

The Hound of The Baskervilles Teacher's Pack

This teachers pack includes factual information as well as tasks and topics to be dealt with in the classroom. Cut and paste as you please, and please consult the official programme for additional information.

The Hound of the Baskervilles

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The Hound of the Baskervilles, one of the best known of the Sherlock Holmes novels, written by Arthur Conan Doyle in 1901. The novel was serialized in *Strand* (1901–02) and was published in book form in 1902.

It was the first Sherlock Holmes tale since the detective's shocking "death" in "The Final Problem" (1893), and the success of this story helped ply the way for Sherlock's resurrection in *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* (1903–04).



Peter Cook (left) and Dudley Moore in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1977).
© Michael White Productions

Regularly thought as one of the best Sherlock Holmes stories and one of the all-time classical mysteries, the atmosphere of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is ghoulish, full of suspense and fear, and Sherlock Holmes is at his most brilliant. When Sir Charles Baskerville dies suddenly from heart failure, there are rumors that his death was caused by the gigantic ghostly hound of the title, said to have haunted his family for generations. When the estate's heir, Sir Henry Baskerville, arrives in England from Canada to take up his inheritance, Watson accompanies him to Baskerville Hall, and a skeptical Holmes is called in to investigate.



South –African born British actor Basil Rathbone as Detective Sherlock Holmes.
© Twentieth Century-Fox Film Corporation

Situated on the edge of Dartmoor, the Baskerville estate borders a vast, brooding, misty moor, containing features such as Grimpen Mire, a deadly quicksand-like bog. It is the descriptions of the moor and the oppressive Baskerville Hall that provide much of the chilling atmosphere that pervades the novel. Into this setting Sir Conan Doyle weaves the sounds of a wailing woman, a mysterious butler, an escaped killer, and the specter of the ghostly, fire-breathing, murderous hound. The story draws the reader in, not only to the world of the misty moor and strange goings-on, but also to the works of Conan Doyle. In this novel he displays his own interest in the occult, alongside Sherlock Holmes's talent for keen scientific detection, in a story that is full of atmosphere, suspense, and unexpected turns.

It is a novel that keeps the reader fearful and guessing until the very last page, and then leaves them wanting more.

Perhaps the most popular of all the Sherlock Holmes mysteries, since its original serialization in 1901–02, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* has been filmed 20 times, beginning with a German silent production of 1914. The most recent such reinvention of this story can be seen in the BBC series *Sherlock*, although this retelling very much differs from the original novel.

Have you read the novel? Try this quick quiz. (There is a longer quiz later in the pack)

1. What does Mr. Frankland see with his telescope that he keeps secret from the police?

- a. Sir Henry fooling around with Beryl
- b. Asteroid B612
- c. Those aliens from *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*
- d. A strange man camping out on the moor

2. What is the relationship between Beryl and Jack Stapleton?

- a. They were in the original cast of *Stonehenge—The Musical*

- b. They are brother and sister
- c. They are husband and wife
- d. They own the "Hounds from Hell Doggie Daycare"

3. What is the relationship between Mrs. Barrymore and Selden the convict?

- a. They are brother and sister
- b. They are husband and wife
- c. They are partners in crime
- d. They were partners in the BBC-sponsored "Harlem Shuffle" contest

4. Where has Holmes secretly been living throughout Watson's time at Baskerville Hall?

- a. In Coombe Tracey
- b. In a hut on the moors
- c. In the west wing of Baskerville Hall
- d. In Benedict Cumberbatch's London apartment

5. Why does Laura Lyons agree to write to Sir Charles to arrange a meeting the night that Sir Charles dies?

- a. She wants to help Stapleton kill Sir Charles
- b. She wants to ask him to play Mr. Darcy in her next miniseries
- c. She wants money for a divorce from Mr. Lyons
- d. She loves writing letters, she just does

QUIZ SOLUTIONS

- 1. D
- 2. C
- 3. A
- 4. B
- 5. C

Activity: Student Opinion

Look carefully at the posters of various productions. Which poster do you like the most? Provide a reason for your answer.

There are similarities between the above posters. What are they?



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THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES
directed by Adam Dyer



The Hound Of The Baskervilles adapted by Steven Canny and John Nicholson

This is the cast of characters in the English Theatre's Production :

Actor 1. (Max) Holmes, Stapleton, Cecille, Stapleton, Mr Barrymore, Mrs Barrymore, Yokel 3

Actor 2. (Simon) Watson, Yokel 1

Actor 3. (Shaun) Sir Charles Baskerville, Sir Henry Baskerville, Mortimer, Cabbie, Yokel 2, Wise Yokel.

