

The Hound of the Baskervilles Vocabulary (Chapters 1-5)

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. These words will appear on vocabulary quizzes and tests, so do not skip this step.

Word	Example and definition	Chapter
convex	Then with an expression of interest he laid down his cigarette, and carrying the cane to the window, he looked over it again with a <u>convex</u> lens. convex = angled or curving outward	1
erroneous	I am afraid, my dear Watson, that most of your conclusions were <u>erroneous</u> . erroneous = containing or characterized by error	1
fallacy	When I said that you stimulated me I meant, to be frank, that in noting your <u>fallacies</u> I was occasionally guided towards the truth. fallacies = mistaken beliefs; or common forms of incorrect reasoning	1
correspondence	<u>Corresponding</u> member of the Swedish Pathological Society. corresponding = distant (not generally present—historically communicating through writing)	1
astute	...as you very <u>astutely</u> observed. astutely = with intelligence and perceptiveness	1
testimonial	... it is only an amiable man in this world who receives <u>testimonials</u> , testimonials = statements that recommend or act as evidence	1
slovenly	He was clad in a professional but rather <u>slovenly</u> fashion, for his frock-coat was dingy and his trousers frayed. slovenly = dirty and unkempt	1
fulsome	It is not my intention to be <u>fulsome</u> , but I confess that I covet your skull. fulsome = originally meant “abundant,” and is used in this way in historical literature, but in modern usage it describes compliments or praise given in an excessive and insincere manner	1
dexterity	The man drew out paper and tobacco and twirled the one up in the other with surprising <u>dexterity</u> . dexterity = adroitness (skill) — with the hands or mind	1
asperity	May I inquire who has the honour to be the first?" asked Holmes with some <u>asperity</u> . asperity = harshness of manner	1
forgery	Early eighteenth century, unless it is a <u>forgery</u> . forgery = something that is represented as real even though it is a fake	2
circumspect	Learn then from this story not to fear the fruits of the past, but rather to be <u>circumspect</u> in the future.. circumspect = thoughtful of all circumstances and consequences	2

Word	Example and definition	Chapter
profane	<p>.... he was a most wild, <u>profane</u>, and godless man.</p> <p>profane = showing no respect for something thought of as sacred</p>	2
repute	<p>But the young maiden, being discreet and of good <u>repute</u>, would ever avoid him, for she feared his evil name.</p> <p>repute = the state of one's reputation — can be high/good or low/bad</p>	2
carouse	<p>When they had brought her to the Hall the maiden was placed in an upper chamber, while Hugo and his friends sat down to a long <u>carouse</u>, as was their nightly custom.</p> <p>carouse = having fun with others in a noisy manner while drinking alcohol</p>	2
forbearance	<p>I counsel you by way of caution to <u>forbear</u> from crossing the moor in those dark hours when the powers of evil are exalted.</p> <p>forbear = refrain (hold back)</p>	2
bewail	<p>Being himself childless, it was his openly expressed desire that the whole country-side should, within his own lifetime, profit by his good fortune, and many will have personal reasons for <u>bewailing</u> his untimely end.</p> <p>bewailing = expressing strong regret</p>	2
inquest	<p>I checked and corroborated all the facts which were mentioned at the <u>inquest</u>.</p> <p>inquest = formal investigation</p>	2
cardiac	<p>... death from <u>cardiac</u> exhaustion.</p> <p>cardiac = of or relating to the heart</p>	2
prosaic	<p>Had the <u>prosaic</u> finding of the coroner not finally put an end to the romantic stories which have been whispered in connection with the affair, it might have been difficult to find a tenant for Baskerville Hall.</p> <p>prosaic = lacking anything unusual, interesting, or challenging</p>	2
nervous system	<p>"Within the last few months it became increasingly plain to me that Sir Charles's <u>nervous system</u> was strained to the breaking point.</p> <p>nervous system = the body's sensory (feeling) and control (movement) apparatus consisting of a network of nerve cells</p>	2
chimera	<p>His heart was, I knew, affected, and the constant anxiety in which he lived, however <u>chimerical</u> the cause of it might be, was evidently having a serious effect upon his health.</p> <p>chimerical = something imagined, but not possible — often an idea requiring an impossible combination</p>	2
claimant	<p>There is no other <u>claimant</u>, I presume?</p> <p>claimant = someone who claims a benefit or right or title</p>	3
yellow fever	<p>He made England too hot to hold him, fled to Central America, and died there in 1876 of <u>yellow fever</u>.</p> <p>yellow fever = tropical viral disease transmitted by a mosquito</p>	3
flippant	<p>You put the matter more <u>flippantly</u>, Mr. Holmes, than you would probably do if you were brought into personal contact with these things.</p> <p>flippantly = with an inappropriate lack of seriousness</p>	3

Word	Example and definition	Chapter
congenial	Holmes returned to his seat with that quiet look of inward satisfaction which meant that he had a <u>congenial</u> task before him. congenial = agreeable or compatible	3
immaterial	... made up his mind as to which points were essential and which <u>immaterial</u> . immaterial = not important, or not relevant	3
inclement	We can understand his taking an evening stroll, but the ground was damp and the night <u>inclement</u> . inclement = "unmerciful" weather; cold, stormy, pouring rain (clement = inclined to be merciful)	3
pugnacious	The latter was a small, alert, dark-eyed man about thirty years of age, very sturdily built, with thick black eyebrows and a strong, <u>pugnacious</u> face. pugnacious = appearing combative (as though ready to fight or argue)	4
tariff	"I don't know much about the <u>tariff</u> and things of that kind," said he; "but it seems to me we've got a bit off the trail so far as that note is concerned." tariff = a government tax on imports or exports	4
with a vengeance	"Well, I seem to have come into an inheritance <u>with a vengeance</u> ," said he when the long narrative was finished. with a vengeance = with intensity	4
indebted	I am very much <u>indebted</u> to you, Dr. Mortimer, for introducing me to a problem which presents several interesting alternatives. indebted = to be grateful for a favor; or to owe money; or to be in the position of owing a debt of gratitude	4
wily	So <u>wily</u> was he that he had not trusted himself upon foot, but he had availed himself of a cab so that he could loiter behind or dash past them and so escape their notice. wily = clever, particularly in scheming to cheat or misuse someone	4
conjunction	When taken in <u>conjunction</u> with your uncle's death I am not sure that of all the five hundred cases of capital importance which I have handled there is one which cuts so deep. conjunction = along with or joined with something else	5
besmirch	At the present instant one of the most revered names in England is being <u>besmirched</u> by a blackmailer, and only I can stop a disastrous scandal. besmirched = to attack the good name and reputation of someone	5
supple	I feel a foil as quick and supple as my own. supple = moving and bending easily — sometimes used figuratively to indicate mental flexibility when adapting to different conditions	5
conjecture	He knew our number, knew that Sir Henry Baskerville had consulted me, spotted who I was in Regent Street, <u>conjectured</u> that I had got the number of the cab and would lay my hands on the driver conjectured = concluded based on inconclusive evidence	5
audacious	It's the man himself, by all that's wonderful and <u>audacious</u> ! audacious = bold and daring	5