

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
stealth	He was a very retiring man, and he preferred to do good by <u>stealth</u> . stealth = hard to see or detect; or done in a manner to avoid detection	11
inconclusive	Lyons," said I, as I rose from this long and <u>inconclusive</u> interview, "you are taking a very great responsibility and putting yourself in a very false position by not making an absolutely clean breast of all that you know. inconclusive = not conclusive (not putting an end to doubt or question)	11
dishearten	I came away baffled and <u>disheartened</u> . disheartened = discouraged	11
reticent	Why should she have been so <u>reticent</u> at the time of the tragedy? reticent = reluctant	11
magnate	We'll teach these <u>magnates</u> that they cannot ride roughshod over the rights of the commoners, confound them! magnates = someone who is wealthy and powerful in business	11
infernal	These <u>infernal</u> people seem to think that there are no rights of property, and that they can swarm where they like with their papers and their bottles. infernal = very bad; or very annoying; or characteristic of hell or the underworld	11
autocracy	The least appearance of opposition struck fire out of the old <u>autocrat</u> . autocrat = a political system governed by a single individual	11
uncouth	When he reached the crest I saw the ragged <u>uncouth</u> figure outlined for an instant against the cold blue sky. uncouth = lacking refinement or cultivation or taste	11
dissuade	But I resisted all his solicitations and succeeded in <u>dissuading</u> him from his announced intention of walking home with me. dissuading = persuading someone not to do something	11
perseverance	Everything was working in my favour, and I swore that it should not be through lack of energy or <u>perseverance</u> that I should miss the chance which fortune had thrown in my way. perseverance = continued effort to achieve something despite difficulties	11

Word	Example and definition	Chapter
Spartan	There was no trace, however, of anything of the kind, nor could I discover any sign which might indicate the character or intentions of the man who lived in this singular place, save that he must be of <u>Spartan</u> habits and cared little for the comforts of life. Spartan = practicing self-denial in matters of comfort	11
immutable	When I thought of the heavy rains and looked at the gaping roof I understood how strong and <u>immutable</u> must be the purpose which had kept him in that inhospitable abode. immutable = not susceptible to change	11
incisive	That cold, <u>incisive</u> , ironical voice could belong to but one man in all the world. incisive = direct, clear, and sharp in thinking or expression — often indicating a decisive person (makes decisions quickly) or a penetrating mind	12
invaluable	My dear fellow, you have been <u>invaluable</u> to me in this as in many other cases, and I beg that you will forgive me if I have seemed to play a trick upon you. invaluable = very valuable; or too valuable to put in monetary terms	12
entomology	When I learned that the missing man was devoted to <u>entomology</u> the identification was complete. entomology = the branch of zoology that studies insects	12
prostrate	It was a <u>prostrate</u> man face downward upon the ground, the head doubled under him at a horrible angle, the shoulders rounded and the body hunched together as if in the act of throwing a somersault. prostrate = lying down - typically face downward on the ground as in submission	12
irrevocable	We stood with bitter hearts on either side of the mangled body, overwhelmed by this sudden and <u>irrevocable</u> disaster which had brought all our long and weary labours to so piteous an end. irrevocable = incapable of being undone	12
precipitous	Together we made our way down the <u>precipitous</u> slope and approached the body, black and clear against the silvered stones. precipitous = very steep	12
wretch	The question now is, what shall we do with this poor <u>wretch</u> 's body? wretch = someone you feel sorry for	12
jaunty	The moon shone upon him, and I could distinguish the dapper shape and <u>jaunty</u> walk of the naturalist. jaunty = appearing cheerful, lively, and self-confident	12
belated	Between us we soon supplied his wants, and then over a <u>belated</u> supper we explained to the baronet as much of our experience as it seemed desirable that he should know. belated = after the expected or usual time	13
conscientious	I am not sure that as a <u>conscientious</u> detective my first duty is not to arrest the whole household. conscientious = careful to do what is right	13
incriminate	Watson's reports are most <u>incriminating</u> documents." incriminating = making appear guilty	13

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personify	The lamp beat upon his face, and so intent was it and so still that it might have been that of a clear-cut classical statue, a <u>personification</u> of alertness and expectation. personification = to represent something in human form	13
connoisseur	"Excuse the admiration of a <u>connoisseur</u> ," said he as he waved his hand towards the line of portraits which covered the opposite wall. connoisseur = an expert who appreciates the fine points of one of the arts — especially fine cuisine	13
cavalier	And this <u>Cavalier</u> opposite to me—the one with the black velvet and the lace? cavalier = given to arrogant disregard of others or of consequences	13
authenticity	"There's no doubt about the <u>authenticity</u> , for the name and the date, 1647, are on the back of the canvas." authenticity = quality of being real or true	13
junction	Yes, I think that we should be more useful there at the present <u>junction</u> . junction = where things come together — especially a point in time with a critical event	13
perceptible	The baronet's face <u>perceptibly</u> lengthened. perceptibly = in a manner that is capable of being noticed	13
implicit	My dear fellow, you must trust me <u>implicitly</u> and do exactly what I tell you. implicitly = without question or doubt	13
narrative	I shall soon be in the position of being able to put into a single connected <u>narrative</u> one of the most singular and sensational crimes of modern times. narrative = story	13
loath	One of Sherlock Holmes's defects was that he was exceedingly <u>loath</u> to communicate his full plans to any other person until the instant of their fulfilment. loath = reluctant or unwilling to do something	14
forthwith	The wagonette was paid off and ordered to return to Coombe Tracey <u>forthwith</u> , while we started to walk to Merripit House. forthwith = immediately	14
serrated	Before us lay the dark bulk of the house, its <u>serrated</u> roof and bristling chimneys hard outlined against the silver-spangled sky. serrated = having points along the edge — like a saw, some knives, and some leaves	14
inexorable	So as the fog-bank flowed onward we fell back before it until we were half a mile from the house, and still that dense white sea, with the moon silvering its upper edge, swept slowly and <u>inexorably</u> on. inexorably = unstoppable	14
inert	I sprang to my feet, my <u>inert</u> hand grasping my pistol, my mind paralyzed by the dreadful shape which had sprung out upon us from the shadows of the fog. inert = unmoving, inactive, or unable to move	14