1. How many actors are there?
2. What are their names? (Full names can be found in the programme and on the website)
3. How many characters are there?

Compare this character list with the list that appears in the novel:

C H A R A C T E R S

Sherlock Holmes - The novel's protagonist. Holmes is the famed 221b Baker Street detective with a keen eye, hawked nose, and the trademark hat and pipe. Holmes is observation and intuition personified, and though he takes a bit of a back seat to Watson in this story, we always feel his presence. It takes his legendary powers to decipher the mystifying threads of the case.

Dr. Watson - The novel's other protagonist and narrator. Dr. Watson is the stout sidekick to Holmes and longtime chronicler of the detective's adventures. In Hound, Watson tries his hand at Holmes' game, expressing his eagerness to please and impress the master by solving such a baffling case. As sidekick and apprentice to Holmes, Watson acts as a foil for Holmes' genius and as a stand-in for us, the awestruck audience.

Sir Henry Baskerville - The late Sir Charles's nephew and closet living relative. Sir Henry is hale and hearty, described as "a small, alert, dark-eyed man about thirty years of age, very sturdily built." By the end of the story, Henry is as worn out and shell-shocked as his late uncle was before his death.

Sir Charles Baskerville - The head of the Baskerville estate. Sir Charles was a superstitious man, and terrified of the Baskerville curse and his waning health at the time of his death. Sir Charles was also a well-known philanthropist, and his plans to invest in the regions surrounding his estate make it essential that Sir Henry move to Baskerville Hall to continue his uncle's good works.

Sir Hugo Baskerville - A debauchorous and shadowy Baskerville ancestor, Sir Hugo is the picture of aristocratic excess, drinking and pursuing pleasures of the flesh until it killed him.

Mortimer - Family friend and doctor to the Baskervilles. Mortimer is a tall, thin man who dresses sloppily but is an all-around nice guy and the executor of Charles's estate. Mortimer is also a phrenology enthusiast, and he wishes and hopes to some day have the opportunity to study Holmes' head.

Mr. Jack Stapleton - A thin and bookish-looking entomologist and one-time schoolmaster, Stapleton chases butterflies and reveals his short temper only at key moments. A calm façade masks the scheming, manipulative villain that Holmes and Watson come to respect and fear.

Miss Stapleton - Allegedly Stapleton's sister, this dusky Latin beauty turns out to be his wife. Eager to prevent another death but terrified of her husband, she provides enigmatic warnings to Sir Henry and Watson.

Mr. John Barrymore and Mrs. Eliza Barrymore - The longtime domestic help of the Baskerville clan. Earnest and eager to please, the portly Mrs. Barrymore and her gaunt husband figure as a kind of red herring for the detectives, in league with their convict brother but ultimately no more suspicious than Sir Henry.

The convict - A murderous villain, whose crimes defy description. The convict is nonetheless humanized by his association with the Barrymores. He has a rodent-like, haggardly appearance. His only wish is to flee his persecutors in Devonshire and escape to South America.

4. Do you think the actors do a good job of portraying all the different roles? Which character was your favourite?

QUIZ TIME:

Answer the multiple choice questions about the novel and the play:

1. How is Stapleton related to Sir Henry Baskerville?

- a. He is his neighbour and friend
- b. He is his brother-in-law
- c. He is his long lost son
- d. He is his cousin, Uncle Roger's long lost son and twice removed heir to the Baskerville fortune

2. Why does Stapleton pretend his wife is his sister?

- a. They are actually related
- b. He needs to pretend he is single in order to inherit the Baskerville fortune
- c. He needs to pretend he is single in order to convince Laura Lyons and Sir Henry that he and his wife are free agents
- d. He is no longer in love with his wife

3. Why does Sir Henry lose two boots in London?

- a. The hotel staff conspires against him
- b. The hotel staff steals expensive footwear
- c. Mrs. Stapleton wanted to tip Henry off to her husband's scheme
- d. Stapleton needed the scent from an old boot to lure his hound

4. Who established the Baskerville curse?

- a. Sir Hugo Baskerville
- b. Sir Charles Baskerville
- c. Sir Henry Baskerville
- d. Stapleton

5. Who took advantage of the Baskerville curse?

- a. Sir Hugo Baskerville
- b. Sir Charles Baskerville
- c. Sir Henry Baskerville
- d. Stapleton

