible!' I exclaimed after reading it. 'There's been a murder!'

Go back to the text

FCE 1 Comprehension

For questions 1-4, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

- Which is the best description of Doctor Watson's situation at the beginning of Chapter One?
 - He has no money and is living with a friend.
 - He is very ill and still in hospital.
 - He has just returned to London and is looking for cheaper accommodation.
 - He has just arrived in London and is looking for a hotel room.
- What do we know about Sherlock Holmes from Watson's friend Stamford?
 - He smokes a pipe.
 - He is a man with strange ideas.
 - He is an intellectual and a scientist.
 - He does not like the company of other people.
- What does Watson tell Sherlock Holmes about his own character?
 - He is a smoker, does not like noise and gets up very early.
 - He makes a lot of noise at night, but is very lazy during the day.
 - He does not like noise, gets up at strange times and is lazy.
 - He does not like noise, but likes doing chemical experiments.
- Which of these sentences best describes the rooms at 221B Baker St?
 - There were two bedrooms and a sitting room where guests were interviewed.
 - There was one bedroom and a sitting room used as a second bedroom.
 - There were three bedrooms and an office used to welcome guests.
 - There were two bedrooms and a sitting room used by Watson for his work.