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defile	It is my mind and soul that he has tortured and <u>defiled</u> . defiled = spoiled the beauty or purity of something	14
dupe	I could endure it all, ill-usage, solitude, a life of deception, everything, as long as I could still cling to the hope that I had his love, but now I know that in this also I have been his <u>dupe</u> and his tool. dupe = to fool someone; or the person fooled — especially if tricked into doing something	14
quagmire	From the end of it a small wand planted here and there showed where the path zigzagged from tuft to tuft of rushes among those green-scummed pits and foul <u>quagmires</u> which barred the way to the stranger. quagmires = a difficult, complex situation — especially one from which it is difficult to escape or more specifically: a soft wet area of low-lying land that sinks underfoot	14
miasma	Rank reeds and lush, slimy water-plants sent an odour of decay and a heavy <u>miasmatic</u> vapour onto our faces, while a false step plunged us more than once thigh-deep into the dark, quivering mire, which shook for yards in soft undulations around our feet. miasma = an unpleasant cloud or fume	14
barrister	The <u>barrister</u> who has his case at his fingers' ends, and is able to argue with an expert upon his own subject finds that a week or two of the courts will drive it all out of his head once more. barrister = a lawyer who can speak in the higher courts of law in Britain	15
dispossess	To-morrow some other little problem may be submitted to my notice which will in turn <u>dispossess</u> the fair French lady and the infamous Upwood. dispossess = to take away possession of something — especially real estate	15
purloin	He married Beryl Garcia, one of the beauties of Costa Rica, and, having <u>purloined</u> a considerable sum of public money, he changed his name to Vandeleur and fled to England, where he established a school in the east of Yorkshire. purloined = stole or stolen	15
infamy	Fraser, the tutor, died however, and the school which had begun well sank from disrepute into <u>infamy</u> . infamy = famous for something that is bad; or an extremely bad event	15
decoy	The old gentleman could not be <u>decoyed</u> outside of his grounds at night. decoyed = someone or something used for trickery — especially to lure	15
finesse	Having conceived the idea he proceeded to carry it out with considerable <u>finesse</u> . finesse = subtly skillful handling of a situation	15
coincide	His plans were suddenly brought to a head by his knowledge that Sir Charles was about to leave the Hall on the advice of Dr. Mortimer, with whose opinion he himself pretended to <u>coincide</u> . coincide = to be similar — especially to happen at the same time or place	15

Word	Example and definition	Chapter
specious	He then, by a <u>specious</u> argument, prevented her from going, and so had the chance for which he had waited. specious = insincere, but seemingly good; having the false appeal of truth	15
incite	The dog, <u>incited</u> by its master, sprang over the wicket-gate and pursued the unfortunate baronet, who fled screaming down the Yew Alley. incite = to provoke a response or reaction, especially an angry or violent action	15
inkling	His wife had some <u>inkling</u> of his plans; but she had such a fear of her husband—a fear founded upon brutal ill-treatment—that she dare not write to warn the man whom she knew to be in danger. inkling = a slight indication, suggestion, or understanding	15
instructive	He then had it returned and obtained another—a most <u>instructive</u> incident, since it proved conclusively to my mind that we were dealing with a real hound, as no other supposition could explain this anxiety to obtain an old boot and this indifference to a new one. instructive = informative	15
conclusive	He then had it returned and obtained another—a most instructive incident, since it proved <u>conclusively</u> to my mind that we were dealing with a real hound, as no other supposition could explain this anxiety to obtain an old boot and this indifference to a new one. conclusively = putting an end to doubt or question	15
supposition	He then had it returned and obtained another—a most instructive incident, since it proved conclusively to my mind that we were dealing with a real hound, as no other <u>supposition</u> could explain this anxiety to obtain an old boot and this indifference to a new one. supposition = something supposed (rather than something known to be so)	15
elucidate	The more outre and grotesque an incident is the more carefully it deserves to be examined, and the very point which appears to complicate a case is, when duly considered and scientifically handled, the one which is most likely to <u>elucidate</u> it. elucidate = explain (make clear)	15
confidant	There can be no question that Stapleton had a <u>confidant</u> , though it is unlikely that he ever placed himself in his power by sharing all his plans with him. confidant = someone trusted with private matters	15
incompatible	There can be no doubt that Stapleton exercised an influence over her which may have been love or may have been fear, or very possibly both, since they are by no means <u>incompatible</u> emotions. incompatible = not going well together	15
fidelity	Her <u>fidelity</u> turned in an instant to bitter hatred and he saw that she would betray him. fidelity = faithfulness	15
condone	A woman of Spanish blood does not <u>condone</u> such an injury so lightly. condone = approve of	15