6. What substance does Stapleton use to make his hound look scary?

- a. Blood
- b. Glow sticks
- c. CO2 cartridges
- d. Phosphorous

7. What role does the escaped convict play in Stapleton's scheme?

- a. He helps Stapleton keep tabs on Henry and Watson with Barrymore's assistance
- b. He dies at Stapleton's dog's hands but otherwise does nothing
- c. He helps Watson locate the mysterious stranger on the moor, complicating Stapleton's plans
- d. He brings food to Holmes

8. What happens to Henry at the end of the story?

- a. He goes on a trip with Mortimer to calm his nerves
- b. He marries the now widowed Mrs. Stapleton
- c. He stuffs the hound and hangs it on his wall
- d. He stays at Baskerville Hall to continue his uncle's good works

9. How did Sir Charles die?

- a. Eaten by the hound
- b. Attacked by the hound
- c. Scared by the hound
- d. Shot by the hound

10. With whom does Stapleton share an eerie resemblance?

- a. Sir Henry Baskerville
- b. The woman who is supposed to be his wife, suggesting they are brother and sister
- c. Hugo Baskerville
- d. Sir Henry

11. Why does the hound kill the escaped convict?

- a. Because he smelled bad
- b. Because he was wearing Sir Henry's suit
- c. It was a trial run
- d. Because he attacked Stapleton

12. Why does Laura Lyons refuse to tell anyone why she missed her late-night appointment with Sir Charles?

- a. Because she killed him, dressing up like a massive hound and scaring him to death
- b. Because she is protecting Stapleton, whom she thinks is in love with her
- c. Because she is afraid of a public scandal
- d. Because she did not miss her late-night appointment

13. Who let the dogs out?

- a. Stapleton
- b. Sherlock Holmes
- c. Mrs. Stapleton
- d. Mortimer

14. Why wasn't Mrs. Stapleton at dinner on the night Sir Henry was attacked?

- a. Stapleton killed her
- b. Stapleton beat her and tied her up upstairs
- c. She had gone out to run some errands
- d. She got sucked up by the Grimpen mire

15. Where does Holmes send Cartwright in search of the cut up newspaper?

- a. A newspaper stand
- b. The garbage
- c. The printer's
- d. Devonshire

16. When is the only time in the book that Holmes is proven wrong?

- a. When Mortimer arrives and reveals he left the city when he got married
- b. When he predicts that Stapleton is in fact a woman
- c. When he claims that the convict was in league with Stapleton
- d. When he assumes that the hound is otherworldly

17. Who is Frankland?

- a. The Hound of the Baskervilles
- b. Laura's father
- c. The true heir to the Baskerville fortune
- d. Stapleton's accomplice

18. Why is Mrs. Barrymore crying?

- a. Because her brother, the escaped convict, is hiding out on the moor
- b. Because her husband is abusive
- c. Because her husband is having an affair

- d. Because Watson refuses her sexual overtures

19. Why do the Barrymores really want to leave Baskerville Hall?

- a. Because they assume Sir Henry will need a larger staff
- b. Because they figure Watson can take care of all of Sir Henry's needs
- c. Because they were scared and saddened at the death of Sir Charles
- d. Because they want to go to South America with their brother, the convict

SOLUTIONS

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MATCHING TASK:
Match the questions to the answers.

| | |
|--|--|
| What does the Hound of the Baskervilles look like, according to the Baskerville manuscript? | Stay away from the moors at night. |
| What kind of a man does Holmes figure Doctor Mortimer to be before they meet him in person? | Holmes has a polished silver coffee pot in front of him. |
| What warning does the writer of the manuscript give his sons about avoiding the Hound? | The local Hunt Club |
| How does Holmes know that Watson is looking at the walking stick when his back seems to be turned to Watson? | A big black dog with fiery eyes. |
| What does Watson think that C.C.H. stands for on the walking stick? | Young, unambitious, absent-minded |

MATCHING SOLUTIONS

How does Holmes know that Watson is looking at the walking stick when his back seems to be turned to Watson? ***Holmes has a polished silver coffee pot in front of him***

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What warning does the writer of the manuscript give his sons about avoiding the Hound? ***Stay away from the moors at night***

QUOTES: WHAT WAS SAID?

Who talks like this: "Would you have any objection to my running my finger along your parietal fissure? A cast of your skull, sir, until the original is available, would be an ornament to any anthropological museum. It is not my intention to be fulsome, but I confess that I covet your skull"?

