

The Hound of the Baskervilles Vocabulary (Chapters 6-10)

*Read this list and be familiar with these words before you read chapters 1-5. They will help you to understand the story **the way the author meant to tell it**, allowing you to enjoy the book and read it more smoothly and quickly. These words will appear on vocabulary quizzes and tests, so do not skip this step.*

Word	Example and definition	Chapter
injunction	Mr. Sherlock Holmes drove with me to the station and gave me his last parting <u>injunctions</u> and advice. injunctions = a command to prohibit someone from doing or continuing to do something	6
theorize	"I will not bias your mind by suggesting theories or suspicions, Watson," said he; "I wish you simply to report facts in the fullest possible manner to me, and you can leave me to do the <u>theorizing</u> ." theorizing = to form a belief about something or someone before having proof	6
luxuriant	In a very few hours the brown earth had become ruddy, the brick had changed to granite, and red cows grazed in well-hedged fields where the lush grasses and more <u>luxuriant</u> vegetation spoke of a richer, if a damper, climate. luxuriant = being richly thick or abundant, or extravagantly comfortable and pleasant	6
equestrian	On the summit, hard and clear like an <u>equestrian</u> statue upon its pedestal, was a mounted soldier, dark and stern, his rifle poised ready over his forearm. equestrian = relating to horseback riding	6
atrocious	The commutation of his death sentence had been due to some doubts as to his complete sanity, so <u>atrocious</u> was his conduct. atrocious = exceptionally bad, cruel, or ugly	6
loophole	>From this central block rose the twin towers, ancient, crenelated, and pierced with many <u>loopholes</u> . loopholes = an ambiguity (especially one in the text of a law or contract) that makes it possible to evade a difficulty or obligation	6
Elizabethan	A dim line of ancestors, in every variety of dress, from the <u>Elizabethan</u> knight to the buck of the Regency, stared down upon us and daunted us by their silent company. Elizabethan = relating to the age in which Elizabeth I ruled as queen (1558-1603)	6
efface	The fresh beauty of the following morning did something to <u>efface</u> from our minds the grim and gray impression which had been left upon both of us by our first experience of Baskerville Hall. efface = remove (or erase)	7
pallid	It seemed to me that the <u>pallid</u> features of the butler turned a shade paler still as he listened to his master's question. pallid = pale, lacking healthy skin color, lacking energy or liveliness	7

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propitious	Sir Henry had numerous papers to examine after breakfast, so that the time was <u>propitious</u> for my excursion. propitious = favorable	7
reprove	I am justly <u>reproved</u> for what I feel was an unjustifiable intrusion, and I promise you that I will not mention the matter again. reproved = criticized	7
Neolithic	<u>Neolithic</u> man—no date. Neolithic = newest (most recent) period of the Stone Age beginning around 10,000 to 8,000 BC, when humans made polished stone tools and many areas were developing agriculture — especially the Middle East	7
supersede	He grazed his cattle on these slopes, and he learned to dig for tin when the bronze sword began to <u>supersede</u> the stone axe. supersede = take the place of — especially replacing something old or inferior, to be more important than something else, or to have more authority	7
wizened	We were admitted by a strange, <u>wizened</u> , rusty-coated old manservant, who seemed in keeping with the house. wizened = thin and wrinkled — typically from age or illness	7
irresolute	An expression of <u>irresolution</u> passed for an instant over her face, but her eyes had hardened again when she answered me. irresolution = uncertain how to act or proceed	7
transcribe	From this point onward I will follow the course of events by <u>transcribing</u> my own letters to Mr. Sherlock Holmes which lie before me on the table. transcribing = write out from speech, notes, etc.	8
monolith	On all sides of you as you walk are the houses of these forgotten folk, with their graves and the huge <u>monoliths</u> which are supposed to have marked their temples. monoliths = a single great stone (often in the form of a column or obelisk)	8
approbation	He has certainly a very marked influence over her, for I have seen her continually glance at him as she talked as if seeking <u>approbation</u> for what she said. approbation = approval	8
corrosion	In the middle of it rose two great stones, worn and sharpened at the upper end, until they looked like the huge <u>corroding</u> fangs of some monstrous beast. corroding = a state of deterioration — especially in metals	8
onerous	By the way, your instructions to me never to allow Sir Henry to go out alone will become very much more <u>onerous</u> if a love affair were to be added to our other difficulties. onerous = difficult (requiring significant effort)	8
choleric	He is an elderly man, red-faced, white-haired, and <u>choleric</u> . choleric = easily moved to anger; or characterized by anger	8
effigy	It might have been me, instead of my <u>effigy</u> , which these rascals burned at the stake. effigy = a model or other representation	8

Word	Example and definition	Chapter
pacify	Sir Henry had to assure him that it was not so and <u>pacify</u> him by giving him a considerable part of his old wardrobe, the London outfit having now all arrived. pacify = calm someone who is angry; or establish peace	8
gesticulate	He <u>gesticulated</u> and almost danced with excitement in front of the lovers. gesticulated = made gestures (hand or body movements) while speaking or to express something	9
peremptory	Finally Stapleton turned upon his heel and beckoned in a <u>peremptory</u> way to his sister, who, after an irresolute glance at Sir Henry, walked off by the side of her brother. peremptory = not allowing contradiction or refusal	9
upshot	He had come to offer apologies for his rudeness of the morning, and after a long private interview with Sir Henry in his study, the <u>upshot</u> of their conversation was that the breach is quite healed, and that we are to dine at Merripit House next Friday as a sign of it. upshot = the result of some preceding events	9
extricate	And now I pass on to another thread which I have <u>extricated</u> out of the tangled skein, the mystery of the sobs in the night, of the tear-stained face of Mrs. Barrymore, of the secret journey of the butler to the western lattice window. extricated = pulled out (from entanglement)	9
stolid	Was it possible that this <u>stolidly</u> respectable person was of the same blood as one of the most notorious criminals in the country? stolidly = unemotionally	9
strident	Again and again it sounded, the whole air throbbing with it, <u>strident</u> , wild, and menacing. strident = unpleasantly forceful, loud, and harsh	9
pinnacle	The moon was low upon the right, and the jagged <u>pinnacle</u> of a granite tor stood up against the lower curve of its silver disc. pinnacle = the highest point	9
dogged	A stranger then is still <u>dogging</u> us, just as a stranger dogged us in London. dogging = following	10
abet	I guess we are aiding and <u>abetting</u> a felony, Watson? abetting = assisting or encouraging (usually in some wrongdoing)	10
morass	God help those who wander into the great mire now, for even the firm uplands are becoming a <u>morass</u> . morass = a difficult situation that frustrates progress, or a soft wet area of low-lying land that sinks underfoot	10
pittance	I fancy old Frankland allows her a <u>pittance</u> , but it cannot be more, for his own affairs are considerably involved. pittance = a tiny, inadequate payment	10

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equivocal	<p>To-morrow morning I shall find my way to Coombe Tracey, and if I can see this Mrs. Laura Lyons, of <u>equivocal</u> reputation, a long step will have been made towards clearing one incident in this chain of mysteries.</p> <p>equivocal = unclear in meaning — especially where opposing interpretations are reasonable (sometimes intentionally)</p>	10
tempestuous	<p>I have only one other incident to record upon this <u>tempestuous</u> and melancholy day.</p> <p>tempestuous = strongly turbulent — as of a storm or unstable emotions</p>	10