- a. Doctor Watson
- b. Doctor Mortimer
- c. Doctor Who
- d. Doctor Phil

Name the "cold and cruel-hearted man" in this passage: "Somewhere in the heart of the great Grimpen Mire, down in the foul slime of the huge morass which had sucked him in, this cold and cruel-hearted man is forever buried"

- a. Mr. Stapleton
- b. Selden the convict
- c. Mr. Frankland
- d. Don't know—I got distracted by the "foul slime of the huge morass" part

When Watson first hears a moaning howl over the moors, who tells him "the peasants say it is the Hound of the Baskervilles calling for its prey. I've heard it once or twice before, but never quite so loud"?

- a. Mr. Stapleton
- b. Mr. Frankland
- c. Mr. Barrymore
- d. Cesar Millan, Dog Whisperer

Whom does Sir Henry meet out on the moors when Watson spies on him?

- a. Mrs. Barrymore
- b. Laura Lyons
- c. Beryl Stapleton
- d. Keira Knightley

Identify the "him" in this passage: "The brute! The brute!" I cried with clenched hands. "Oh Holmes, I shall never forgive myself for having left him to his fate"

- a. Sir Henry Baskerville
- b. Sir Charles Baskerville
- c. Sir Elton John
- d. Sir Mick Jagger

SOLUTIONS - QUOTES: WHAT WAS SAID?

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QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PLAY

Did you watch closely?

Read through the stage directions describing the first scene of the play:

SCENE 1

Moonlight. A man in winter coat walks forward. It's Sir Charles Baskerville. Sound effects accompany him as he walks through a mimed gate and lights a real cigar. He looks out. The feeling is that every living thing in the vicinity is on tenterhooks. He inhales smoke and we hear his out-breath. His third out-breath is replaced by an eerie, far off howl. Sir Charles begins to look more nervous. Something is approaching, fast. He turns, walks back through the gate, turns back and peers out into the darkness. Feet pound the earth accompanied by a terrifying snarl as something approaches. Sir Charles turns and starts running for his life (on the spot). With a great demonic roar, the hound leaps on stage. The lights snap out. A flash of light illuminates upstage as the hound tears through the back of the set, leaving a splintered, large, hound-shaped hole. Sir Charles falls to his knees, clutching his heart ... and dies.

Vocabulary:

applicable – anwendbar

gust of wind – Windstoß

to sweep sth. – etw. fegen

mimed gate – er simuliert ein Tor

vicinity – die Nähe

on tenterhooks – wie auf glühenden Kohlen sitzen

to approach – sich nähern/annähern

peers – suchend schauen

to leap – springen

splintered – zersplittert

In your own words, explain what happens in the first scene.

ACT I

After a very dramatic first scene, the next scene is very different.

1. How do we get to know the characters? What is different to how you would expect a show to begin?
2. Who has the most lines, and therefore thinks that he is the main character?
3. What does Sir Charles die of?
4. Describe the set using one or more of the following words:

5. Dr Mortimer says that Sherlock Holmes is only the second best detective in the world. Who is the first?
6. What do they call a sauna in the play?
7. What is very unusual about the sauna scene?
8. What happened to Sir Henry's shoes?
9. Explain the effects used to show us that this scene takes place in a sauna?
10. What is a cabbie?
11. What is the actor wearing to show us that he is the cabbie?
12. The train journey scene is done in a very particular way, what happens in the scene to make it more interesting?
13. Welcome to Dartmoor: this is what the sign at the train station should say. What does it say instead?
14. What happens as the characters try to cross the moors?
15. Who rescues them?
16. Who tries to warn Sir Henry?
17. What is odd about Barrymore's behaviour?
18. How do we know when a scene takes place INSIDE Baskerville House?
19. There are interesting pieces of furniture that are used in the play. What is unusual about the bed?

20. By now, you would have heard the incidental music, this is the music played between the scenes. Which instrument is used and why?
21. At the end of this act one of the actors has a breakdown. Which one is it and what is the result?

ACT II

22. The actors are a bit unhappy because someone was doing something they should not have been doing during the show. What was this person doing?
23. What is the consequence of this action?
24. What happens when the first act is repeated so quickly?
25. What is used to replace the bed in act II ?
26. Something is found on the moor, what is it?
27. Who do they think has died?
28. Who died on the moor?
29. Watson has a theory about the dead body and Sir Henry's shoe. Explain the theory.
30. There is a big difference between the novels and the play in how Dr Watson is represented. What is different in the play's representation of Watson?
31. What is funny about the portraits of the Baskerville family?
32. Holmes is hiding behind a bush in the scene where our detectives are spying on Miss Stapleton and Sir Henry. What is funny about the bush's exit off stage?

33. After solving the crime, Sir Henry sends the detectives a gift. What is this gift?

34. Is the hound gone for good?

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PLAY

SOLUTIONS

ACT I

After a very dramatic first scene, the next scene is very different.

1. How do we get to know the characters? What is different to how you would expect a show to begin?

The actors introduce themselves and explain the roles that they are playing.

2. Who has the most lines, and therefore thinks that he is the main character?
Simon Kane, the actor playing Dr Watson.

3. What does Sir Charles die of?
A heart attack

4. Describe the set using one or more of the following words:
Foggy, spooky, dark, scary, Victorian, wooden

5. Dr Mortimer says that Sherlock Holmes is only the second best detective in the world. Who is the first?
Monsieur Bertillon, the greatest detective of Grenoble

6. What do they call a sauna in the play?
A steam room

7. What is very unusual about the sauna scene?
The actors still have their clothes on.

8. What happened to Sir Henry's shoes?
He put them outside his room to be cleaned and one went missing.
9. Explain the effects used to show us that this scene takes place in a sauna?
There is a white bench built in the shape of sauna benches, a block of white light showing the size of the room, there is fake steam and sound effects of steam.
10. What is a cabbie?
A cab (taxi) driver
11. What is the actor wearing to show us that he is the cabbie?
He is wearing a cabbie's cap and he is wearing a licence plate around his neck.
12. The train journey scene is done in a very particular way, what happens in the scene to make it more interesting?
The whole scene is played like a silent movie scene, with music and light effects.
13. Welcome to Dartmoor: this is what the sign at the train station should say. What does it say instead?
We come to Dartmoo
14. What happens as the characters try to cross the moors?
They keep sinking.
15. Who rescues them?
Mr Stapleton
16. Who tries to warn Sir Henry?
Cecile Stapelton
17. What is odd about Barrymore's behaviour?
He has a huge tray of food and offers them food before they even enter the house.
18. How do we know when a scene takes place INSIDE Baskerville House?
The candle lights are on, and the fireplace is wheeled in to the room.
19. There are interesting pieces of furniture that are used in the play. What is unusual about the bed?
The bed is upright and the actor stands up straight in it.
20. By now, you would have heard the incidental music, this is the music played between the scenes. Which instrument is used and why?
The violin is used as it can create a scary effect, and it also fits to the character of Sherlock Holmes who is very good at playing the violin.

21. At the end of this act one of the actors has a breakdown. Which one is it and what is the result?

Shaun pretends to have a nervous breakdown and the play has to temporarily stop and there has to be an interval.

ACT II

22. The actors are a bit unhappy because someone was doing something they should not have been doing during the show. What was this person doing?

Tweeting about the show.

23. What is the consequence of this action?

Max is very unhappy about the tweeter saying the show was moving slowly so he decides to redo the first act at a very fast pace.

24. What happens when the first act is repeated so quickly?

The actors don't have time for moving furniture and changing costumes, a lot of lines are cut.

25. What is used to replace the bed in act II ?

A tartan blanket

26. Something is found on the moor, what is it?

A „dead body“ represented by a dummy.

27. Who do they think has died?

Sir Henry

28. Who died on the moor?

Slasher Seldon

29. Watson has a theory about the dead body and Sir Henry's shoe. Explain the theory.

Mrs Barrymore! SHE must have taken your clothes to give to her brother Seldon, out on the moor. And the hound picked up the scent because ... it was trained to the scent ... Of course - Sir Henry's missing Shoe ... the very shoe that was stolen from you in London! And we believe the owner of the dog to be Stapleton

30. There is a big difference between the novels and the play in how Dr Watson is represented. What is different in the play's representation of Watson?

Dr Watson is a very reasonable, intelligent and is a sensible man in the novels. In the play he is silly and impulsive.

31. What is funny about the portraits of the Baskerville family?

They are all portrayed by Shaun who moves the frame left and right, to show different

positions along the wall.

32. Holmes is hiding behind a bush in the scene where our detectives are spying on Miss Stapleton and Sir Henry. What is funny about the bush's exit off stage?

The bush bumps in to the side of the set.

33. After solving the crime, Sir Henry sends the detectives a gift. What is this gift?

It is a portrait of himself, actually it is an empty frame that Shaun stand behind to portray a portrait.

34. Is the hound gone for good?

No, we hear the sound of the hound howling as if it is about to attack and the show ends with a cliffhanger.

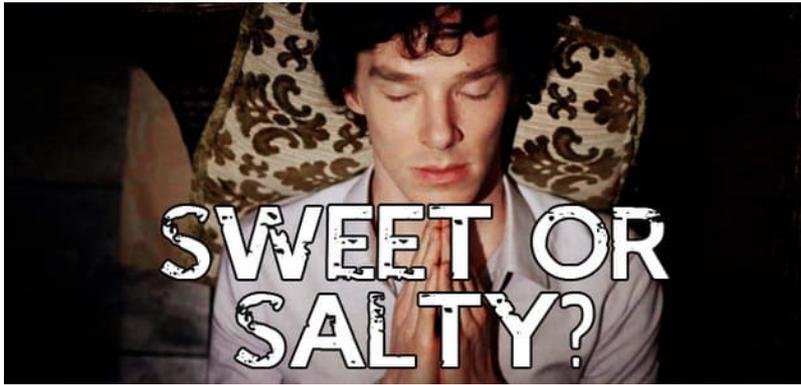
Can you find the Hound?

V M R B U F S M R C Q O D G F
G L O N A C F A O O V E M R S
X V U D A S G F R O V C O I U
W G R B L I K V S O R V R M O

V B B H C E Q E N J C E T P I
M I K F H O S S R N D N I E C
E S E M L O H G T V R O M N I
E C N A T I R E H N I T E M P
S U P E R N A T U R A L R I S
Q A W E H O U N D J N E L R U
Y R A T N E M E L E O P S E S
D A R T M O O R E V S A H C E
Z N P Y G Q U V D H T T O D G
Z M J G Z X I C P Z A S E M W
B A R R Y M O O R E W T G Z R

BARRYMOORE
BASKERVILLE
CABBIE
CIGAR
DARTMOORE
DEVONSHIRE
ELEMENTARY
GRIMPENMIRE
HOLMES
HOUND
INHERITANCE
MOOR
MORTIMER
SELDOM
SHOE
STAPELTON
SUPERNATURAL
SUSPICIOUS
WATSON

FOR FUN:
Character Quiz





a)



b)





a)



b)



a)



b)



a)



b)



a)



b)

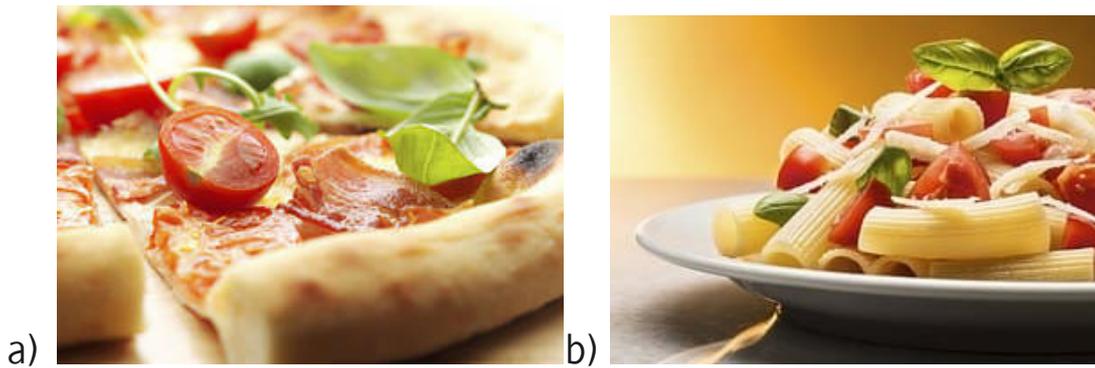


a)



b)





Are You More Like Sherlock Holmes Or John Watson?

More a)

Sherlock Holmes

You might not be a full-fledged sociopath, but you definitely have a darkly brilliant streak. You're almost always the smartest person in the room. Some consider you aloof, but you can't help that your gears are always turning. You're loyal, in your way, but most of the time you prefer to go it alone.

More b)

John Watson

You're an adventurer, and though you might often feel overshadowed by the company you keep, you're sharp as a tack. You're loyal to a fault, empathetic, and a tried and true friend. You're attracted to the dark, weird bits of life, and have a high tolerance for weirdness.